
**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2020 / 21 – 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 consultation undertaken regarding school admissions criteria and proposed changes to Cardiff Council's school admissions arrangements.

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 2020/2021 academic year (i.e. from September 2020) must be determined on or before 15 April 2019.
4. The Council's draft School Admissions Policy 2020/21 and the Formal Responses to the consultation document setting out the proposed changes (**see Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the draft Cabinet Report**), which were issued for consultation on 21 January 2018 to all those the Council are required to consult with as set out in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code (Head teachers, Governing Bodies, Diocesan Directors, neighbouring Local Education Authorities). The consultation closed on 22nd February 2019.

Draft Cabinet Report

5. The Draft Cabinet report highlights a number of issues:

- A summary of the Council's Schools Admission Arrangements 2020/21 consultation (para 5 - 9);
- Responses received regarding the draft policy during the consultation period (Para 10 – 11)
- Formal Responses and appraisal of views expressed (Para 12 – 34)
- Responses received from other consultees (Para 35 - 46)
- Use of Pupil Level Annual School Census date (Para 47 – 48)
- Transition Arrangements (para 49 – 52)
- Transport Implications (para 65 – 70)
- Impact on the Welsh Language (Para 71 – 75)

6. The report also includes a number of appendices, copy attached at **Appendix 1 to 3.**

7. The Cabinet is recommended to determine the attached Council's draft School Admission Arrangements 2019/2020 as set out in the Admission Policy 2019/2020.

Scope of Scrutiny

8. The scope of this scrutiny is for Members to consider and provide comments, concerns or recommendations on the draft Cabinet report prior to its consideration on 21 March 2019.

Way Forward

9. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning), and Officers will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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:

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

- b) 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 March 2019