

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Michael Evans, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 2 January 2017	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2924
TITLE:	Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme 2018-19	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To consider the Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2018-19.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services is asked to;

- 2.1 Agree the Secondary Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme for 2018-19 as set out in Appendix 1.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The Co-ordinated Secondary Admissions Scheme will be administered within the existing Admissions and Transport team budget. There are no further resource implications.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Each year all local authorities **must** formulate and publish on their website a scheme to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area.
- 4.2 Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority **must** consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines.

- 4.3 For secondary school admissions in September 2018 the scheme must be determined by the 28th February 2017.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 For applications in the normal admissions round, local authorities **must** provide a common application form (CAF) that enables parents to express their preference for a place at any state funded school with a minimum of 3 preferences in rank order.
- 5.2 Regardless of which schools parents express preferences for, the CAF is required to be returned to the local authority in the area that they live (the 'home' authority).
- 5.3 The judgements of the Courts have had a major impact on school admission practices, particularly the Greenwich judgement in 1989 and the Rotherham judgement in 1997. One of the effects of the former means that a Local Authority cannot give preference to its own residents in allocating school places. One of the effects of the latter is that parents have to express an explicit preference for a school and they cannot assume that they will have an automatic right to a place in their local school.
- 5.4 When children transfer to secondary school we receive a large number of preferences from parents outside of Bath and North East Somerset. If their preferred school is undersubscribed they will be offered a place. If their preferred school is oversubscribed the school admission criteria is used to determine the allocation of places. Applications for a particular school from outside the authority are considered equally with applicants from Bath and North East Somerset who have named the school as a preference. However Bath and North East Somerset parents who have not named the school as a preference and do not gain a place at their own preferred school[s] cannot be considered and out authority applications receive priority.
- 5.5 Although we plan to ensure we have sufficient secondary school places for Bath and North East Somerset children there could in the future be a shortfall if a number of places continue to be allocated to children from outside of the authority. Secondary school numbers are due to rise over the coming years and the pressure on secondary school places will increase. The possible closure of Bath Community Academy will also add to this pressure in the City of Bath.
- 5.6 Previous co –ordinated secondary admissions schemes have allowed parents to express up to 3 preferences for their preferred schools.
- 5.7 For secondary admissions in September 2018 it is proposed to allow parents to express a preference for up to 5 schools. Parents will be encouraged to use all preferences which will mean they have the opportunity to be considered for places at 5 schools.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The change in allowing parents to express a preference for 5 schools will increase the opportunity for Bath and North East Somerset children to gain a place at a Bath and North East Somerset Secondary School.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 When changes are proposed to admission arrangements, all admission authorities **must** consult on their admission arrangements 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.
- 8.2 For admission arrangements determined in 2017 for entry in September 2018, consultation **must** be for a minimum of 6 weeks and **must** take place between **1 October 2016** and **31 January 2017** in the determination year.
- 8.3 For the duration of the consultation period, the admission authority **must** publish a copy of their full proposed admission arrangements (including the proposed PAN) on their website together with details of the person within the admission authority to whom comments may be sent.
- 8.4 Consultation has taken place with neighbouring authorities and all schools in Bath and North East Somerset between the 7th November 2016 and the 16th December 2016.
- 8.5 Two responses have been received. One from a Councillor and one from a Bath and North East Somerset resident who were both supportive of the change.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	
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