



CABINET

14 JANUARY 2020

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION: CATHI HADLEY

CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND  
EDUCATION: CLLR FIONA BAKER

Subject:	Determination of the admission arrangements for schools where Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) is the admission authority for the 2021 intake.
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Determine the 2021 admission arrangements for the schools where Northamptonshire County Council is the admission authority (i.e. for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools). The admission arrangements for the 2021 intakes remain the same as those for the 2020 intakes;</li><li>2. Agree the 'relevant area' for schools in Northamptonshire. The 'relevant area' is defined as the area of the local education authority (e.g. the geographical area covering all schools in Northamptonshire and contiguous local authorities);</li><li>3. Agree the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated schemes used by the School Admissions Team to allocate pupils (aged 4+, 7+ and 10+) at the normal point of entry. An explanation of the schemes can be found in section 1.4 of this report.</li></ol>

**1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 The local authority (LA) has a duty to act in accordance with the statutory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2014 ('the Code') and with laws relating to admissions. It is the duty of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary information to allow the council to determine the admission arrangements for its schools. The decisions required are as follows:
- a) **Determine the admission arrangements**  
The local authority does not propose to make any changes from the 2020 admission arrangements, agreed by Cabinet on 14 February 2019. As such, there has been no requirement to consult. The admission arrangements for the 2021 intakes to Northamptonshire schools will remain the same as for the 2020 intakes (Determined by Cabinet in February 2019);

**b) Agree the 'Relevant Area'**

The 'relevant area' (e.g. the area for a school within which the admission authority for the school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements for maintained schools) remains unchanged. The Relevant Area for Northamptonshire schools consists of the whole of Northamptonshire and contiguous local authorities;

**c) Agree the Co-ordinated Schemes for the 2020 intake**

Each year, all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website a scheme by 1 January in the relevant determination year to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area. Councillors are asked to agree the Co-ordinated Schemes for the normal point of entry to primary, infant, junior and secondary schools in Northamptonshire schools.

1.3 Appendix 1 to this Cabinet Paper provides relevant background information in respect of **1.2 a), b) and c)** above, and full details of the determined admission arrangements for all Community and Voluntary Controlled infant, junior, primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire, organised by school type (e.g. urban, rural, infant, junior, with or without linked area). This appendix also clarifies the terms used and provides guidance on the way that oversubscription criteria are applied by the local authority (NCC) to Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools.

1.4 The Co-ordinated Schemes are made for the purpose of co-ordinating the admission arrangements of pupils (other than for those pupils with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan) to primary and secondary schools in Northamptonshire and shall apply to the admission arrangements for 2021. The schemes shall be processed in accordance with the timetables set out on Page 1 of Appendix 2 and Page 1 of Appendix 3.

## **2. How this decision contributes to the Council plan**

The Council's vision is for Northamptonshire to be a county where everyone looks after each other and takes responsibility, where the vulnerable are protected and supported and where the people who can help themselves receive the assistance they need to stay independent and healthy.

This initiative helps the Council to deliver this vision through the following strategic priorities outlined in the Council Plan

- Working in partnership with other public sector organisations (such as the seven district and borough councils, the local NHS bodies, and Northamptonshire Police).
- Enabling individuals and communities to achieve better outcomes.
- Engaging with partners and communities to co-design and co-deliver services.
- Using innovation to find better and more sustainable ways of delivering services ensuring they are efficient and affordable in the long term.
- Focusing resources on prevention and early intervention.

- Using technology and digital solutions to meet the needs of residents.
- Commissioning and procuring services and goods with partners.
- Utilising the Council's assets effectively.
- Reducing inequalities and disparity of opportunities.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements every year, even if they have not changed from the previous year and no consultation has been required.
- 3.2 The 'Relevant Area' is defined in the School Admissions Code as: 'The area for a school (determined by its local authority and then reviewed every two years) within which the admission authority for that school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements.' For Northamptonshire, the relevant area for the schools for which it is the admission authority is the geographical area covering all schools in Northamptonshire and contiguous local authorities.

### 4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 There has been no consultation as no changes have been proposed to the admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Northamptonshire in 2021.

### 5. Equality Screening

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with this Cabinet report.

Reason that no EqlA is required	✓ as appropriate
The paper is for information only	
The proposal/activity/decision has no impact on customers or the service they receive	
The proposal impacts upon staff but the proposed staffing changes will not affect the service that customers receive*	
Other (Please explain further)	✓

\*Where a proposal affects staff, the appropriate HR processes will be followed, which have already been subject to the EqlA process and will be compliant with HR legislation

The school admission arrangements for 2021 have not changed from the 2020 arrangements previously agreed by Cabinet in 2019, and no consultation has been undertaken.

### 6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 As no changes are proposed to 2021 admission arrangements, no alternative options have been considered.

## 7. Financial Implications

7.1 This report concerns admission arrangements which do not, in themselves, have a financial bearing. Any possible impact on transport would be addressed under policies responsible for home to school transport.

## 8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
That NCC does not fulfil statutory obligations under the School Admissions Code	NCC must determine the admission arrangements for its Community and Voluntary Controlled schools.	Green

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Admission arrangements may be considered to be unfair or not compliant with the School Admissions Code. A consequence of this could be that NCC would be reported to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.	Red

## 9. List of Appendices

Details of the admission arrangements for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Northamptonshire can be found in Appendix 1, and details of the Primary and Secondary Co-ordinated Schemes can be found in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 respectively. Direct links to NCC's composite prospectuses for all mainstream primary and secondary schools in the county are also listed below ('Background Papers').

- **Appendix 1** – Admission Arrangements for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools in Northamptonshire (2021)
- **Appendix 2** – Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for Northamptonshire Schools, 2021.
- **Appendix 3** – Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for Northamptonshire Schools, 2021.

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Background Papers:	School Admissions Code <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schooladmissions-code--2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schooladmissions-code--2</a> Applying for a Primary School Place in Northamptonshire 2020-2021 (composite prospectus) <a href="https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-">https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-</a>

	<a href="https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-school-places/Documents/Primary%20Prospectus%202020-2021.pdf">admissions/primary-school-places/Documents/Primary%20Prospectus%202020-2021.pdf</a> Applying for a Secondary School Place in Northamptonshire 2020-2021 (composite prospectus) <a href="https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-school-places/Documents/Secondary%20Prospectus%202020-21.pdf">https://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/school-admissions/secondary-school-places/Documents/Secondary%20Prospectus%202020-21.pdf</a>
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so please outline the timetable here	NO
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications passed through Capital Programme governance procedures?	YES Name of SFM: Emily Taylor  N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Cathi Hadley
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Fiona Baker
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	N/A
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Susan Zeiss
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley
Have any property Issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: James Wheeler
Have the Procurement Implications below been referenced in the Paper:	NO
Are there any community safety implications?	NO

Are there any environmental implications?	NO
Are there any Health and Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	NO