

# CABINET

## 12<sup>TH</sup> December 2022

**Subject:**

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)**

**Purpose:**

To provide information on a review into primary admission arrangements.

**Recommendations / key decisions required:**

It is recommended that Cabinet considers the contents of the report and its recommendations.

**Reasons:**

In 2018/19 the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee completed a Task & Finish Review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities.

One of the conclusions identified in the report was that that the Authority's 'Rising 4s' policy is markedly different to other neighbouring local authorities' and that the 'Council undertake a formal review of its current admissions policy for full time education for 4-year-olds (the rising 4s policy).

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr. Glynog Davies (Education and Welsh Language)

**Directorate:**

Education & Children

**Name of Head of Service:**

Simon Davies

**Report Author:**

Simon Davies

**Designations:**

Head of Access to Education

Head of Access to Education

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**CABINET**

**12<sup>TH</sup> December 2022**

**SCHOOL ADMISSIONS**

**Primary School Admissions Review (Rising 4s)**

**Background**

In 2018/19 the Education & Children Scrutiny Committee completed a Task & Finish Review of the current provision for early years education, childcare and play opportunities.

One of the conclusions identified in the report was that that the Authority's 'Rising 4s' policy is markedly different to other neighbouring local authorities' and that the 'Council undertake a formal review of its current admissions policy for full time education for 4-year-olds (the rising 4s policy).

**Purpose**

The attached document outlines a review into the Authority's primary school admission arrangements.

The report considers the following:

- Background to the current primary school arrangements and the 'rising 4s' policy in particular.
- Detail on the current full time and part time admission arrangements for primary schools.
- Provides a research-based comparison of full time and part time admission arrangements with all other Local Authorities in Wales
- Information on the importance of Admission Numbers and how they affect admission arrangements.
- Outlines the current challenges being faced in relation to accommodation and school capacity, inconsistency with other Authorities, nursery and early years provision, funding and the admissions process itself.

The report also considers the potential implications of any changes to current arrangements in terms of parental perception, equity of provision, redistribution of funding and consultation requirements.

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Cabinet considers the contents of the report and its recommendations as follows:

That Carmarthenshire as the Admissions Authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled primary schools:

- Consults on a change to the full-time admission arrangements of learners from the term of their 4th birthday to the term after their 4th birthday during the annual admissions consultation exercise in January 2023, for potential implementation in September 2024.
- Undertakes a detailed assessment on the impact of the change in policy on each school and bring forward a recommendation for each setting.
- Reports back on the results of the consultation.
- Engages with Voluntary Aided and Roman Catholic primary schools on the consultation and proposed change of policy.

<b>DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?</b>	<b>YES: Report</b>
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## IMPLICATIONS

**I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report.**

**Signed:**  **Head of Access to Education**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

Any changes to primary school admission arrangements will affect Carmarthenshire's School Admissions Policy and require the appropriate consultations as laid out in the Welsh Governments School Admissions Code.

### 2. Legal

Section 84 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and amended by Section 40 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduced the requirement for the Welsh Ministers to issue a Code in respect of the discharge of admissions functions. In particular, the Code also sought to safeguard the interests of parents, children and young people by ensuring that school admissions are administered in the fairest and most equitable way possible.

The most recent School Admissions Code was issued in 2013 and is intended to clarify the process for everyone with an interest in school admissions and school admission appeals, help admission authorities to fulfil their duties correctly and improve working practices.

### 3. Finance

<p>There is an opportunity to explore altering the full-time admission of pupils, creating more 3-11 schools to offer part time nursery provision in their locality, provide more business opportunities to the non-maintained sector to provide early years provision/wrap around care and make budget efficiencies. This would require detailed financial modelling as recommended by the task and finish report.</p>
<p><b>4. ICT</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>5. Risk Management Issues</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p><b>6. Staffing Implications</b></p> <p>A change to the primary school's admissions policy and a more detailed review into the impact on each school may have staffing implications which will be addressed in accordance with the County Council's Policy and Procedures.</p>
<p><b>7. Physical Assets</b></p> <p>N/A</p>

## CONSULTATIONS

<p>I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:</p>									
<p>Signed:</p>	<p><i>S. Lewis</i>                      <b>Head of Access to Education</b></p>								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;"><b>1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination</b></td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"><b>NO</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Scrutiny Committee</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>Date the report was considered:-</b></td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 5px;"><b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-</b></td> </tr> </table>		<b>1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>		<b>Date the report was considered:-</b>		<b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-</b>	
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<b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-</b>									
<p><b>2. Local Member(s)</b> – Not applicable at this stage.</p> <p><b>3. Community / Town Council</b> – Not applicable at this stage.</p> <p><b>4. Relevant Partners</b> – Not applicable at this stage.</p> <p><b>5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations</b> – Not applicable at this stage.</p>									

<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED YES</b>	N/A
<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b>	
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No. / Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
Carmarthenshire County Council School Admissions Policy 2021-22	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225137/school-admissions-policy-2021-22.pdf">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1225137/school-admissions-policy-2021-22.pdf</a>
School Admissions Code (Wales) 2013	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf</a>