

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 6 November, 2017

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning & Culture

School Admission Arrangements 2019/20

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to consult on the local authority's school admission arrangements ([Appendix A](#)) as required by the Welsh Government's School Admission Code issued in July 2013.

Recommendation

1. To approve the consultation required to agree local authority admission arrangements ([Appendix A](#)) for all community schools in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. Para 2.3 (page 6) of the School Admissions Code (Wales) July 2013 states that "Admission arrangements must be consulted on for each maintained school between 1 September and 1 March, and set by 15 April of the school year beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply".

Background

2. The local authority (LA) has a statutory duty to consult with the governing bodies of schools who have delegated admission powers, all neighbouring local authorities (LAs), the admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the relevant area and the governing bodies of all other schools in the relevant area (i.e. community and voluntary controlled schools which do not have delegated admission powers). The relevant area is determined as the geographical area of the Vale of Glamorgan.
3. The LA is required to publish a composite document each year for the subsequent school year admission round detailing school admission arrangements for all maintained schools in its area. This information is contained within the Council's information guide "A Parental Guide to School Admission in the Vale".
4. The Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2013 requires admission authorities to act in accordance with the code. The code includes practical guidance and imposes requirements on local authorities and admission authorities, regarding the discharge of duties in respect of admissions.

Relevant Issues and Options

5. The consultation period for the proposed admission arrangements ([Appendix A](#)) will be 8 January to 16 February 2018.
6. These admission arrangements must be in place in order to determine the allocation of places for the academic year 2019-20.
7. Other than the removal of the arrangements put in place to manage the transfer of existing pupils to the two new coeducational comprehensive schools, there are no changes proposed to the admission arrangements agreed last year for admission into the academic year 2018/19.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

8. There are no resource implications as a direct result of this report. The proposed admission arrangements will ensure that wherever possible pupils can attend their catchment school which will minimise the need to provide school transport.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

9. By carefully managing the allocation of places and matching the number of pupils residing in catchment areas with the capacity of the defined catchment school, the LA promotes the sustainability of schools by limiting under/ over subscription.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

10. Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and regulation 4 of the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 require Admission Authorities to consult and determine school admission arrangements annually. The act also requires Councils to “act in accordance with the (school Admissions) Code”. The regulations set a timescale for the consultation and determination of admission arrangements and this report reflects those requirements.

Crime and Disorder Implications

11. There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

12. This policy supports families to access a place in their local school. There are no other equal opportunities implications arising from this proposed change to the Admission Arrangements.

Corporate/Service Objectives

13. The priorities and principles of this proposal are reflected in the Council’s Wellbeing Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale, ensuring children and young people have the best opportunities to receive a first class education.

Policy Framework and Budget

14. This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

15. Consultation with all interested parties will be carried out in accordance with legislation, following the statutory processes set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

16. Learning and Culture.

Background Papers

School Admissions Code: Statutory Code document no: 005/2013

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