

**Forward Plan reference number: FP/595/12/19**

<b>Report title:</b> Determination of admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2021-22	
<b>Report to:</b> Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills	
<b>Report author:</b> Clare Kershaw, Director, Education	
<b>Date:</b> 3 February 2020	<b>For:</b> Decision
<b>Enquiries to:</b> Simon Harrington-Whitnall Admissions, Applications & Awards Manager Tel: 07740 900559 Email: <a href="mailto:s.harringtonwhitnall@essex.gov.uk">s.harringtonwhitnall@essex.gov.uk</a> Shamsun Noor Head of Statutory and Regulated Customer Services Tel: 033301 32246, Email: <a href="mailto:shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk">shamsun.noor@essex.gov.uk</a>	
<b>County Divisions affected:</b> All Essex	

## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. The Council, as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools within Essex, is required to consult upon, and determine the admission arrangements for these schools each year. The arrangements for admissions in the 2021-2022 academic year must, by law, be determined by no later than 28 February 2020.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to fulfil the statutory requirement for the Council to determine the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex for admissions in the 2021-2022 academic year.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To agree that the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for 2021-2022 be determined as detailed in Schedule 1 to this report.

## **3. Background and proposal**

- 3.1. The law requires that the Local Authority (LA), as the admission authority, determines the admission arrangements for all community and voluntary controlled schools in Essex each year. The arrangements for the 2021-2022 academic year must be determined by 28 February 2020.
- 3.2. The admission arrangements apply to community and voluntary controlled schools in all County Divisions.
- 3.3. Legislation prescribes the persons and groups that must be consulted when a local authority is preparing its proposed admission arrangements.

- 3.4. The Council, as required by the Department for Education (DfE) School Admissions Code (the Code), carried out the period of statutory consultation on the proposed published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools between 16 December 2019 and 30 January 2020. The consultation was shared with the governing bodies of all of these schools. No objections were received during this consultation.
- 3.5. More specifically, the Council consulted more widely on proposed changes for 4 schools, as detailed below:
- Ashdon Primary School – to amend the priority admission area, as shown in the maps attached with this document as schedule 2.
- St Andrew's CE (VC) Primary School, Bulmer – to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 20 to 15.
- St Michael's Primary and Nursery School, Colchester – to introduce a specific criterion to give priority for admission (after Looked after Children and previously Looked after Children and children with siblings at the school) to children attending the school's nursery who are eligible for the service premium.
- Tiptree, St Luke's CE (VC) Primary School – to reduce the published admission number (PAN) from 45 to 30.
- 3.6. In these cases of these schools named, as well as consulting the governing bodies of the schools, all other admission authorities in the relevant area i.e. the Essex district area were also consulted and parents were also provided with the opportunity to comment through the consultation documents on the County Council website.
- 3.7. In respect of Ashdon Primary School, it is recommended that the priority admission area be amended to incorporate new housing developments on the edge of Saffron Walden to increase the opportunity for families living within there to access Ashdon Primary School.
- 3.8. In relation to St Andrew's CE (VC) Primary School, Bulmer, it is recommended to reduce the PAN from 20 to 15 to enable the school to organise more effectively into mixed-aged classes in the accommodation currently available. There are sufficient school places in the local area to ensure a school place for every child.
- 3.9. In relation to St Michael's Primary and Nursery School, Colchester, it is recommended to introduce a new criterion giving priority to children attending the nursery who are in eligible for service premium. This criterion is permitted under the School Admissions Code 2014 and is justifiable in this case because the school is adjacent to the Colchester Garrison.

- 3.10. In relation to Tiptree, St Luke's CE (VC) Primary School, it is recommended to reduce the PAN from 45 to 30 to enable the school to organise into one form of entry. There are sufficient school places in the local area to ensure a school place for every child.
- 3.11. There were no responses received during the consultation process to any of the proposals detailed in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.10 above.
- 3.12. Other than those listed above, there are no other changes to the oversubscription criteria for other community and voluntary controlled schools proposed, with these recommended to remain the same as those determined for 2020-2021 admissions.
- 3.13. The recommendation to the Cabinet Member is therefore to determine the admission arrangements as detailed in the schedule appended to this report.

#### **4. Policy context and Outcomes Framework**

- 4.1. The arrangements align with the Essex Organisation Strategy which has a number of aims, one of which is to help keep vulnerable children safer and enable them to fulfil their potential. Fair and lawful admission arrangements will ensure that residents have access to school places and education.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. This decision has no financial or resource implications.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 require the admission authority for each school to determine the admission arrangements which apply to that school.
- 6.2. For admissions in the 2021-2022 academic year, these regulations require that such arrangements be determined by no later than 28 February 2020.
- 6.3. In preparing the attached arrangements, officers have had full regard to the requirements of the School Admissions Code (2014) and other legislation relevant to School Admissions.
- 6.4. The arrangements comply with the law and contain no prohibited criteria.

#### **7. Staffing and other resource implications**

- 7.1. No additional human resources beyond existing resources will be required as a result of this decision. There are no employment legislation implications.

## **8. Equality and Diversity implications**

- 8.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 creates the public sector equality duty which requires that when ECC makes decisions it must have regard to the need to:
- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act
  - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 8.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.
- 8.3 The admission arrangements detailed in the attachments to this report do not unlawfully discriminate against any persons or group. The Council believes the arrangements are fair, clear and easy to understand (as required by the Code) and that they comply with all aspects of school admissions legislation.
- 8.4 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will not have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

## **9. List of Appendices**

- 9.1 Schedule 1 – Determined admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled infant, junior and primary schools for 2021-2022
- 9.2 Schedule 2 – Maps showing the priority admission area for Ashdon Primary School
- 9.3 Equality impact assessment

## **10. List of Background Papers**

- 10.1 The School Admissions Code 2014

Determination of admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools 2021-2022

<b>Role</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Executive Director for Finance and Technology (S151 Officer)</b>  Delegated authority – approved by Andrew Page, Head of Finance  <b>Nicole Wood</b>	6 February 2020
<b>Director, Legal and Assurance (Monitoring Officer)</b>  <b>Paul Turner</b>	3 February 2020
<b>Director, Education</b>  <b>Clare Kershaw</b>	16 February 2020
<b>I agree the recommendations in this report for the reasons set out in the report.</b>  <b>Cllr Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</b>	24 February 2020