CABINET

DATE 13th February 2019

REPORT OF Councillor K Wheatley, Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Steve Kay, Director of Children’s Services

SUBJECT School Admission Arrangements 2020-2021

STATUS Open

FORWARD PLAN REF NO. FP 02/19/09

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The recommendation contributes to ‘Enable children, young people and adults to learn and be ready to work.’ School Admission Arrangements enable children and young people to access appropriate education and therefore have better opportunities to learn and be employed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the local authority’s school admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2020-2021. In accordance with legislation these arrangements should be determined and published, after any relevant consultation by 28 February 2019. The report summarises the consultations which have taken place and the recommendations made.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That, the general admission arrangements, including published admissions numbers (PANs), for the local authority’s community and voluntary controlled schools for 2020-2021 be unchanged from 2019-2020.
2. That no material changes be made to the local authority’s co-ordinated school admission arrangements published schemes other than the updating of dates and deadlines, and that locally agreed protocols that support admission arrangements continue to be reviewed on a regular basis.
3. That the Director of Children’s Services continues to have delegated powers in consultation with the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools to increase the published admission number of an individual year group in a school in exceptional circumstances.
4. That it be noted that those schools / academies that are their own admission authorities have the ability to consult and determine their own admission arrangements. Details of known proposed changes are provided at Appendix 1.
5. That it be noted with the increasing number of academies within the local authority the number of schools for which the local authority is responsible for in respect of determining admission arrangements is reduced.
REASONS FOR DECISION

The Education (Determination of Admission Regulations 1999) requires school admission arrangements for 2020-2021 to be determined and published, after any required consultation by 28 February 2019. The recommendations above result from the statutory consultation required under legislation.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

1.1 Consultation with neighbouring local authorities and the diocesan bodies during 1999 established that North East Lincolnshire and its neighbouring authorities of North Lincolnshire and Lincolnshire all agreed that their "relevant areas" for consultation on admission arrangements would be the areas that coincided with each local authority's own boundaries.

1.2 The three neighbouring local authorities have informed each other of their proposals for admission arrangements for 2020-2021. No areas of disagreement have arisen between North East Lincolnshire and its neighbouring authorities as a result of this. Consultations took the form of written advice and access to publications on respective websites.

1.3 In line with the School Admissions Code, it is no longer a requirement for admission authorities:
  o To formally consult on any increases to school's published admission numbers (PANs).
  o To formally consult on admission arrangements unless they remain unchanged for seven years.

However, there is a requirement to formally consult on proposals to decrease published admission numbers and or changes to oversubscription criteria or policy details.

1.4 Despite the reduced School Admissions Code’s requirements, even if there are no formal consultation requirements admission authorities still have to determine and publish their admission arrangements annually in line with the relevant timescales.

1.5 No proposals for change to the local authority’s agreed published co-ordinated school admissions arrangements have been made. Therefore, current arrangements will continue for a further year with appropriate modification of dates and deadlines.

1.6 Any relevant matters pertaining to school admission arrangements are when appropriate included in discussions with the local authority’s Strategic Pupil Place Planning Group (SPPPG).

1.7 To assist schools / academies in understanding the statutory requirements and to provide the opportunity for proposed changes informal consultation commenced with all North East Lincolnshire School / academy governing bodies during the 2018 summer term.
1.8 It is noted that some governing bodies of schools / academies which are their own admission authorities are proposing changes to their admission arrangements for 2020-2021 and have all requested that the local authority coordinate consultation on their behalf. These will be determined and published by the respective admission authorities by 28 February 2019.

1.9 The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) requires that local authorities regularly review the links between school admission arrangements and education transport policies. There have been no changes to the local authority’s school admission policy this year which would result in the need to review the Home to School Transport Policy.

2. **RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

2.1 Risk Assessment against proposed school admission arrangements. Identified as Priority E – Low Risk, Requiring Monitor and Review. The local authority’s school admission arrangements are consulted upon and determined annually. Any proposed changes are in line with statutory requirements. The public consultation has taken into account the views, opinions and likely impact on citizens, schools and service users.

3. **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

3.1 Other options are regularly considered in the wide ranging consultations.

4. **REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 Due to the stakeholder consultation undertaken there are minimal potential reputational implications for the Council resulting from the decision.

