

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, LEARNING AND  
SKILLS****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023-2024****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report makes recommendation, following statutory consultation, to enable Committee to determine the arrangements for admission of children to Nottinghamshire community and voluntary controlled schools for 2023-2024 as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

**Information**

2. All admission authorities must determine their school admission arrangements by 28<sup>th</sup> February every year, even if there have been no changes from previous years and consultation has not been required.
3. The County Council is also responsible for coordinating admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools in its area for children:
  - starting school for the first time (reception intake)
  - transferring from infant school to junior/primary education (Year 3 intake)
  - transferring from primary phase to secondary education (Year 7 intake)
  - applying to transfer to a school with an atypical age of admission, e.g. studio schools or university technology colleges (UTCs) (Year 9/Year 10 intake).
4. These requirements are described in the School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 and the School Admissions Code (SAC) 2021 which are available from the Department for Education website [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

**Statutory consultation**

6. Where changes to admission arrangements are proposed, the admission authority must consult for a minimum of six weeks between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 31<sup>st</sup> January in the determination year. The consultation on the admission arrangements must be for those schools for which they are responsible (School Admissions Code 2021, paragraphs 1.45-1.53).
7. Nottinghamshire County Council consulted on the proposed admission arrangements for 2023-2024 between 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

8. The consultation was available for the full period on the Council's website and information about where to access the consultation was sent to:
- parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen
  - other people in the area who may have an interest in the proposed admission arrangements
  - all other admission authorities within the relevant area
  - all community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire
  - chairs of governing bodies of Nottinghamshire schools
  - diocesan representatives (relevant religious authorities)
  - admission authorities in neighbouring local authority areas
  - all registered early years providers within Nottinghamshire.
9. The consultation was promoted via the Council's social media accounts and by posters distributed to libraries, schools and children's centres throughout Nottinghamshire. Consultees were invited to respond online or by emailing the County Council. All responses received by 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021 were considered.

### **Outline of Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation**

10. The consultation asked two questions about proposed changes to the following aspects of the admission arrangements: relevant area and reduction to the published admission number at Carnarvon Primary School.

### **Responses to the consultation**

11. Responses to the consultation were as follows:
- 56 online responses
  - 3 email responses
12. A summary of the consultation is presented in **Appendix 2**, with an analysis of responses. A redacted version of all the comments made by respondents is available as a background paper.

### **Other Options Considered**

13. As the local authority, Nottinghamshire County Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Nottinghamshire and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for those schools.
14. Comments received as part of the consultation have objected to the reduction of the published admission number at Carnarvon Primary School from 70 to 60. There is a current pressure on primary school places in the Bingham area, largely as a result of significant levels of new housing, particularly from the Romans' Quarter development currently under construction.

15. This pressure will be addressed by the opening of a new, 210-place primary school in September 2022, on the Romans' Quarter site. These additional places allow scope for the published admission number of Carnarvon Primary School to be reduced.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

16. To enable the County Council to meet its statutory responsibility to determine Nottinghamshire County Council's school admission arrangements for 2023-2024 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Implications for Service Users**

19. Over 25,000 families express a school preference each year. In drawing up these school admission arrangements, Nottinghamshire County Council ensures that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective.
20. Own admission authority schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements and these may differ from those determined by Nottinghamshire County Council for community and voluntary controlled schools.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the school admission arrangements for 2023-2024 as detailed in **Appendix 1** are determined, including:
  - overall procedures and practices for community and voluntary controlled schools, as detailed in Section 1
  - oversubscription criteria and published admission numbers, as listed in Section 2.

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### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 05/01/22)**

21. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Children and Young People's Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Financial Comments (MDN 22/12/21)**

22. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Equality Impact Assessment

[Communications strategies for first admission to primary school and transfer from infant to junior/primary school in September 2022 and for Nottinghamshire's statutory consultation on admission arrangements 2023-2024: report to Children & Young People's Committee on 13th September 2021](#)

Redacted version of comments made by respondents to the online consultation

School Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

School Admissions Code (SAC) 2021, available at [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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