North Somerset Council Decision

Decision Of: Cabinet Member for Children's Services,

Families, Skills and Lifelong Learning

With Advice From: Director of Children's Services and

the Head of Strategic Place Planning and Capital Programmes

Directorate: Children's Services

Decision No: CY118 (2025/26 scheme)

Subject: School Admission Coordinated Schemes 2027-28

Key Decision: Yes

Reason:

Each local authority (LA) has a duty to set a Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Scheme that covers all schools across the district. If the LA does not have an agreed scheme in place by 28 February annually, the Secretary of State may impose one.

Background:

The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012 requires all admission authorities to consult on their Coordinated Admission Schemes. This Decision Sheet asks for the schemes for the 2027-28 school year to be approved.

Decision:

The Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes 2027-28 are approved and adopted by the Authority.

Reasons:

Each local authority has a duty to set a Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Scheme.

Options Considered:

It is a legal requirement to have a coordinated scheme.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications to the council of adopting this policy.

Costs:

None.

Funding:

None.

Legal Powers and Implications:

Regulations 26 to 32 and Schedule 2 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012 cover the requirements for such schemes.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications:

None.

Consultation:

The School Admissions Code 2021 requires Local authorities to formulate and publish on their website by 1 January in the relevant determination year (1 January 2026 for applications for the 2027-28 school year), a scheme to coordinate admission arrangements for the normal admissions round and late applications for all publicly funded schools within their area.

Where the scheme is substantially different from the scheme adopted for the previous academic year, the local authority must consult the other admission authorities in the area and any other local authorities it determines. Where the scheme has not changed from the previous year there is no requirement to consult, subject to the requirement that the local authority must consult on the scheme at least once every seven years, even if there have been no changes during that period.

Any such consultation must be undertaken with a view to ensuring the admission of pupils in different local authorities is, as far as reasonably practicable, compatible with each other. It requires the local authority to determine the qualifying scheme and the local authority must take all reasonable steps to secure its adoption. A local authority must inform the Secretary of State whether they have secured the adoption of a qualifying scheme by 28 February in the determination year. The Secretary of State may impose a scheme where a scheme has not been adopted. All admission authorities must participate in coordination for the normal admissions round and for late applications and provide the local authority with the information it needs to co-ordinate admissions by the dates agreed within the scheme. Local authorities must make application forms available to parents who wish to apply to a school in a neighbouring area which operates a different age of transfer (e.g. middle schools), and process these as it would in its normal admissions round.

The North Somerset Primary and Secondary Coordinated Admission Schemes were last consulted on for the 2026-27 intake and there have been no significant changes.

Risk Management:

The Council is under a statutory duty to set a Coordinated Scheme. A failure to set Coordinated Schemes for Primary and Secondary would mean the Council would be in breach of Regulations 26 to 32 and Schedule 2 of the School Admissions Regulations 2012.

Equality Implications:

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

This scheme allows the council to co-ordinate admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within our area and sets out the process and timescales for this.

Corporate Implications:

The council has a duty to formulate and publish the co-ordinated admission arrangements for all publicly funded schools within their area.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Primary Coordinated Scheme 2027-28 Appendix 2 – Secondary Coordinated Scheme 2027-28

Background Papers:

School Admissions Code
School Admissions Appeals Code
School Standards and Framework Act 1998
North Somerset 2027-28 Coordinated Schemes

Signatories:

Decision Maker(s):

Signed:

Title: Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Families, Skills and Lifelong Learning

Date: 2/1/26

With Advice From:

Signed:

Title: Director of Children's Services

Date: 2/1/26

Signed:

Title: Head of Strategic Place Planning and Capital Programmes

Date: 2/1/26

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable.