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**Meeting:** Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** 11 November 2014  
**Subject:** Consultation on Admission Arrangements for 2016/17  
**Report of:** Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services  
**Summary:** Attached at Appendix A is a report which was considered by the Council's Executive on 14 October 2014 who approved the consultation to the Council's admission arrangements for 2016/17. The related appendices to the Executive report are attached as appendices.

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**Advising Officer:** Sue Harrison, Director of Children's Services  
**Contact Officer:** Karen Oellermann, Assistant Director – Commissioning & Partnerships  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Executive

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>
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<b>Council Priorities:</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Council's admission arrangements and co-ordinated admissions scheme supports the Medium Term Plan priority to improve educational attainment.</li></ol> |
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<b>Financial:</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Not applicable</li></ol> |
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<b>Legal:</b>
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>3. Regulations contained within the School Admissions Code set out the requirement for the Council to have a co-ordinated admissions scheme for the area. Admission Authorities must also determine their admissions arrangements by the 15th April each year, for implementation in September of the following year. If an Admissions Authority proposes to make amendments to their arrangements they must consult between the 1 November and the 1 March for a minimum of 8 weeks of the year before the arrangements apply.</li></ol> |
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4. The Council will fulfil its statutory responsibilities by consulting within the timescales set out above and conducting a consultation with the relevant parties on changes to admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools. Feedback from all consultees will be reported to Executive in February 2015 when the admissions arrangements for September 2016 will be determined.

**Risk Management:**

5. This report sets out the statutory requirement for the Council to have a co-ordinated admissions scheme in place for the area. The risk of not having a co-ordinated scheme in place for Central Bedfordshire would entail the following key risks:
- Failure to discharge statutory duty
  - Failure to provide an admissions process which allows parents to state preferences and apply by the national closing dates.
  - Failure to allocate school places for the normal year of entry by the national offer dates.

All of the above would incur a negative perception of the Council which would be a reputational risk.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

6. Not Applicable.

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

7. The School Admissions Code sets out the duty on Local Authorities and Admission Authorities to produce admission arrangements which are fair, clear and objective, which can be easily understood by parents. Admission arrangements must comply with regulations and legislation including the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
8. Public authorities have a statutory duty to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As part of the development of the Admissions Arrangements the Council will carry out an equality impact assessment to check that the proposed changes do not have a disproportionate or negative impact on vulnerable groups.

**Public Health**

12. Not applicable

**Community Safety:**

13. Not Applicable.

**Sustainability:**

14. Not Applicable.

**Procurement:**

15. Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. **The Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the content of the report and support the following:**
  - **Central Bedfordshire's co-ordinated admissions scheme**
  - **The admission arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools for the academic year 2016/17**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Executive Report of 14 October 2014: Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2016/17

Appendix B – Lower, Primary and Middle 2016/17 co-ordinated admissions scheme

Appendix C – Secondary and Upper 2016/17 co-ordinated admissions scheme

Appendix D – Proposed Community and VC schools Admissions policy and PANs 2016/17

Appendix E – Russell Lower School - proposed catchment area from September 2016.

Appendix F – Schools affected by proposed removal of nursery/preschool criterion

Appendix G – Revised wording on the Council's admission arrangements