

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Education, Children and Young People
Date	24 January 2017
Present	Councillor Rawlings

9. Declarations of Interest

The Executive Member was asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests that he may have in respect of business on the agenda. No additional interests were declared.

10. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 26 July 2016 be approved and signed as a correct record.

11. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

12. Admissions Arrangements Consultation 2018/19

The Executive Member considered a report which sought approval of the admissions policies and published admission numbers for community and voluntary controlled schools – schools for whom the City of York Council is the admissions authority – for the school year beginning in September 2018. The report also sought approval of the coordinated admissions schemes for the City of York area – for which the City of York Council is the coordinating Local Authority – for applications to start the school year beginning in September 2018.

Officers gave details of the consultation that had taken place on the proposed arrangements.

The Executive Member's attention was drawn to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the report, which outlined a change to the admissions policy for junior schools. This change, which would only apply to two schools in York, was the inclusion of a criterion within the oversubscription criteria for those children who attend the neighbouring infant school.

Officers also gave details of a request by Joseph Rowntree School to increase its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 220 to 232. Paragraph 23 of the report detailed the principles that should apply when considering increases in PANs. The Executive Member sought confirmation that the proposed increase in the PAN for Joseph Rowntree School would not necessitate additional basic need capital expenditure. Officers confirmed that additional capital expenditure would not be required and that the school had indicated that it could accommodate the additional numbers through better utilising current teaching spaces and reclassifying some current non teaching spaces into teaching spaces.

The Executive Member stated that he was pleased to note the cohesive approach that was being taken by the Local Authority and the academies in respect of school admission arrangements.

- Resolved: (i) That the coordinated schemes and admissions policies for all City of York Council schools for the 2018/19 school year, as set out in annexes B-G and Z-AB of the report, be approved.
- (ii) That the proposed admission numbers for all City of York Council schools for the school year beginning in September 2018, as set out in Annex A of the report, be approved.

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

13. Provision of additional temporary classrooms at Acomb Primary School due to increased pupil numbers

The Executive Member considered a report which sought approval to provide additional temporary classroom accommodation at Acomb Primary School. The additional classrooms were required from the beginning of the 2017/18 school year. This accommodation would meet existing demand at the school following a decision to admit additional pupils in the school's Reception cohort in 2016, which relieved wider pupil place pressures in the west of the city. Approval was sought for the required capital expenditure.

Officers gave details of the reasons why the temporary classroom was required, as outlined in the report, and stated that a double temporary classroom unit was recommended to enable the school to accommodate one bulge year from September 2017 and to continue to provide for out of school provision. Consultation had taken place with the headteacher and governors of Acomb Primary School and the headteachers from the "West" cluster of schools.

The Executive Member noted that the costs of this provision would be around £300,000, as detailed in paragraph 18 of the report. Funding for the scheme was available within the Basic Need programme budget. Officers were asked about the costs of providing a single classroom unit in comparison to a double unit. They stated that most of the costs related to utilities and ground work and that these would apply irrespective of the size of unit. A double unit would, however, give greater flexibility.

The Executive Member stated that he recognised the value of accommodation being available for purposes such as wrap around care, as well as for classrooms.

Officers were asked about the impact of the additional accommodation on neighbouring schools. The Executive Member was informed that many of the schools in that area of the city were at, or over, their Published Admission Number. There were, however, two schools which did have some capacity. The Local Authority sought to support schools in filling places that were available but this was not always possible. The Executive Member stated that he supported the principle of parental preference where possible.

Resolved: That the budget of £300,000 for the provision of a temporary double classroom unit be approved.

Reason: To provide enough classroom accommodation at Acomb Primary School for the increased intake admitted in September 2016.

Councillor Rawlings – Executive Member

[The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 4.25 pm].