



EDUCATION COMMITTEE 24 OCTOBER 2019

EPB/225/19/JM DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - EDUCATION, PEOPLE & BUSINESS

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SUBJECT TITLE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek approval from the Education Committee to undertake a statutory consultation on the changes to the admission arrangements and transfer arrangements from primary to secondary school. These changes would apply to all East Dunbartonshire Council primary and secondary schools.

2.0	<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that the Education Committee:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approves the statutory consultation to be carried out on the admission arrangements and transfer arrangements from primary to secondary in respect of all East Dunbartonshire primary and secondary schools; and b) Instructs the Chief Education Officer to provide a report to the Education Committee on the results of the statutory consultation.

**ANN DAVIE
DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE - EDUCATION, PEOPLE & BUSINESS**

3.0 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** Any change to the catchment area of a school, or a proposed change to the admissions arrangements, requires the Council to carry out a formal statutory consultation as detailed in the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010. This involves consultation with a range of stakeholders, including parents and pupils affected.
- 3.2** East Dunbartonshire Council is committed to ensuring the highest standards of attainment and achievement for all children within all schools and centres. This has resulted in consistently good inspection reports, examination results and positive school leaver destinations. As a result there is high demand for places in our schools.
- 3.3** A number of schools have high occupancy levels. This is due to demand from the delineated catchment areas and/or through the placing request process from parents who live outwith the catchment area. Roll projections take account of the housing developments within the area as well as the trends in placing requests. The roll projections for a small number of schools show they will continue to have high occupancy levels, even if placing requests are managed. There is a risk that a school may be oversubscribed for catchment pupils when the allocation of places is done in April each year. The Council requires to have a clear procedure in place to manage this effectively.
- 3.4** Within East Dunbartonshire, there is well established specialist provision. This includes the Music School within Douglas Academy, the Gaelic Medium Primary Education Unit within Meadowburn Primary, the Gaelic Medium Secondary Provision within Bishopbriggs Academy and the Football Academies in partnership with Celtic Football Club at St Ninian's High School and Rangers Football Club at Boclair Academy. Pupils are currently admitted to these Specialist Provision, under a placing request, with the exception of the Gaelic Medium Primary Education Unit. With the high demand for catchment places in the schools with Specialist Provision, there is a risk that the Council would not meet its statutory or contractual requirements if there were the placing requests that could not be granted. A change to the admission arrangements is, therefore, proposed.
- 3.5** The current Admissions Policy, Mid-Session Transfers and Primary/Secondary Transfer Arrangements are detailed in Procedure Manuals 3/01, 3/03 and 3/04; these have not been updated for a considerable time. They require to be updated to ensure they are comprehensive and reflect the current context within the Council. This will ensure clear information for parents and carers and ensure that there is efficient management of the school estate.
- 3.6** The Statutory Consultation will consult on the proposed changes for all East Dunbartonshire denominational (Roman Catholic) and non-denominational primary and secondary schools to:
- i. the admission arrangements, including Primary 1 and during a school session;
 - ii. the arrangements for the transfer of pupils from a primary school to a secondary school;
 - iii. the arrangements for admission to the Educational Specialist Provision within East Dunbartonshire.

These changes will take effect for admissions from Session 2020/2021.

The proposed changes would provide clarity on the Council’s proposed arrangements for admissions to primary and secondary schools within East Dunbartonshire Council. The proposed changes would detail a procedure to be followed in the event of oversubscription by pupils from the delineated catchment area to any East Dunbartonshire Council primary or secondary school. The proposal will also clarify the arrangements for entry to any of the Specialist Provision within East Dunbartonshire. The proposal does not affect placing requests and the criteria under which they are approved.

3.7 **Timeline for Statutory Consultation**

The schools affected by this proposal are:

- All East Dunbartonshire primary and secondary schools.

Consultation Timeline:

Report to Education Committee seeking approval for the consultation	24 October 2019
Consultation starts	28 October 2019
Consultation ends	6 December 2019
Education Scotland prepare report	9 December 2019 - 6 January 2020
Consultation Report Published	9 January 2020
Consultation Report Submitted to Education Committee	30 January 2020
Notify Scottish Ministers if Approval is given by Council	31 January 2020

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

The implications for the Council are as undernoted.

- 4.1 Frontline Service to Customers – It will provide more clarity for parents.
- 4.2 Workforce (including any significant resource implications) – None
- 4.3 Legal Implications – Legal advice will be required on the statutory consultation.
- 4.4 Financial Implications – There are no financial implications.
- 4.5 Procurement - None
- 4.6 ICT – None
- 4.7 Corporate Assets – None
- 4.8 Equalities Implications – None
- 4.9 Other – None

5.0 MANAGEMENT OF RISK

5.1 The risks and control measures relating to this Report are as follows:-

There will be concern from parents that some schools are at risk at being oversubscribed for catchment pupils. However, there requires to be a clear procedure in place to manage this.

There is a risk that the Council would not fulfil its statutory or contractual obligations if the admission arrangements to the Education Specialist Provision is not amended.

6.0 IMPACT

6.1 ECONOMIC GROWTH & RECOVERY – None

6.2 EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS – None

6.3 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – This may have affect the admission arrangements for some children.

6.4 SAFER & STRONGER COMMUNITIES – None

6.5 ADULT HEALTH & WELLBEING – None

6.6 OLDER ADULTS, VULNERABLE PEOPLE & CARERS - None

6.7 STATUTORY DUTY – This consultation will be conducted as detailed in the Guidance on the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

7.0 POLICY CHECKLIST

7.1 This Report has been assessed against the Policy Development Checklist and has been classified as being an operational report and not a new policy or change to an existing policy document.

8.0 APPENDICES

8.1 Appendix 1: Consultation Report on the Proposed Changes for Admissions and the Transfer of Pupils from Primary to Secondary in respect of all East Dunbartonshire Primary and Secondary Schools.