

Report of:	Trevor Dunn: Head of Access to Education Cllr Jan Brunton Dobson: Executive Member for Education and Skills
Submitted to:	Individual Executive Member Meeting – The Mayor – 25 March 2019
Subject:	Middlesbrough Local Authority Draft School Admissions Arrangements 2020/21.

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That Executive approve the draft School Admissions Arrangements for 2020/21

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Decision	Yes	Not confidential	Yes - Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board has agreed to this urgent decision being made.

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
		<p>Priority: We will increase educational and vocational attainment for all children and adults, by working with nurseries, schools, colleges, Teesside University, other education and vocational training providers and local employers.</p> <p>Compliant admissions procedures will support achieving this priority.</p>

¹ Remove for non-Executive reports

Ward(s) affected

All wards will be affected, as the School Admissions arrangements impact on all parts of the town.

What is the purpose of this report?

The reports references the admissions arrangements that will govern the way in which the Local Authority administers school admissions during the period 2020/21.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

By convention school admissions arrangements are approved by the Executive Member for Education and Skills. Whilst this is not a legal requirement it is the process preferred by the Department for Education (Schools Adjudicator) because it confirms Executive approval of the planned process. Officers report to the Schools Adjudicator each June, and explain that the admissions arrangements have been approved by the Executive Member.

Report Background

All Local Authorities in England are required to have in place clear arrangements for the management of school admissions. Further, these arrangements must be reviewed annually. The draft arrangements have been reviewed at Education SMT and DMT.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

That Executive approve the draft School Admissions Arrangements for 2020/21.

Why is this being recommended?

The Authority has a statutory obligation to review its published process for administering school admissions annually. This is to allow for amendments or changes to be made to the process to reflect changed priorities or to update the arrangements where necessary.

The published School Admissions arrangements are legally binding and must be adhered to by the Authority and its Officers.

The arrangements have been fully consulted upon on, as required by the Department for Education. The consultation period lasted six weeks and concluded on 31.1.19. The following groups were consulted:

- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- All Middlesbrough schools
- The public

No comments or feedback was received as a result of the consultation.

These arrangements have not been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

As the Authority is legally obliged to review and update its School Admissions Arrangements annually, there is no alternative approach that could be taken.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

The Authority is legally obliged to review and publish updated School Admissions Arrangements every year. Failure to do so would result in the Authority being in breach of the Schools Adjudicator's statutory guidance.

Financial

There are no financial implications as approving these arrangements does not incur any additional financial costs; it merely governs the way in which school admissions will be administered.

Policy Framework

The decision to approve these arrangements does not amend the policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

Protected groups will not be adversely affected by approving these arrangements.

Risk

There is no risk attached to approving these arrangements.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

If these arrangements are approved relevant Officers will (a) inform the Schools Adjudicator that Middlesbrough Local Authority has complied with the requirement to update its School Admissions Arrangements and (b) publish said arrangements.

Appendices

The four documents listed below are collectively known as 'School Admission Arrangements':

Appendix 1 - Middlesbrough draft in year transfer scheme

Appendix 2 - Middlesbrough draft admissions numbers

Appendix 3 - Middlesbrough draft admission scheme

Appendix 4 - Middlesbrough draft admission arrangements

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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