
**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2019 / 20 – DRAFT CABINET
REPORT**

Purpose of Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to consider and review the Draft Cabinet Report (copy attached at **Appendix A**). The report informs Cabinet of the recent research undertaken regarding school admissions criteria and proposed changes to Cardiff Council's school admissions arrangements, in advance of consultation on the school admissions policy 2019 / 20 due to be undertaken in Spring 2018.

Background

2. In accordance with Section 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006, Admission Authorities are required to review their School Admission Arrangements annually.
3. In order to comply, School Admission Arrangements for implementation in the 19/20 academic year (i.e. From September 2019) must be determined on or before 15 April 2018.
4. The Cabinet at its meeting on 16 March, 2017, considered a report on 'School Admission Arrangements 2018/2019 and Coordinated Secondary School Admissions 2018-2020'. This report informed the Cabinet of responses received regarding the Council's consultations on the following:
 - the Council's School Admission Arrangements 2018/19
 - the proposed implementation of Co-ordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements for the period 2018-2020

5. As a result of the analysis of a number of responses to the 2018/19 consultation, the Cabinet resolved to: “authorise officers to consider further the Council’s school admission arrangements including wider research into alternative options and the impact of each, in advance of consultation on the Council’s School Admissions Policy 2019/20”.
6. The Council subsequently engaged Professor Chris Taylor. Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences, Co-Director of the Wales Institute of Social & Economic Research, Data & Methods (WISERD), to undertake the research.

Draft Cabinet Report

7. The Draft Cabinet report highlights a number of issues:
 - Catchment area changes and the 21st Century Schools programme;
 - Cardiff Council Admissions Criteria – WISERD research report, copy attached at **Appendix 1**, together with an appraisal of the research reports recommendations at **Appendix 3**.
8. The report also includes, copy attached at **Appendix 2** the Admissions Arrangements for 2018/19, together with an Equalities Impact Assessment, copy attached at **Appendix 5**.
9. The Cabinet is recommended to:
 - authorise officers to consult on the revised admissions oversubscription criteria for admission to nursery, primary and secondary education as included in **Appendix 4** of the Cabinet report;
 - note that Cabinet will receive a report in Spring 2018 on the outcome of the consultation to support determination of the Admission Arrangements for 2019/20;
 - authorise officers to give further consideration to the potential for admission arrangements to reduce segregation in the intake of schools in Cardiff, and
 - note that revisions to school catchment areas will follow the confirmation, following consultation, on proposed changes to the

existing pattern of school provision arising from the 21st Century School Band B programme.

Scope of Scrutiny

10. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to:

- Consider and provide comments on the cabinet report.

Way Forward

11. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) and Professor Chris Taylor, Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD), Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences, will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

12. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Legal Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be

taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

14. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting

Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

6 November 2017