



## EXECUTIVE 15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Determination of the Admission Arrangements for Local Authority Maintained (Community and Voluntary Controlled) schools in North Northamptonshire for the 2025 intakes</b>
<b>Lead Member</b>	Cllr Scott Edwards – Executive Member for Children, Families, Education & Skills
<b>Report Author</b>	Jan Baines, School Admissions Manager

<b>Key Decision</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Are there public sector equality duty implications?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Does the report contain confidential or exempt information (whether in appendices or not)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Applicable paragraph number/s for exemption from publication under Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972</b>	N/A
<b>Which Corporate Plan priority does the report most closely align with?</b>	Better, brighter futures

### List of Appendices

- Appendix A** – Determined admission arrangements for 2025 - 2026 for community and voluntary controlled schools in North Northamptonshire
- Appendix B** – North Northamptonshire Council Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for the 2025 Intake
- Appendix C** – North Northamptonshire Council Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for the 2025 Intake
- Appendix D** – A copy of the Equality Screening Assessment
- Appendix E** – A copy of the Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA)

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. North Northamptonshire Council is the admission authority for all of the community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools in its area. This report has been prepared to enable the Executive to determine (formally agree) the admission arrangements for the Council's community and voluntary controlled

schools; to approve the co-ordinated schemes and to confirm the Relevant Area.

- 1.2 North Northamptonshire Council, as the local authority (LA) for the area, has a duty to act in accordance with the provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) and the law relating to school admissions. The Council must determine admission arrangements for its schools every year, even if the arrangements have not changed from the previous year and no consultation has been required. This statutory requirement must be carried out by 28<sup>th</sup> February in the determination year. It is the duty of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code (2021).
- 1.3 The LA must also formulate and publish 'co-ordinated schemes' for the admission of pupils to publicly funded mainstream schools in the area.
- 1.4 The School Standards & Framework Act (1998) requires local authorities to define the parameters of a 'relevant area'. The 'relevant area' is defined as the area for a school within which the admission authority for the school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements for maintained schools.

## **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 Admissions arrangements for all maintained schools must comply with the requirements of the School Admissions Code (2021). The LA proposed to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) of some of its schools, so a consultation was required. There were no other proposed changes.
- 2.2 Consultation on changes to the admission arrangements took place from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
- 2.3 The admission arrangements which the Executive are asked to determine for community and voluntary controlled schools in North Northamptonshire are set out in **Appendix A**: 'Determined admission arrangements for 2025 - 2026 for community and voluntary controlled schools in North Northamptonshire'.
- 2.4 Timetables for the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for 2025-2026 meet the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code and are attached in the following appendices:  
  
**Appendix B**: 'North Northamptonshire Council Primary Co-ordinated Scheme for the 2025 Intake'.  
  
**Appendix C**: 'North Northamptonshire Council Secondary Co-ordinated Scheme for the 2025 Intake'.
- 2.5 The dates in the co-ordinated scheme timetables are set annually. The schemes indicate the activities within the process that have to be followed to enable the LA to allocate school places on the statutory National Offer Days.

## 2.6 The “Relevant Area”

The relevant area for North Northamptonshire schools will remain as the North Northamptonshire Council area and its neighbouring local authorities.

## 3. Recommendations

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### 3.1 The Executive is asked to:

- i) Determine the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools as detailed in **Appendix A**
- ii) Agree the two Co-ordinated Schemes for the 2025 intakes as detailed in **Appendix B** and **Appendix C**.
- iii) Approve the setting of the relevant area for schools in the authority.

### 3.2 Reasons for Recommendations

- All admission authorities must determine the admission arrangements for their schools annually. Consultation on reducing the PANs of some schools because of falling pupil numbers in the area of the schools.
- It is the duty of local authorities to formulate and publish a co-ordinated scheme for the admission of pupils to all schools in the area.
- The LA must review the relevant area every two years.

3.3 Alternative Options Considered: All the above are statutory requirements and, therefore, there are no alternative options available.

## 4. Report Background

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4.1 The Local Authority (LA) has a duty to act in accordance with the statutory provisions of the School Admissions Code (2021) and the law relating to school admissions. All admission authorities must determine admission arrangements every year, even if these have not changed from the previous year and a consultation has not been required. This is a statutory requirement that must be carried out by 28<sup>th</sup> February in the determination year.

