

Wards Affected:

All Wards

ITEM 1**DELEGATED DECISION****14 FEBRUARY 2017****PROPOSED ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2018 FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families)

Report Sponsor: Marie Denny (Head of Delivery, Education Sufficiency and Access)

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Executive Summary

Milton Keynes Council is the admissions authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools. Other types of schools are their own admissions authorities. The School Admissions Code 2014 requires that when changes are proposed to admissions arrangements, all admissions authorities (councils or schools) must consult for a minimum of six weeks between 1 October and 31 January of the school year before those arrangements are to apply.

A consultation on the council's proposed admissions arrangements for September 2018 took place between 22 November 2016 and 16 January 2017 in which no changes were proposed to the over-subscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools, or to the Published Admission Numbers. There was however one change proposed to the catchment areas prioritised by Brooklands Farm Primary School with a proposal that Port Line road changes from Countess Way campus to Fen Street Campus.

Only five responses were received, all of which agreed with the proposed arrangements. It is therefore recommended that the proposed admissions arrangements should be adopted for community and voluntary controlled schools. These arrangements must be adopted by 15 March 2017.

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the September 2018 admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools be formally adopted and published by 15 March 2017.

2. Issues

2.1 The council is the admissions authority for community and voluntary controlled schools and as such is required to determine its admissions arrangements for September 2018 by 15 March 2017.

2.2 A consultation online form together with a draft of the full admissions arrangements and list of each school's catchment area and Pupil Admission Number were available to view on the council's website from 22 November

2016 to 16 January 2017. These documents are attached at **Annexes A and B**. Stakeholders including academy trusts, early years settings, council teams who work with schools and children, faith boards and neighbouring authorities were notified via e-mail and through relevant newsletters. In addition Broughton Ward and Broughton and Milton Keynes Parish were separately emailed in relation to the proposed campus change to Brooklands Farm School.

2.3 Only five parties replied to the consultation. All five were primary schools and all agreed with the draft arrangements.

- (a) Lavendon School requested an increase to their pupil admission number from 20 to 25 from Year 3 to Year 6. Current projections indicate the published admission number is sufficient to meet demand from the local catchment area. The need for additional places from any proposed new housing development will be reviewed at the appropriate time.
- (b) One school requested inclusion of an admissions process for children with special needs to prevent a school becoming 'overloaded' as a result. The national Admissions Code states that children with special educational needs but with no EHCP will be treated as fairly as any other applicant. The law does not permit refusal of admission because it is claimed that the school cannot cater for the child's special educational needs and the council will consider such applications on the basis of the published oversubscription criteria.

3. **Options**

3.1 Do Nothing

Where changes are proposed, the council is legally required to consult on and determine its admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools. If the proposals are not agreed and adopted, the council would not be able to implement the proposed changes. The concerns identified regarding the need for additional school places, the desire for waiting list for in-year admissions, and lack of clarity for some catchment areas would therefore remain.

3.2 Adopt the Proposed Admissions Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

This would mean the council can meet its duties as the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, and includes the agreed change to Brooklands Farm Primary School catchment area.

This is the recommended option.

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

Once adopted the admissions arrangements become policy for all admissions to community and voluntary controlled schools with effect from admissions in September 2018.

4.2 Resources and Risk

None.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Legal

The council is required to determine admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, in line with the [School Standards and Framework Act 1998](#) as amended by the Education Act 2011 and in line with the School Admissions Code 2014. The arrangements must be adopted by 15 March 2017 at the latest.

Where changes are proposed, the council must publically consult. The consultation requirements are set out within the [School Admissions Code 2014](#) (Pages 18 and 19).

4.4 Other Implications

The School Admissions Code (Pages 10 and 11) designates equality:

- (a) In drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear and objective. Parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated.
- (b) All schools must give highest priority to Looked After Children or adopted or guardianship order children. All schools must admit children whose statement of special educational needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care plan names their particular school.
- (c) Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs, and that other policies around school uniform or school trips do not discourage parents from applying for a place for their child. Admission arrangements must include an effective, clear and fair tie-breaker to decide between two applications that cannot otherwise be separated.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Annexes:

Annex A - Consultation document (Draft Admissions Arrangements for September 2018)

Annex B - Published Admission Numbers and Catchment Areas