



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Children's & Education (DCS)
DATE:	03 February 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Children, Young People and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

SUBJECT: EMD Proposed School Admissions Arrangements 2024-2025

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive Member of the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for the 2024/25 academic year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Education formally determines the proposed admission arrangements for 2024/25 as attached at Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

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 28 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 2021).

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 2021.

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 and if it did not consult publicly on its school admissions arrangements at least once every 7 years (or in a year where it wishes to adopt admission arrangements which are substantially different from the admissions arrangements for the previous academic year).

The determination and publication of our admissions arrangements by 28 February 2023 ensures that the Local Authority is compliant with the requirements of the School Admissions Code 2021.

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.

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

CONTACT OFFICER:	Sarah Anderson, Place Planning & Admissions Coordinator Alfred Cotton, Graduate Management Trainee – Schools & Education
DATE:	09/12/2022
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix 1: Admission policy for community and voluntary controlled infant and primary schools for 2024/25 academic year Appendix 2: Admission policy for community controlled junior schools for 2024/25 academic year Appendix 3: Published Admission Numbers for 2024/25, Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools