



Purpose: For Decision

# Cabinet Report

Date **9 FEBRUARY 2023**

Title **DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2024/25**

Report of **CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this paper is to determine the Isle of Wight Council's school admissions arrangements for 2024/2025. There are four Published Admission Number (PAN) changes proposed for 2024/2025.
2. The admission arrangements enable all families to make applications for school places within a system that complies with legal requirements and is clear, fair and objective.

## RECOMMENDATION

3. That Cabinet approves the 2024/2025 admissions arrangements.

## BACKGROUND

4. The existing School Admissions Code (SAC) came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and the School Admissions Appeal Code came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022.
5. The Isle of Wight Council is the admission authority for all community and voluntary controlled schools on the Isle of Wight and is therefore responsible for determining the admission arrangements for these schools. The Isle of Wight Council provides a co-ordinated and centralised main round admissions process for in-year admissions schools and supports parents in making an application. Government regulations require all admission authorities (i.e. local authorities and the governing bodies of academies and voluntary aided and foundation schools, referred to in this report as "own admission authority" (OAA) schools) to determine their school admission arrangements for 2024/2025 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

6. The term “admission arrangements” means the overall procedure, practices and oversubscription criteria used in deciding on the allocation of school places, including any device or means used to determine whether a school place is to be offered (normally a supplementary information form is used by OAA schools where priority for admission cannot be determined from the information on the local authority’s form).
  
7. Each year, admissions authorities must consult by 31<sup>st</sup> January in the determination year on their admission arrangements. In accordance with paragraph 1.45 of the Schools Admissions Code, the Council has consulted on the admission arrangements for 2024/2025 because an amendment is proposed. The amendment is to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN) at four primary schools. This means that the number of places available for children in reception (Year R) from September 2024 and all subsequent reception cohorts will reduce to the number stated for each school.
  - Barton Primary from 45 to 30
  - Broadlea Primary from 45 to 30
  - Carisbrooke CE Primary from 60 to 45
  - Godshill Primary from 27 to 20.
  
8. The change to the Published Admission Number for the above schools are the only proposed changes to the admissions arrangements, all other criteria, including oversubscription will remain the same.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

9. The recommendation in this report directly links to the Corporate Plan 2021-25 priority which is to work with local communities to maintain and ensure appropriate local school provision.

### Responding to climate change and enhancing the biosphere

10. The recommendations are to reduce the number of school places based on declining numbers of children entering Year R, therefore no impact on climate change is anticipated.

11.

### Economic Recovery and Reducing Poverty

The recommendations are to reduce the number of school places based on declining numbers of children entering Year R, therefore do not have an adverse impact on economic recovery or reducing poverty.

### Impact on Young People and Future Generations

12. The recommendation supports parents being able to make applications to their preferred schools and facilitate access to school places.

### Corporate Aims

As set out within the corporate plan this report demonstrates the Isle of Wight Councils commitment to work with local communities to maintain and ensure

appropriate local school provision providing the best possible outcomes for children on the Island.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

13. The local authority must determine the admission arrangements by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and ensure they are published before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The recommended admission arrangements will be compliant with the requirements of the School Admission Code 2021.

### CONSULTATION

14. A consultation has taken place (15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023) in accordance with paragraph 1.45 of the Schools Admission Code because an amendment is proposed to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at the following schools, with effect from September 2024:
  - Barton Primary from 45 to 30
  - Broadlea Primary from 45 to 30
  - Carisbrooke CE Primary from 60 to 45
  - Godshill Primary from 27 to 20.
15. The Consultation was published on the Isle of Wight Council's webpage, advertised in the local media and schools were notified. There were four responses to the consultation, these are listed in Appendix 4
16. In summary, a number of the comments in the Consultation are referring to the need for a longer-term approach to Primary school place planning. Whilst the outcome of this consultation acknowledges this point, it is the recommendation that the local authority proceeds with the admission arrangements and PAN reductions outlined in this report. This supports the resource and financial viability of the schools in question.

### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation. The local authority and schools currently work within the admissions arrangements and provide the required service for parents needing to apply for school places.

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The local authority must determine the admission arrangements by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and ensure they are published before 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The recommended admission arrangements will be compliant with the requirements of the School Admission Code.

### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

19. The Council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender

reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

## OPTIONS

20. In order to comply with the school admissions code, the Isle of Wight Council must determine the admission arrangements. Therefore, the recommended option is that Cabinet approves the 2024/2025 arrangements.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

21. A school admissions policy is used when a school is oversubscribed to prioritise one applicant over another. The proposed policy is unchanged and has worked effectively for parents making applications. At quarter 1, 2022/23, the proportion of children receiving an offer at one of their three preferred schools is stable at 97 per cent.

## EVALUATION

22. The recommendation is that the Cabinet proceeds with determining the admission arrangements.

## APPENDICES ATTACHED

23. Appendix 1: The proposed 2024/2025 Primary Admissions Policy  
Appendix 2: The proposed 2024/2025 Secondary Admissions Policy  
Appendix 3: The list of Published Admission Numbers  
Appendix 4: Consultation Comments

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

24. School Admissions Code 2021 - [School admissions code 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)  
School Admissions Appeals Code 2022 - [School Admission Appeals Code 2022 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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