

EXECUTIVE BOARD – 19 FEBRUARY 2019

Subject:	School Admission Arrangements 2020/21 for community schools
Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):	Alison Michalska, Corporate Director for Children and Adults
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Neghat Khan, Portfolio Holder for Education and Skills
Report author and contact details:	Jonny Kirk, Service Manager, Access and Inclusion 0115 8764620 jonny.kirk@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
Subject to call-in: Yes	
Key Decision: Yes	
Criteria for Key Decision:	
(a) <input type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £1,000,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
and/or	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Type of expenditure: <input type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Capital	
Total value of the decision: Nil	
Wards affected: All	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s): 29 June 2018 and 9 January 2019	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:	
Strategic Regeneration and Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools	x
Planning and Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years	x
Leisure and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):	
To consider and approve the Local Authority's proposed changes to admission arrangements following consultation for the 2020/21 school year for community schools.	
The proposed changes to the arrangements are to amend:	
1.1.1 oversubscription criteria 2 and 4 to give clarity as to when a child is considered to have a sibling at the school concerned. The criteria is set out in appendices 2a and 2b.	
1.1.2 the definition of siblings to include a stepbrother or stepsister where two children are related by a parent's civil partnership as well as by a parent's marriage. The definition is set out in appendices 2a and 2b.	
No further changes to the arrangements are proposed. The proposed admission arrangements are set out in Appendix 1. The proposed oversubscription criteria are attached as Appendix 2. Admission numbers for community schools are attached as Appendix 3. Maps showing catchment area for city community schools are set out in Appendix 4. A copy of the timetable for the 2020/21 admission year is set out in Appendix 5 and the City Council's Fair Access Protocol is set out in Appendix 6.	
Exempt information: State 'None' or complete the following	
None	

Recommendation(s):

1 To approve the Local Authority's proposed admission arrangements for the 2020/21 school year for community schools, to give clarity as to when a child is considered to have a sibling at the school concerned to ensure parents/carers are easily able to determine whether their child will be considered under the sibling criteria and to change the definition of siblings to include a stepbrother or stepsister where two children are related by a parent's civil partnership as well as by a parent's marriage is to ensure stepsiblings related by a parent's civil partnership are treated the same as those related by a parent's marriage

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Local Authority has consulted with the City's Admission Forum, head teachers, governing bodies, relevant religious bodies and community groups, parents and carers within the city and Nottinghamshire County Council on all aspects of its proposed admission arrangements for 2020/21, which included a proposed a minor change from the 2019/20 admission arrangements.
- 1.2 It is proposed that the changes to the admission arrangements for the 2020/21 school year will ensure clarity and fairness for siblings. It is proposed that all other aspects of the 2019/20 admission arrangements remain in place for the 2020/21 school year. These arrangements are set out in Appendix 1.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 During the period 3 November 2018 to 21 December 2018 the Local Authority consulted on its proposed arrangements for admission to schools in the 2020/21 school year, which included an amendment to the over subscription criteria and to the definition of siblings.
- 2.2. Only one response to the consultation was received which was in agreement to the proposed changes.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 No other options other than the minor changes set out in paragraphs 1.1.1 to 1.1.2. for the 2020/21 school year were considered.
- 3.2 The option to make any other changes to the admission arrangements from those agreed for the 2019/20 school year was not felt to be necessary or viable. This is because maintaining the rest of the Local Authority's 2019/20 admission arrangements for a further year will enable the Local Authority to monitor the operation of the changes that are proposed to the 2020/21 arrangements, along with the arrangements of all admission authorities in Nottingham City, including those of newly formed academies, in order to make any changes for subsequent years on an informed basis.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 There are no cost implications as a result of this proposal.

The funding for the Admissions Service is funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

5.1 Legal Implications

5.1.1 Consultation and determination

5.1.2 Section 88C(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (“SSFA”), states that the admission authority for a maintained school in England must, before the beginning of each school year, determine in accordance with this section of the SSFA the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year. Section 88C(2) of the SSFA requires the admission authority to carry out such consultation beforehand about the proposed arrangements as may be prescribed.

5.1.3 The relevant regulations under section 88C(2) of the SSFA are the School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (“the Admission Arrangements Regulations”).

5.1.4 Regulation 17 of the Admission Arrangements Regulations states the following:-

(2) For the school year 2017-2018 and every subsequent school year, every admission authority must –

(a) carry out any consultation required by section 88C [of the SSFA] and these Regulations between 1st October and 31st January in the determination year;

(b) allow consultees at least six weeks to respond; and

(c) determine their admission arrangements on or before 28th February in the determination year.

5.1.5 Regulation 2 of the Admission Arrangements Regulations states:-

“determination year”, in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for a school, means the school year beginning two years before the school year to which the arrangements relate;

5.1.6 Therefore, as this report states, Nottingham City Council (“NCC”) has consulted with those it is required to consult with already in accordance with the Admission Arrangements Regulations regarding its proposed admission arrangements for community schools for the 2020/2021 school year, with only one (favourable) response received. Further, in relation to the proposed admission arrangements for community schools for the 2020/2021 school year, the determination year is the school year 2018/2019, so NCC must determine its admission arrangements for the 2020/2021 school year on or before 28 February 2019.

5.1.7 The proposed admission arrangements

The proposed admission arrangements generally accord with education law and guidance.

Jon Ludford-Thomas, Senior Solicitor – 10 January 2019

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISIONS RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Not applicable.

8 REGARD TO THE NHS CONSTITUTION

8.1 Not applicable.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

9.1 Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An EIA is not required because:

(Please explain why an EIA is not necessary)

Yes

x

Attached as Appendix 7, and due regard will be given to any implications identified in it.

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

10.1 Results of consultation on proposed admission arrangements for community schools in Nottingham City carried out between 3 November 2018 and 21 December 2018, attached as Appendix 8.

11 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

11.1 School Admissions Code 2014.

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

11.3 Delegated Decision 3237 – Consultation on proposed admission arrangements for the 2020/21 school year for city community schools.