5. **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 There is no effect on the Council’s revenue or capital expenditure or any expectation to call upon Council reserves.

6. **CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY**

6.1 There has been no consultation with Council’s Scrutiny Panel.

7. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The report is proposing no major changes to the Council’s general admissions policy. Consequently there are no direct additional financial implications arising from the report. All resource implications will be contained within existing budgets.

8. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Section 88C of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 requires the Local Authority in its role as admission authority to determine the admission
arrangements that will apply in line with regulations and the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code.

8.2 As stated in the body of the report the Local Authority has a statutory duty to consult, determine and publish its admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools.

8.3 In adopting the recommendations as set out in the report the Local Authority is adhering to, and complying with, such obligations.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

10. WARD IMPLICATIONS

10.1 All wards are affected.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 ‘School Admission Arrangements for the Academic Year 2020 -2021’

The DfE’s School Admissions Code 2014

12. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

12.1 Nathan Heath, Group Manager, Access and Inclusion
Telephone: (01472) 323700

Councillor K Wheatley
Portfolio Holder for Children, Young People and Education
Appendix 1

North East Lincolnshire Local Authority – Governing body resolutions in relation to any proposed changes to school admission arrangements for the 2020-2021 academic year

The School Admissions Code:
- does not require school admission authorities to consult on any proposed increase in published admission numbers (PANs) and has a strong presumption in favour of an increase for popular schools.
- Requires admission authorities to consult on any other proposed school admission arrangements changes including any reductions in PANs.

The following tables provide details of community and voluntary controlled schools and academies which have advised the local authority of any proposed changes to their admission arrangements for 2020-2021 academic year which have required formal consultation to be undertaken.

### Table 1 – Community and voluntary controlled schools governing body resolutions to propose admission arrangement changes for the 2020-2021 academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governing Body</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
<th>Reason given by the governing body in support of the request</th>
<th>Local Authority comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2 - Schools and academies (which are their own admission authority) governing body resolutions to propose admission arrangement changes for the 2020-2021 academic year - This consultation has been undertaken by the local authority on behalf of the individual admission authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academy Trust</th>
<th>School / Academy</th>
<th>Governing Body / Multi Academy Trust resolution in respect of proposed admission authority arrangements change for 2020-2021</th>
<th>Local Authority comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oasis Academy Trust</td>
<td>Oasis Nunsthorpe Academy</td>
<td>The academy are proposing to decrease their Published Admission Number (PAN) from 75 to 60.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis Academy Trust</td>
<td>Oasis Wintringham Academy</td>
<td>The academy are proposing to decrease their Published Admission Number from 200 to 180.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Enquire Learning Trust</td>
<td>Eastfield Academy, Elliston Academy, Enfield Academy of New Waltham, Humberston Cloverfields Academy, Laceby Acres Academy, Middlethorpe Academy, Springfield Academy, Welholme Academy</td>
<td>The Trust has made a change to their admission policy which will result in the oversubscription criteria of ‘Previously Looked After Children’ to include ‘children previously looked after outside of the UK’.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Diocese of Nottingham</td>
<td>St Joseph’s Catholic Voluntary Academy, St Mary’s Catholic Voluntary Academy</td>
<td>The Diocese are proposing the adoption of CES definitions for ‘other Christians’ and ‘other faiths’. The changes will bring them in line with the arrangements in place in other Catholic Dioceses in England and Wales.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Ross Education Trust</td>
<td>Edward Heneage Primary Academy</td>
<td>The Academy are proposing to adopt their own admission policy placing ‘sibling’ above ‘catchment’ in their oversubscription criteria.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stand alone academies</td>
<td>New Waltham Academy</td>
<td>The Academy are proposing to adopt their own admissions policy placing ‘sibling’ above ‘catchment’ and including ‘children of staff’ and ‘attending the school’s nursery’ in their oversubscription criteria.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Clee Academy</td>
<td>The Academy are proposing to adopt their own admission policy placing ‘sibling’ above ‘catchment’ in their oversubscription criteria.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This change has been suggested by the DfE as a future national legislative policy change but has not been progressed to date.*