

**Executive Board  
22 February 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Admission Arrangements for Nottingham City Community Schools 2023/24
<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Catherine Underwood, Corporate Director for People
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Councillor Eunice Campbell-Clark, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Culture and Schools
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Karen Traynor, School Admissions Manager <a href="mailto:karen.traynor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">karen.traynor@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	
<b>Subject to call-in:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Key Decision:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Criteria for Key Decision:</b>	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
<b>and/or</b>	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Type of expenditure:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
<b>Total value of the decision:</b> Nil	
<b>Wards affected:</b> All	
<b>Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s):</b> 18 August 2021	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:</b>	
Clean and Connected Communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Healthy and Inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Financial Stability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):**

The Council's proposed admission arrangements for the 2023/24 school year for community schools are unchanged from those approved for the 2022/23 school year, to ensure fair access to school places and to give priority to local children.

**Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?**

No

**Recommendation(s):**

- 1 To approve the proposed admission arrangements for the 2023/24 school year for community schools.

**1. Reasons for recommendations**

- 1.1 Maintaining the Council's 2023/22 admission arrangements will enable it to monitor the operation of the changes that were made to the 2021/22 arrangements, along with the arrangements of all admission authorities, including those academies, in order to make any changes for subsequent years on an informed basis. It is proposed that no changes be made to the admission arrangements determined for 2022/23 so that they remain in place for the 2023/24 school year. These arrangements are set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.2 The oversubscription criteria are attached as **Appendix 2**. Admission numbers for community schools are attached as **Appendix 3**. A map showing catchment areas for city community schools is set out in **Appendix 4**. A copy of the draft timetable for the 2022/23 admission year is set out in **Appendix 5**. The Council's Fair Access Protocol is set out in **Appendix 6**.

**2. Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 The Council is the admissions authority for community schools and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools.
- 2.2 The new School Admissions Code requires that highest priority is given to "looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted". The new provision necessitated variations to determined admission arrangements to take effect from 1 September 2021.
- 2.3 A variation to the determined arrangements for 2022/23 (which were originally agreed on 23 February 2021) was approved by Executive Board on 17 August 2021 and changes were made to the over-subscription criteria determined for 2022/23 to give highest priority to "looked after children and all previously looked after children, including those children who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted".

- 2.4 As the Council is proposing no further changes to the admission arrangements, it is not required to consult publicly on its proposed admission arrangements. However, the Council must consult the governing body of each community school about its proposal to keep the same admission number for that school. The consultation with governing bodies of community schools took place during the period 4 October 2021 to 26 November 2021. No responses to the consultation were received.
- 2.5 During the period 1 October 2019 to 29 November 2019 the Council consulted on its proposed arrangements for admission to schools in the 2021/22 school year, which included changing the number of preferences that parents can make under the primary co-ordinated scheme from 6 to 4, due to increased number of primary schools places across the city, and to amend the catchment areas of Middleton Primary School and Fernwood Primary School following a review of catchment areas in the Wollaton area.
- 2.6 As admission arrangements for 2021/22 and 2022/23 are effective for admissions to school from September 2021 and September 2022 respectively, it is not yet possible to assess the impact of the changes that were introduced. Maintaining the Council's admission arrangements for 2023/24 will enable it to monitor the operation of these changes, along with the arrangements of all admission authorities, in order to make any changes for subsequent years on an informed basis.

### **3. Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 3.1 To change the admission arrangements: for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.6, the option to change the admission arrangements from those agreed for the 2023/24 school year is, therefore, not felt to be necessary or viable, so this option was rejected.

### **4. Consideration of Risk**

- 4.1 There are no known risks as there are no changes to the school admission arrangements.

### **5. Finance colleague comments**

- 5.1 As a result of there being no changes to the admissions code for 2023/24, there is no cost implication to the Council.
- 5.2 Funding for the School Admissions Service is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant. This budget allocation was approved by the Schools Forum for the financial year 2022/23 on 7 December 2021 and is taken to the Executive Board for approval on 22 February 2022 as part of the budget setting-process.

Comments provided by Julia Holmes, Senior Commercial Business Partner, on 13 January 2022.

## **6. Legal colleague comments**

- 6.1 In accordance with Section 88C(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the admission authority for a maintained school must, before the beginning of each school year, determine the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year.
- 6.2 Admission authorities are ordinarily required to consult on proposals but, if they propose to either increase or keep the admission arrangements the same, subject to the following as detailed in the School Admissions Code 2021 (effective from 1 September 2021) and associated Regulations, they are not required to consult:
- (a) if the admission authority has not consulted on the arrangements in any of the seven preceding determination years, even if the arrangements are to remain the same, they must carry out consultation in accordance with the legislation and the School Admissions Code; and
  - (b) if the admission authority for a community school is a Local Authority, they must consult the governing body of the school if they wish to keep the arrangements the same or increase the admission number.
- 6.3 As the admission arrangements that are to remain unchanged for 2023/24, formal consultation is not required for this year's determination.
- 6.4 In addition, the admission authority is the Local Authority in this instance and it is understood to have consulted with the governing body as required and so the proposed admission arrangements comply with education law and guidance.

Comments provided by Dionne Scream, Senior Solicitor, on 12 January 2022.

## **7. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 7.1 Admission arrangements are set to enable all school-age children to access a suitable school place at the appropriate time, as far as possible according to their parents' preference, so that they are not vulnerable to crime and disorder.

## **8. Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 An EIA is not required because the proposed admission arrangements are unchanged from those approved for the 2022/23 school year.

## **9. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

- 9.1 A DPIA is not required because this decision does not include any personal information.

## **10. Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

- 10.1 Not applicable.

**11. List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

11.1 Report for the Autumn Term 2021 governing body agenda for community schools.

**12. Published documents referred to in this report**

12.1 School Admissions Code 2021

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

12.2 The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/8/made>

12.3 Reports to the Executive Board on 23 February 2021 and 17 August 2021 setting out the school admission arrangements for the 2022/12 school year

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=8590&Ver=4>

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=177&MId=9360&Ver=4>

12.4 Delegated Decision 4362 – Proposed Admission Arrangements for Nottingham City Community schools for 2023/24

<https://committee.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7717>