

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13TH MARCH 2014

SUBJECT:	ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COORDINATED SCHEME FOR 2015-2016
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR TONY SMITH
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report invites the Cabinet to determine the Authority's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and the coordinated schemes for 2015-2016. This is a statutory requirement.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Authority is required to determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools. The New School Admissions (England) Regulations (2003) also require the Authority to have in place a coordinated scheme for admissions to all primary and secondary schools including Academy schools, in 2015-16. The proposed schemes are attached (Appendices 1 and 2), along with proposed admission numbers for community and controlled schools (Appendix 3).

2.2 No responses to the consultation were received.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 It should be noted that the relevant co-ordinated schemes and the Fair Access Protocol apply to all Wirral primary and secondary schools, including Academy school. To date, two Wirral community primary schools have expressed an interest in becoming an Academy, and a Voluntary Aided primary school has already made the conversion to Academy status. This additional emphasis on the importance of school governing bodies to understand and apply the Admissions Code, Wirral co-ordinated scheme and FAP correctly and fairly, otherwise schools will be open to challenge both at parental appeal and by the School's Adjudicator and/or Secretary of State.

3.2 Failure to determine the admission arrangements by April of the preceding year would contravene the 2012 Admissions Code and associated guidance.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation on the co-ordinated scheme has taken place with all Wirral schools, other relevant admission authorities and all statutory consultees.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The Fair Access Protocol requires a Local Authority Clerk to organise Fair Access Panels, prepare paperwork and disseminate Panel decisions to parents and schools. It is expected that the cost of this will be met from the Admissions budget which is part of the overall Schools budget.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The arrangements comply with all statutory guidance.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review will be published on the web site, hyperlink below.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That Cabinet agree the proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Wirral co-ordinated schemes for 2015-2016.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 There is a statutory requirement to determine admission arrangements.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scheme for the coordination of admission arrangements for primary schools 2015-2016

Appendix 2 – Scheme for the coordination of admission arrangements for secondary schools 2015-2016

REFERENCE MATERIAL

School Admissions Code 2012

School Appeals Code 2012

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Delegated Authority	7th November 2013
Cabinet	14th March 2013
Delegated Authority	7th November 2012
Cabinet	12th April 2012
Cabinet	8th December 2011
Cabinet	14th April 2011