

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 26 March, 2018

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Culture

School Admission Arrangements 2019/2020

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.

Recommendation

1. To approve the Schools Admissions Policy for 2019/2020 attached at [Appendix A](#), ensuring that the statutory requirement to determine the policy by 15 April 2018 is met.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. The Council is required to review school admission arrangements annually and to determine the arrangements for 2019/20 following appropriate consultation by 15 April 2018.

Background

2. The Council has a statutory duty to consult on school admission arrangements annually. The school admission arrangements must be determined by 15 April 2018 for implementation for the academic year 2019/ 2020.
3. The Council 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. Councils 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 8 January 2018 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 16 February 2018.

6. The Council is required to produce a draft School Admissions Policy each year for the subsequent school year's admission round detailing school admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area. This policy 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 the proposed admission arrangements for 2019/20. These admission arrangements did not change from those proposed last year other than the removal of the admission arrangements agreed to facilitate the transition of existing pupils in Bryn Hafren and Barry Comprehensive Schools to two new Co-educational Secondary Schools in Barry which are no longer required.
8. There are no other changes proposed to the oversubscription criteria currently in place.

Relevant Issues and Options

9. The Council did not receive any written responses during the consultation period.
10. The admission arrangements detailed in the draft School Admissions Policy, if approved, will be operational for the 2019/20 academic year.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

11. There are no immediate resource implications.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

12. The proposed admissions arrangements support attendance of pupils at their local school thereby reducing the need to transport pupils in public and private vehicles.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

13. 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

14. There are no immediate implications.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

15. 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

16. The proposed School Admissions Policy contributes to the Council's wellbeing outcome: an environmentally responsible and prosperous Vale by ensuring that wherever possible pupils are educated in a school close to their home address.

Policy Framework and Budget

17. This report is a matter for Executive Decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

18. Consultation has taken place with statutory consultees as detailed in the main body of this report.
19. The views of consultees have been considered in the development of the proposed admission arrangements.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

20. Learning and Culture.

Background Papers

None

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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Responsible Officer:

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