

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

TO:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE, CHILDRENS SERVICES AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	8 January 2020	AGENDA ITEM:	11
TITLE:	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	ASHLEY PEARCE	PORTFOLIO:	EDUCATION
SERVICE:	BFfC	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
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#### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to determine;
- The admissions arrangements for Community Primary Schools in Reading for the school year 2021/22.
  - The coordinated scheme for primary and junior schools for the 2021/22 school year.
  - The coordinated scheme for secondary schools for the 2021/22 school year.
  - The Relevant Area.
  - Maps of the catchment areas.
- 1.2 These arrangements for 2021/22 comply with the School Admissions Code 2014.

#### 2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the scheme attached at Annexes A, B and C as the admissions arrangements for 2021/22 for community schools in Reading and the local arrangements for complying with the national coordinated primary school admission procedures for the allocation of primary school places for residents of Reading Borough be agreed.
- 2.2 That the scheme attached at Annex D as the local arrangements for complying with the national coordinated secondary admissions procedure for the allocation of secondary school places for 2021/22 for residents of Reading Borough be agreed.
- 2.3 That the relevant area as attached in Annex E which sets out the organisations that must be consulted for any admissions arrangements for schools in Reading be agreed.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1** School admissions are subject to detailed requirements, set out in law and particularly the School Admissions Code 2014, published by the Government and approved by Parliament. As part of those requirements, local authorities must draw up schemes for coordinating admissions to all maintained schools in their area. The purpose of coordinated schemes is to ensure that every parent/carer of a child living in Reading who has completed and submitted an on time application receives one offer of a school place at the conclusion of the normal admissions round. The schemes set out a process and timescale to enable the offer of a single school place. They do not affect the right of individual admission authorities to set and operate their own admission arrangements but they do include arrangements for resolving multiple offers, where a place can be offered at more than one school. Reading Borough Council is the admitting authority for community and voluntary controlled schools within the borough.
- 3.2** In addition, the Council is also required to determine the admission policy for community schools which includes the number of places to be made available at each school and the oversubscription criteria to be applied where there are more applicants than places available. Where the over-subscription criteria include catchment areas these must also be approved. The governing bodies of academies, free schools, voluntary aided and foundation schools are required to determine their own admission number and oversubscription criteria. Those schools also operate their own arrangements as part of the coordinated scheme - and where they are oversubscribed, continue to decide which applicants best meet their oversubscription criteria.
- 3.3** Reading Borough Council last consulted on the policy in 2018 and therefore there is no duty to consult this year.
- 3.4** Reading Borough Council deliver its school admissions service through Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC). BFfC is an independent, not-for-profit company, wholly owned by Reading Borough Council, set up in December 2018 to deliver children's services, early help, education and SEND services in Reading
- 3.5** The documents have to be determined by the 28 February 2020 to ensure Reading is compliant with the school admissions code and published on the BFfC website by 15 March 2020.

#### **4. THE PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 Primary and Secondary School Co-ordinated schemes 2021-22**  
These schemes have been amended to reflect appropriate dates. Both policies were approved on the previous consultation for 2018 entry and there are no significant changes.
- 4.2 Admission Policy for Community Primary, Infant and Junior Schools 2021-2022**  
The policy has no significant changes from the proposals for 2020/21.

### **4.3 Relevant Area**

The Relevant area outlines the organisations that must be consulted by all schools in Reading when consulting on admissions policies. No amendments have been made to this.

## **5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 5.1** The admission schemes contribute to the aims of establishing Reading as a Learning City and a stimulating and rewarding place to live and visit and to promote equality and social inclusion.

## **6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1** *An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to this decision.*

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1** Compliance with School Admissions Code (2014)

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1** None arising directly from this report.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1** None.