



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)
DATE:	14 February 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Children, Young People and Education
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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SUBJECT: EMD Proposed School Admissions Arrangements 2023-2024

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive Member of the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for the 2023/24 academic year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education formally determines the proposed admission arrangements for 2023/24 as attached at Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

3. BACKGROUND

The Borough Council is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools in Blackburn with Darwen and has a statutory duty to act in accordance with the provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021.

As the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools, the statutory responsibility for determining and publishing the admission arrangements for those schools rests with the Local Authority.

Under the current School Admissions Code, all admission authorities are required to "determine" (i.e. formally agree) their admission arrangements annually by 28th February even if those arrangements have not been changed from previous years. In addition, the School Admissions Code also stipulates that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council last undertook consultation in 2019 in respect of the 2021/22 admissions round in order to meet their statutory obligations to consult at least every seven years.

The admissions arrangements provide clear and concise information to support parents and pupils to make informed choices when making applications for school places.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duties if it failed to determine annually the admissions arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools (or if it failed to consult as and when required by the School Admissions Code).

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council has undertaken consultation with key stakeholders on a proposed reduction in the published admission number (PAN) for Audley Infant School effective from September 2023. This is the only proposed change, the oversubscription criteria will remain the same for all community and voluntary controlled schools.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Appropriately determining admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools fulfils the Local Authority's statutory duties under relevant legislation and the School Admissions Code.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Managed through established staffing resource

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

The School Admissions Code also stipulates that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. In 2019, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council undertook their seven year consultation with key stakeholders in respect of the 2021/22 admissions arrangements.

The Local Authority, as the Admissions Authority for Audley Infant School, proposes to reduce the published admission number of the school from 105 to 90 for Reception Year (Year R) with effect from September 2023 onwards.

This means that the number of places available for children in Year R at Audley Infant School in 2023, and all subsequent Year R cohorts, will be 90.

The Local Authority consulted with a range of key stakeholders (appendix 4) from Tuesday 30 November 2021 to Saturday 22 January 2022 in line with statutory requirements.

Details of responses received can be found in appendix 5. In total, there were only 4 respondents, of which 50% supported the proposal.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Carol Grimshaw
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DATE:	14 February 2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Admission policy for community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools for 2023/24 academic year
	Appendix 2: Admission Arrangements for Community Controlled Junior Schools for 2023/24 Academic Year
	Appendix 3: Published Admission Numbers for 2023/24, Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools
	Appendix 4: Statutory consultation on a proposed reduction in the published admission number (PAN) for Audley Infant School effective from September 2023.
	Appendix 5: Details of consultation responses received.