4.2 School admission arrangements for all mainstream state schools must be agreed annually and it is the duty of admission authorities to ensure that admission arrangements are compliant with the School Admissions Code (2021).

4.3 Each year, all local authorities must formulate and publish on their website, a scheme to co-ordinate admissions to the normal year of entry for all publicly funded schools within their area. Applications will be processed in accordance with the timetables set out in these schemes.

- 4.4 The LA must review the relevant area every two years - this was last done in 2022 for the 2023 admission round.

## **5. Issues and Choices**

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### **5.1 Admission Arrangements Consultation**

- 5.2 The Local Authority consulted on reducing the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the following schools because of projected falling pupil numbers and, in the case of Earls Barton, to control pupil numbers while building work is being undertaken at the school (the school will lose a classroom while improvements are made).

<b>School</b>	<b>Current PAN</b>	<b>Proposed PAN for 2025 (for consultation)</b>
Earls Barton Primary School	75	60
Higham Ferrers Junior School	90	60
Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School	90	60
Mawsley Primary School	45	30
Nassington Primary School	20	15

- 5.3 These were the only proposed changes to the admission arrangements; the rest of the admission arrangements remain unchanged from last year.
- 5.4 With regard to Co-ordinated Schemes, the timetables have been set to comply with nationwide statutory deadlines and in conjunction with colleagues in other LAs.

## **6. Next Steps**

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- 6.1 If approved by the Executive, the admission arrangements will come into effect from September 2025 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **7.1. Resources, Financial and Transformation**

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

## **7.2. Legal and Governance**

- 7.2.1 Sections 13, 13A and 14 of the Education Act 1996 require councils that are Education Authorities to: ensure that efficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of their population; ensure that their education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and learning, and promote the fulfilment of learning potential; and secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area.
- 7.2.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires an Education Authority to publish any proposed alterations to existing school places provision and the process for consultation on such proposals is governed by Regulation.

## **7.3. Relevant Policies and Plans**

- 7.3.1 The determination of admission arrangements and setting of co-ordinated schemes are annual statutory requirements which must be carried out by admission authorities in accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code (2021).

## **7.4. Risk**

- 7.4.1 Risk 1 – That the Council does not fulfil its statutory obligations as required by the School Admissions Code (2021).
- 7.4.2 Mitigation – The Council must determine the admission arrangements for its Community and Voluntary Controlled schools by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and must publish a co-ordinated scheme for admission at the normal points of entry to all schools in the area.
- 7.4.3 Risk – An objection to the LA's admission arrangements may be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA).
- 7.4.4 Mitigation – Officers within the Council must ensure that all policies and procedures are Code-compliant.

## **7.5. Consultation**

- 7.5.1 The admission arrangements for community and VC schools in the North Northants area for the 2025 intake were consulted on from 15<sup>th</sup> November – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.
- 7.5.2 In accordance with the requirements of the School Admissions Code, the following groups were consulted:
- a) parents of children between the ages of two and eighteen;

- b) other persons in the relevant area who in the opinion of the admission authority have an interest in the proposed admissions;
- c) all other admission authorities within the relevant area (except that primary schools need not consult secondary schools);
- d) whichever of the governing body and the local authority is not the admission authority;
- e) any adjoining neighbouring local authorities where the admission authority is the local authority

As well as through the Council's website, social media and press releases were used to notify of the consultation as well as certain parties being emailed directly, i.e., neighbouring authorities, local schools, other admission authorities, governing bodies.

### 7.5.3 Outcome of the consultation

The LA received the following responses to the consultation:

School	Proposed PAN for 2025	Comment / objection made by	Comment
Nassington Primary School	15	Chair of School Governing Board, Executive Headteacher of Nassington	In agreement that the PAN for Nassington for 2025 should be 15.
Higham Ferrers Junior School	60	Headteacher of Higham Ferrers Junior School	Did not agree to reducing the PAN for the 2025 intakes as the projected pupil numbers are over 60.
Higham Ferrers Junior School	60	Chair of Governors of Higham Ferrers Junior School	Did not agree to reducing the PAN for the 2025 intake as the projected pupil numbers would be more than 60.
Mawsley Primary School	30	Headteacher of Mawsley Primary School	In full support of a reduction in PAN from 45 to 30 for September 2025.
Earls Barton	60	Headteacher of Earls Barton Primary School	Reduction in PAN for 2025 is subject to the building

			project being completed on time
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No objections were received for Mawsley Primary School and so the PAN for 2025 will be 30.

No objections were received for Nassington and so the PAN for 2025 will be 15.

The LA has carefully considered all of the responses to the consultation and has taken account of the latest forecasts of pupil numbers.

7.5.4 The Executive is asked to determine the following Published Admission Numbers (PANs) for the schools concerned for 2025:

School	Determined PANs for 2024	Proposed PANs for 2025	Executive to Determine PANs for 2025
Earls Barton Primary School	75	60	60
Higham Ferrers Junior School	90	60	90
Higham Ferrers Nursery and Infant School	90	60	60
Mawsley Primary School	45	30	30
Nassington Primary School	20	15	15

7.5.5 The PANs to be determined for all of the community and voluntary controlled schools can be found in **Appendix A: 'Determined admission arrangements for 2025 - 2026 for community and voluntary controlled schools in North Northamptonshire'**.

**7.6. Consideration by Executive Advisory Panel (EAP)**

7.6.1. This report has not been considered by an Executive Advisory Panel.

**7.7. Consideration by Scrutiny**

7.7.1 This report has not been taken to the Council's scrutiny committees.

## 7.8. Equality Implications

7.8.1 Equality Screening Assessment completed and there is no negative impact on any of the protected equality groups.

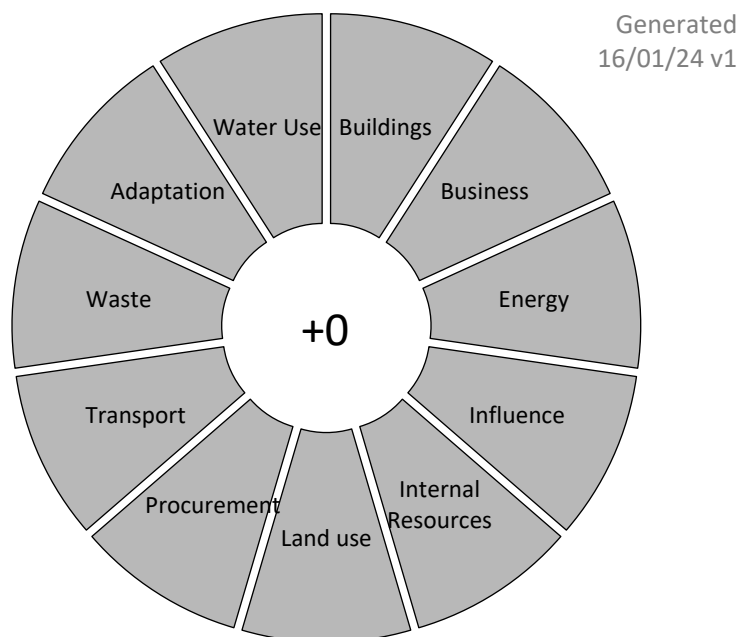
7.8.2 A copy of the Equality Screening Assessment is included with this report (**Appendix D**).

## 7.9. Climate and Environment Impact

7.9.1. Having run the Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA) tool, we found that there was no climate change impact or relevance to the climate change agenda in the proposed admission arrangements for 2025.

7.9.2 Please see **Appendix E** for a copy of the completed Climate Change Impact Assessment (CCIA).

### Climate Impact



North Northamptonshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, 5 yrs & 11 mos away.

## 7.10. Community Impact

7.10.1 No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.



## 7.11. **Crime and Disorder Impact**

7.11.1 No implications arising from any recommendations that are being proposed.

## **8. Background Papers**

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8.1 School Admissions Code (2021) [School Admissions Code 2021  
\(\[publishing.service.gov.uk\]\(https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk\)\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/94222/school-admissions-code-2021.pdf)