

<b>BRIEFING</b>	<b>TO:</b>	Local Admission Forum
	<b>DATE:</b>	1 February 2024
	<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Sarah Whitby <a href="mailto:Sarah.whitby@rotherham.gov.uk">Sarah.whitby@rotherham.gov.uk</a>
	<b>TITLE:</b>	Admission arrangements determination and consultation regarding relevant area
<b>1. Background</b>		
<b>1.1</b>	Admission authorities must set ('determine') admission arrangements annually by 28 February, regardless of whether there has been any consultation or changes proposed.	
<b>1.2</b>	As the admission Authority for Community and Voluntary controlled schools, Rotherham has a responsibility to determine the admission arrangements for these schools.	
<b>2. Key Issues</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	The proposed admission arrangements, detailed at <b>Appendix 1</b> , were consulted upon between 27 November 2023 and 14 January 2024. This consultation was undertaken in line with the requirements of the <a href="#">School Admission Code</a> as it ran for the required 6 weeks between 1 October and 31 January, was distributed to the consultees specified at 1.47 of the Code in addition to being available on the Council's website and publicised through RMBC social media channels. Consultees were invited to respond via an online survey, hosted on the RMBC webpages. Alongside the online survey the proposed arrangements and a consultation document explaining the proposals being consulted upon were available.	
<b>2.2</b>	Parallel consultation in respect of the 'Relevant Area', <i>The area for a school (determined by its local authority and then reviewed every two years) within which the admission authority for that school must consult all other prescribed schools on its admission arrangements</i> , was also undertaken.	
<b>2.3</b>	The admission arrangements consulted upon proposed a change to the PAN at Sitwell Infant School from 75 to 60.	
<b>2.4</b>	There is a reduction in the pupil population at first admission to school and therefore a need for less Reception places in coming years. Analysis of sufficiency of school places across the planning and local area indicated that this reduction can be supported. The forecast number of children in the catchment area of Sitwell Infants for admission to Reception in 2025, based on birth rate, is 48. The number of applicants expressing a first preference for the school is routinely well below the number of children born in the catchment area and has fallen over the last 3 year. There is forecast sufficiency within the next nearest schools to meet demand locally.	
<b>2.5</b>	The consultation in respect of the relevant area proposed no changes, and for this to remain as the whole of Rotherham.	
<b>2.6</b>	8 responses were received to the online consultation and are summarised at <b>Appendix 2</b> .	

<b>2.7</b>	There are currently over 80 surplus places in Reception across the planning area and this number is projected to increase further.
<b>2.8</b>	Projections take into account all approved planning applications, therefore any increase in demand as a result of new house building has been accounted for.
<b>2.9</b>	Taking into account all responses received to the consultation, it is recommended that the proposed admission arrangements are now determined as the proposed reduction in PAN is not projected to impact on the availability of an appropriate school place for every child who needs one. This was the primary concern raised by respondents in the online survey.
<b>3. Key Actions and Timelines</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	The Local Admission Forum, as the delegated decision maker, must formally approve and determine the proposed admission arrangements by 28 February 2024.
<b>4. Recommendations</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	That the Local Admissions Forum formally determine the admission arrangements for 2025-26 for community and voluntary controlled schools, as detailed in <b>Appendix 1</b> .
<b>4.2</b>	That the Local Admission Forum note that the relevant area remains the whole of Rotherham following the period of consultation.