



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children's Services
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Children's Services
DATE:	6 February 2019

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Schools and Education
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
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SUBJECT: Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's proposed admission arrangements for 2020/21 academic year.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive Member of the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for the 2020/21 academic year and request that the Executive Member formally determines the proposed admission arrangements for the 2020-21 academic year. To also advise the Executive Member of the co-ordinated admission scheme for the 2020/21 Admissions round, and the In-year Co-ordinated admissions scheme and seek approval of these schemes.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Children's Services & Education

(1) formally determines the proposed admission arrangements for 2020/21 attached as Appendices A and B, and

(2) adopts the Co-ordinated admission scheme for the 2020/21 admissions as attached at Appendix C, and the In-Year Co-ordinated admissions scheme for 2020/21 as attached at Appendix D.

3. BACKGROUND

The Local Authority 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 2014 ("the Code").

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. The Local Authority must also determine and adopt a "co-ordinated admissions scheme" every year. In addition, the Code also stipulates that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (and co-ordinated admissions scheme) at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will be consulting with relevant parties (as required by the Code) to determine the 2021/22 admissions arrangements and co-ordinated admissions scheme.

The proposed admissions arrangements provide clear and concise information and enable parents and pupils to make informed choices when making applications for school places. The co-ordinated admissions scheme enables Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within our area, as required.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The Local Authority would be in breach of its statutory duties if it failed to annually determine admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools, and adopt a Co-ordinated admission scheme for all publicly funded schools in our area.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Appropriately determining admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the annual co-ordinated admissions scheme fulfils the Local Authority's statutory duties under relevant legislation and the Code (although it is acknowledged that the Co-ordinated admissions scheme for the 2020-21 admissions should have been formally adopted earlier).

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 Local Authority consulted with Governing Bodies of Community Controlled and Voluntary Controlled School in the Autumn 2018 term. No objections were received.

In accord with the requirements of the School Admissions Code, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council will be consulting with relevant parties between 1 October 2019 and 31 January 2020 before determining the 2021/22 admissions arrangements. Blackburn with Darwen will also consult relevant parties over the co-ordinated admissions scheme before 1st January 2020.

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:	6 February 2019
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix A: Admission policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools for 2020/21 academic year. Appendix B: Admission Arrangements for Community Junior Schools for 2020/21 academic year. Appendix C: Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2020/21 Admissions. Appendix D: In Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme Appendix E : Published Admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2020/21
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