
Executive Member Decision Session

12 April 2011

Report of the Director of Adults, Children and Education

Coordinated admissions arrangements and admission limits for Primary and Secondary Schools in York from September 2012

Summary

1. To seek the approval of the City of York coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2012/13 academic year.
2. To seek the approval of the proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2012.

Background

3. It is the duty of the admissions authority to carry out a consultation each year on admission limits and arrangements. In the case of maintained schools, the admission authority is the local authority (LA), whilst in voluntary aided schools it is the governing body of the school in question.
4. In their role as admissions authorities, LAs must also consult other LAs with whom they share a border. For City of York LA, these are East Riding of Yorkshire Council and North Yorkshire County Council.
5. Admission limits are important because they relate to the maximum number of children who are able to enter schools (reception in primary and infant schools, Year 3 in junior schools, and Years 7 and 12 in secondary schools).

Options

6. The recommendations in this report have been prepared following consultation with the Local Admissions Forum, which has debated each proposed change in admission limit and considered the admission arrangements brought forward by the Authority. The Executive Member can modify the recommendations of the Forum.

Consultation

7. The School Admissions Code of Practice requires that consultation takes place and final determination of admission limits and arrangements and should be made by **15 April 2011** for the academic year beginning in September 2012.

Analysis

8. The authority has consulted with relevant admissions authorities on the proposed admissions arrangements for the 2012/13 academic year. The consultation ran from 7 January 2011 until 4 March 2011. The City of York's proposed coordinated schemes and admissions policies for primary and secondary schools are set out in Annexes C – F. Policies for voluntary aided schools are contained in Annexes G – I.
9. The coordinated schemes are applicable to all maintained schools in York including community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools. The City of York admissions policy is applicable to all schools for which the local authority is the admissions authority; this includes all community and voluntary controlled schools. Voluntary aided schools operate their own admissions policies and these have also formed part of the consultation.
10. The Local Admissions Forum met on 10 March after the consultation period to consider the admissions arrangements for all York schools. No significant feedback to these arrangements had been received by the authority from those consulted with.
11. The list proposed changes to school admission limits is shown in Annex A. The Local Authority did not propose any changes to admission limits, but received two requests to increase admission limit from Rufforth Primary (Reception) and Joseph Rowntree (post 16), respectively.
12. A detailed discussion of the technical arguments for and against each requested admission limit change can be found in Annex B. The Local Admissions Forum has debated the issues presented in the Annex and recommends:
 - a) Rejecting the requested increase in admission limit at Rufforth Primary School due to uncertainty surrounding funding and lack of direct catchment demand.
 - b) Supporting the proposed increase in Y12 admission limit at Joseph Rowntree School to bring the limit more in line with physical capacity and other post-16 providers in the city.

Corporate Priorities

13. The setting of admission limits forms an integral part of the local authority's effective planning of school places. This helps the authority achieve its priority to "Increase people's skills and knowledge to improve future employment prospects".

Implications

Financial

14. There are no direct financial implications for schools or the Local Authority resulting from determination of admission limits for September 2012.

Legal

15. Section 142 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998 requires schools to have an admission limit for each 'relevant age group.
16. The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/2896 and SI 2007/194, states that admissions authorities must have regard to the capacity assessment of the school when setting admission limits.
17. Section 1 of the SSFA 1998 requires that any admission number set must be compatible with the duty to comply with the infant class size limit.
18. Sections 89 and 89A of the SSFA 1998 state that the admission authorities for schools with a sixth form must consult on and determine the arrangements they propose to use to allocate places in Year 12 at the same time as other admission arrangements.
19. Section 89(2) of the SSFA 1998 requires that admissions authorities are required to complete consultation on admission arrangements by 1 March, and determine their arrangements by 15 April in each calendar year for the following school year. These dates are prescribed in The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/126) as amended by SI 2002/ 2896 and SI 2007/194.

Other

20. There are no issues relating to crime and disorder, Information Technology, Property, Human Resources or Equalities.

Risk Management

21. No direct implications.

Recommendations

22. The Executive Member for Children's Services is recommended to approve the City of York coordinated schemes and admissions policies for both primary and secondary schools for the 2012/13 academic year, as set out in Annexes C - I.
23. The Executive Member for Children's Services is recommended to approve proposed individual school maximum admission limits for the academic year beginning in September 2012, as set out in Annexes A and B.

Reason: To meet the statutory requirements of the School Admissions Code of Practice.

Contact Details

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**Report
Approved**



Date

30 March 2011

Specialist Implications Officer(s)

None

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

- Annex A – list of proposed admission limits
- Annex B – Technical discussion
- Annex C – Coordinated admissions scheme for secondary schools in the area of City of York Local Authority for the 2012/13 academic year
- Annex D – Coordinated admissions scheme for primary schools for September 2012 and January 2013 entry in the area of City of York Local Authority
- Annex E – 2012/2013 admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled primary schools
- Annex F – 2012/2013 admissions policy for City of York Council community and voluntary controlled secondary schools
- Annex G – All Saints RC VA Admissions Policy (2012/13)
- Annex H – Archbishop Holgate's CE VA Admissions Policy (2012/13)
- Annex I – Manor CE VA Admissions Policy (2012/13)