



RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The following is a record of the decisions taken at the meeting of **CABINET** held on **Wednesday 8 February 2017**.

The decisions will come into force and may be implemented from **20 February 2017** unless the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or its Committees object to any such decision and call it in.

School Admission Arrangements Academic Year 2018/2019

Key Decision CYP5/01/16

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Corporate Director, Children and Adults Services which outlined the proposed admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools for the 2018/19 academic year.

It is a mandatory requirement of the national School Admissions Code that all schools must have admission arrangements that clearly set out how children will be admitted, including the criteria that will be applied if there are more applications than places at the school (oversubscription). Admission arrangements are determined by admission authorities. The Local Authority (LA) is the admission authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, while the Governing Body is the admission authority for Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools and the relevant Trust for an Academy or Free School.

All admission authorities must agree admission arrangements annually. Where changes are proposed to admission arrangements the admission authority must first consult on those arrangements.

There were no changes proposed to the current admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools that required public consultation, other than where it is proposed that some schools have a reduction in the admission number for the purposes of efficient and effective curriculum delivery. The proposed admission number for each Community and Voluntary Controlled School was detailed in Appendix 2 of the report and the admission numbers for Voluntary Aided, Foundation schools, Academies and the UTC, South Durham were included in the report for information.

All Governing Bodies/Trusts have considered and agreed to the co-ordinated admission schemes that will govern the administrative processes for the 2018/19 academic year (detailed in Appendix 3).

These are unchanged from last year. Since a new School Admissions Code was published in December 2014 all admission authorities in Durham have followed advice issued by the Department for Education (DfE) at the same time in relation to the admission of summer born children outside of the normal year of entry. The process is detailed in the co-ordinated admission scheme for primary schools in Appendix 3.

It is a statutory requirement of all admission authorities that admission arrangements for 2018/2019 are determined by 28 February 2017 and these must be published on their website not later than 15 March 2017. The LA must publish online, with hard copies available for those who do not have access to the internet, a composite prospectus for parents by 12 September 2017, which contains the admission arrangements for each of the state-funded schools in the LA area to which parents can apply. The LA would be in breach of a statutory duty if admission arrangements were not determined by 28 February 2017 and published on the Council's website by 15 March 2017.

Decision

The Cabinet agreed the following recommendations in respect of Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, when determining the admission arrangements for 2018/19:

- a. That the admission numbers as recommended in Appendix 2 of the report be approved
- b. That the admission arrangements, at Appendix 3 of the report be approved.

Annual Review of the Constitution

Summary

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which presented proposals for the revision of the Council's Constitution. In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the County Council adopted the new Constitution for the Unitary Authority from 1 April 2009. Although legislation has been amended by the Localism Act 2011, a constitution is still required. An annual review of the Constitution is carried out each year by the Monitoring Officer. Amendments to the Constitution approved by full Council since last year's annual review, have been incorporated into the Constitution and amendments made since the last annual review were detailed in the report.

Decision

The Leader and Cabinet:

- Approved the delegating of executive powers as set out in the officer scheme of delegations.

- Recommended that Council agree the proposed revisions to the Constitution, including the delegations to Chief Officers contained, at the meeting of the Council on 22 March 2017, and authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to present the Constitution for approval to the new council;
- Recommended that Council authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Constitution Working Group, to make future changes to the Constitution to reflect decisions of the Council or a Council body or to comply with legal requirements.

Colette Longbottom
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
10 February 2017