

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 11 April, 2016

Report of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services & Schools

School Admission Arrangements 2017/2018

Purpose of the Report

1. To advise Cabinet of the outcome of the Council's statutory consultation exercise on school admission arrangements for Community Schools in accordance with the Education (Determination of Admission arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

Recommendations

1. To approve the Schools Admissions Policy for 2017/2018 attached at [Appendix A](#), including interim changes to the catchment areas of Holton and High Street Primary schools for the academic year 2017/2018 ensuring that the requirement to determine the policy by 15 April 2016 is met.
2. That Cabinet authorises the use of article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) in respect of recommendation 1 above.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. The Council is required to review school admission arrangements annually and to determine the arrangements for 2017/18 following appropriate consultation by 15 April 2016.
2. In line with article 14.14 of the Council's Constitution.

Background

2. A local authority has a statutory duty to consult on school admission arrangements annually. The school admission arrangements must be determined by 15 April 2016 for implementation for the academic year 2017/ 2018.
3. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to consult with all neighbouring local authorities, the admission authorities of those schools which have delegated admission powers and the governing bodies of all other maintained schools in the relevant area. The relevant area is the geographical area of the Vale of Glamorgan.

4. Local Authorities are advised that they should consult with the Admissions Forum serving the relevant area and parents of children where a significant change is proposed.
5. The School Admissions Policy was issued for consultation on 5 January 2016 to headteachers and chairs of governors of all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, neighbouring local authorities and diocesan directors of education. Responses were required by 29 February 2016.
6. The Local Authority is required to produce a document each year for the subsequent school year's admission round detailing school admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area. This can be found within the Council's Parental Guide to School Admissions which is available on the Council's website, at local libraries and all schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. A hard copy is also available on request.
7. The Council has consulted on an interim change to the school catchment areas for High Street and Holton Primary Schools. This was considered necessary to manage the potential demand for school places from the Barry Waterfront development up until 2019.
8. A new primary school is proposed to be built as part of Barry Waterfront development in 2019 (subject to building completion rates and public consultation) to accommodate children living on the Waterfront development in Barry and the surrounding area.
9. The proposal was to realign the school catchment area for Barry Waterfront development from High Street Primary to Holton Primary School due to the anticipated demand for up to an additional 210 primary school places from phases 1, 2 and 3 of the development. High Street Primary School does not have the capacity to accommodate a further 210 children whereas Holton Primary School has spare capacity. It is recognised that parents are able to express a preference for their children to attend the school of their choice.
10. The current catchment area maps and proposed revision for the schools is attached at [Appendix A](#).
11. There are no changes proposed to the oversubscription criteria currently in place.

Relevant Issues and Options

12. The LA received two written responses to the consultation exercise which are summarised at [Appendix B](#). One response from Pendoylan C/W Primary School raised issues with regard to the timetable for their school which have been addressed separately. The governing body of High Street Primary School responded indicating that geographically they are the obvious catchment area school for the Waterfront development and made a suggestion for sharing the development area with Holton Primary School.
13. The responses raised were carefully considered and further discussion with the governing bodies concerned took place. As a result it is proposed that the Waterfront Development is shared between Holton and High Street Primary schools for the interim period up until 2019 when a new school is proposed. The current and revised catchment area maps are attached at [Appendix C](#).
14. The admission arrangements detailed in the attached School Admissions Policy 2017/2018, if approved, will be operational for the 2017/18 academic year.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

15. There are no immediate resource implications.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

16. There are no specific sustainability and climate change implications.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

17. Sections 88 and 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 as amended by the Education Act 2002 and the Statutory School Admissions Code 2013 determines that the Admission Authorities shall, before the beginning of each school year, determine in accordance with the Act the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 set out the procedure which the Admission Authorities should follow when determining their admission arrangements, including the consultation and notification process as well as timescales. This report reflects these requirements.

Crime and Disorder Implications

18. There are no immediate implications.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

19. Legislation, regulations and the School Admissions Code 2013 provide the basis for decision making, consultation and notification. The Local Authority is required to comply with its duty under S149 of the Equality Act 2010. S149 requires a public body when carrying out all of its functions to give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations in respect of the defined "protected characteristics".

Corporate/Service Objectives

20. The proposal provides a basis for the Council to achieve its corporate objectives for Education and Lifelong Learning and links with the Council's objectives for social well being and tackling disadvantage.

Policy Framework and Budget

21. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

22. Consultation has taken place with statutory consultees as detailed in the main body of this report.

23. The views of consultees have been considered in the development of the proposed admission arrangements and catchment area changes.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

24. Lifelong Learning.

Background Papers

None

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Officers Consulted

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