



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)
DATE:	22 December 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Children, Young People and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: EMD Coordinated Schools Admissions Scheme 2024/25

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive Member of the Local Authority's Coordinated Admission Schemes for the 2024/25 academic year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education formally approves the proposed Coordinated Admissions Schemes including:

- Coordinated Primary School Admission Arrangements 2024/25 (Appendix 1)
- Coordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements 2024/25 (Appendix 2)

3. BACKGROUND

Each year all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website by 1 January in the relevant determination year, a scheme to coordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area.

Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines.

Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. To meet this statutory requirement a consultation has been carried out.

A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have secured the adoption of a qualifying scheme by 28 February in the determination year. The Secretary of State may impose a scheme where a scheme has not been adopted.

All admission authorities must participate in coordination for the normal admissions round and late applications and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duties if it failed to determine and publish its coordinated school admissions scheme by 1 January each year.

Local Authorities are required to consult on the proposed admissions scheme if:

- There have been any substantial changes to the proposed schemes
- At least every 7 years even if there have been no substantial changes to the scheme

Failure to adhere to the above would result in the Local Authority breaching its statutory duties.

For the proposed 2024/25 primary and secondary coordinated admission schemes, there have been no substantial changes from the previous year, the Local Authority has however carried out a full and robust consultation to ensure compliance with the requirement for Local Authorities to consult once every seven years even if there has been no substantial change.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duties if it failed to determine and publish its coordinated schools admissions scheme by 1 January each year, and if it did not consult publicly on its coordinated admissions scheme at least once every 7 years (or in a year where it wishes to adopt a scheme which is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year). This consultation and the determination and publication of our scheme for coordinated admissions by 1 January 2023 ensures that the Local Authority is compliant with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Managed through established staffing resources.

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 2021 stipulates that admission authorities must consult on their coordinated admission schemes for all publicly funded schools within their area at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during this period. In 2022, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council undertook their seven year consultation with key stakeholders in respect of the proposed coordinated admission schemes 2024/25.

Details of the responses received can be found in appendix 4. In total, there were 17 respondents, of which:

16 respondents (94%) agreed that the coordinated admission scheme for primary schools 2024/25 meets the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021.

16 respondents (94%) agreed that the coordinated admission scheme for secondary schools 2024/25 meets the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021.

The single disagree response was based on a query with regards to a specific school's admissions arrangements, which is not within the scope of the coordinated admission schemes.

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:	Sarah Anderson, Place Planning & Admissions Coordinator Alfred Cotton, Graduate Management Trainee – Schools & Education
DATE:	09 December 2022
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Coordinated Primary Admission Scheme for 2024/25 academic year Appendix 2: Coordinated Secondary Admission Scheme for 2024/25 academic year Appendix 3: Statutory consultation on proposed primary/secondary coordinated admission schemes 2024/25 Appendix 4: Proposed Coordinated Admission Schemes 2024/25 – Consultation Findings