

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting20th January 2022

1. Title of Item/Report

Procedure for Admission of Pupils to Primary and Secondary Schools in September 2023

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet approval was sought for admission arrangements the Local Authority (LA) was proposing for entry into both primary (Reception) and secondary (Year 7) schools in September 2023. In order to comply with legislation for admission in September 2023, the report included the co-ordinated timetable, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for all Primary and Secondary Schools for that year and the LA's proposed Admission Policy (Oversubscription Policy) for Community maintained and Voluntary Controlled (VC) schools for entry in September 2023.

The new School Admissions Code (The Code) came into force on the 1 September 2021 and outlined the overall principles behind setting admission arrangements which stated that:

'In drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated.' (The Code, page 7 paragraph 14)

When changes were proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements (including any supplementary information form) that will apply for admission applications the following school year. Where the admission arrangements have not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements at least once every 7 years, even if there have been no changes during that period.' (The Code, page 18 paragraph 1.45)

Cabinet noted that there were no amendments proposed for the September 2023 admission policy which was based on the current 2022/23 version. The LA however still consulted with a range of key

partners and stakeholders including Schools, Governing Bodies, neighbouring authorities, Diocesan representatives, parents/carers and the general public.

RESOLVED that Cabinet:-

1. Approve the proposed Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary, Secondary, Voluntary Aided (VA) schools, Academies and Free School (points 5-7 and Appendix 1 of the report);
2. Approve the proposed admission numbers for Primary and Secondary schools for September 2023 (points 8-13 and Appendix 2 of the report);
3. Approve the proposed Admission Policy for September 2023 (point 14-16 and Appendix 3 of the report).

3. Reasons for the Decision

The main legislation (Chapter 1 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998) requires the LA to publish information annually and to be available for parents when they apply for a place at primary and secondary schools. The information has to comply with the new School Admissions Code 2021. The LA must as the admission authority determine, (i.e. formally agree) its admission arrangements, even if it hasn't changed from the previous year and a consultation has not been required. These arrangements therefore must be determined by 28 February 2022 for admission to Primary and Secondary schools in September 2023.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Smith declared a non-registerable interest in respect of this item as a result of a family member being employed within one of the schools referred to in the report.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight - Friday 28th January 2022

Proper Officer
24 January 2022