



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF: Executive Member for Children's Services

LEAD OFFICERS: Director of Children's Services

DATE: 28 February 2020

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Schools and Education

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT: Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council's proposed admission arrangements for 2021/22 academic year.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To advise the Executive member of the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for the 2021/22 academic year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member for Children's Services & Education formally determines the proposed admission arrangements for 2021/22 as attached at Appendices A, B, C and D.

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 2014.

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 the previous year. 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 has undertaken their seven year consultation in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code for the 2021/22 admissions arrangements.

The proposed admissions arrangements provide clear and concise information and enables 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 the admission arrangements for its community and voluntary controlled schools annually, or failed to carry out any necessary statutory consultations (including consulting at least once every 7 years).

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to formally determine admission arrangements by the deadline each year in respect of the community and voluntary controlled schools for whom it is the Admission Authority. It also has a duty to adopt a co-ordinated admissions scheme each year in respect of the normal admissions round for admissions to Reception, Year 7 and other normal years of entry. The agreed co-ordinated admission scheme for In-Year admissions also continues to operate within the borough.

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 a range of key stakeholders (as set out in the School Admissions Code) for a period of 6 weeks from Friday 8th November 2019 to Friday 20th December 2019 in line with statutory requirements. See Appendix E

Details of responses received can be found in Appendix F. In total, there were 25 respondents of which the majority responded in favour of the proposals.

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 2020
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix A: Admission policy for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools for 2021/22 academic year. Appendix B: Admission Arrangements for Community Junior Schools for 2021/22 academic year. Appendix C: Published Admission numbers for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for 2021/22. Appendix D: In Year Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Appendix E: Statutory consultation on proposed admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary schools for 2021/2022. Appendix F: Details of consultation responses received.
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