

**Report of the Director of Children’s Services**

**Report to the Executive Board**

**Date: 6 November 2013**



**Title: Basic Need Programme: Permission to consult on school expansion proposal, decision to delay implementation of opening of Nightingale Primary Academy and Design and Cost Reports for three expansion projects**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Horsforth, Harehills, Middleton Park, Otley & Yeadon		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. Leeds City Council has a statutory duty to ensure the provision of good quality school places and to secure an appropriate balance locally between supply, demand, choice and diversity. It is the role of the City Council to plan, organise and commission places for all maintained schools in Leeds in a way that raises standards, manages rising and declining pupil numbers and creates a diverse community of good schools. The City Council seeks to exercise this function in partnership with children and families, elected members, diocesan authorities, governing bodies of schools, head teachers, local communities and other key stakeholders.
2. A key part of the ‘Best City’ Vision for Leeds is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children, young people and families – a Child Friendly city. The Basic Need programme represents the Council’s ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across Children’s Services provision, which includes primary and secondary school places, early years, and inclusion. Through this programme it has now approved 1118 new reception places since 2009.
3. This paper seeks permission to consult on the expansion of further provision at Broadgate Primary School in the Horsforth area. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 this proposal constitutes a prescribed alteration requiring a statutory process. The first step of this process is a public consultation, which would run from 25 November 2013 to 17 January 2014 and details are included in Appendix A. Request for Authority to Spend relating to statutory proposals already agreed by

Executive Board are contained in Appendices B – D.

4. These requests form part of the ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across all of Children's Services, which includes provision for primary and secondary school places, early years, and inclusion. Further papers will be brought forward in 2014 to address the emerging sufficiency issues.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

### **Appendix A**

Approve the following consultation:

- to expand Broadgate Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2015;

### **Appendix B**

- Approve the opening of the Nightingale Academy on 1 September 2014.
- Authorise programme expenditure of £10,026.3k and Authority to Spend from capital scheme number 16505/FLS/000 to build the new Nightingale Primary Academy at Florence Street.
- Note the programme dates identified in this report in relation to the implementation of this decision. The final delivery date for this scheme is September 2015.
- Note that the Director of Children's Services is responsible for implementation.

### **Appendix C**

- Authorise expenditure of £2.141m from capital scheme number 16585/SHL/000 to enable the construction of additional accommodation at Sharp Lane Primary School.
- Note the programme dates identified in this report in relation to the implementation of this decision. The final delivery date for this scheme is December 2014.
- Note that the Director of Children's Services is responsible for implementation.

### **Appendix D**

- Approve option 1, to deliver an expansion of Rufford Park Primary School, where the PFI provider delivers the expansion scheme and risk is transferred to the Council, and ultimately to the Trust if the school converts.
- Authorise expenditure of £1,430,000 from capital scheme number 16585/RUF/PH2 for Phase 2 works to construct a new two storey extension at Rufford Park Primary School.
- Note the programme dates identified in this report in relation to the implementation of this decision. The final delivery date for this scheme is September 2014.
- Note that the Director of Children's Services is responsible for implementation.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

A key part of the 'Best City' Vision for Leeds is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children, young people and families – a Child Friendly city. This report is seeking permission for consultation and Authority to Spend for specific schemes which form part of the Basic Need programme that represents the Council's ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across Children's Services provision.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The rapidly increasing birth rate in Leeds has required Leeds City Council to approve 1118 new reception places since 2009 in order that it fulfils its statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places.
- 2.2 The scale of the response to the demographic growth pressures in school provision in Leeds cannot be met through existing estate. Therefore the expansion of existing schools or the creation of new schools has been required in many instances.
- 2.3 The primary places described in this paper are proposed in response to the demographic growth in the city, as well as to address the need for additional places due to house building in the city. They are being brought forward at this stage due to the need to meet the continued demand for places and as initial studies have indicated that projects are deliverable on these sites. The lack of any surplus places across many areas of Leeds means that it is becoming increasingly difficult to place children from families moving into Leeds or moving into new housing into a local school, necessitating the need to intensify the pace of activity in relation to primary provision. They form part of an ongoing programme of work and further papers will be brought forward in 2014 to address the emerging sufficiency issues.

## **3 Main Points**

- 3.1 A key part of the 'Best City' Vision for Leeds is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children, young people and families – a Child Friendly city. The Basic Need programme represents the Council's ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across Children's Services provision, which includes primary and secondary school places, early years, and inclusion.
- 3.2 The Appendices of the report each seek permission to progress with this programme in relation to specific proposals.
- 3.3 Appendix A requests permission to consult on changes in the Horsforth area to further increase the primary school capacity to meet the needs of the local community. This would represent the first stage of consultation towards providing additional places from September 2015.
- 3.4 Appendix B refers to Nightingale Academy. Executive Board received a report in January 2012 which considered the outcome of consultation for a new school on this site, and approved the publication of an 'invitation to bid' statutory notice for a new 3-11 primary school with nursery places on land at Florence Street to open in September 2013. In October 2012 Executive Board subsequently approved the Co-Operative as the preferred bidder. This report seeks permission to revise the

opening date to September 2014 and to grant Authority to Spend on the capital scheme.

3.5 Appendix C seeks permission to incur capital expenditure on the scheme to expand Sharp Lane Primary school. Approval for the expansion of the school was given at the Executive Board meeting in April 2013.

3.6 Appendix D refers to Rufford Park Primary school. Approval for expansion of the school was given at the Executive Board meeting in April 2013. The school was re-built under the 10 Primaries PFI package and this report describes the options for proceeding with the building solution. It further seeks authority to incur expenditure on the capital scheme.

## **4 Programme**

4.1 The details relating to each of the four decisions are given in full in the relevant appendices.

## **5. Corporate Considerations**

### **5.1 Consultation and Engagement**

5.1.1 The consultations relating to all school expansions are conducted in line with statutory guidance and local good practice. In drawing up the proposal to consult in Horsforth area all ward members have been engaged in discussions to formulate the proposal, and will be included as formal consultees both individually and through area committees. Governing bodies of the schools, and both diocesan education bodies are also aware that we are developing proposal for their area, and have been engaged in that process. Again, they will be formally consulted as part of the statutory process. The proposed consultation is prescribed under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, and should the proposal progress would require a further statutory notice period prior to final decision being made.

5.1.2 Details of the range of consultations carried out for each of the capital schemes are itemised in the Appendices. Members have received written briefings on the projects at the end of each stage and at other key milestones.

5.1.3 Children's Services will continue to brief Councillors at key stages throughout the expansion projects as required.

### **5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

5.2.1 The recommendations within this report do not show a direct impact on the groups falling under equality legislation and the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. EDCI Screening Assessments have been carried out for the scheme and are attached at Annex 1-4.

### **5.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

5.3.1 All proposals within the report have been brought forward to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. In providing places close to where the children live the proposals will improve accessibility of local and desirable school places, and thus reduce any risks of non-attendance.

## **5.4 Resources and value for money**

5.4.1 Specific details of the funding requirements are contained within the appendices.

## **5.5 Revenue Effects**

5.5.1 Specific details of the revenue implications are contained within the appendices.

## **5.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

5.6.1 Each of these decisions are Key Decisions and will be subject to Call In.

5.6.2 In respect of Appendix A, the proposed change constitutes a prescribed change under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006). The consultation process would be managed in accordance with that legislation, and local practice.

## **5.7 Risk Management**

5.7.1 Specific details of the risk management are contained within the appendices.

## **6 Conclusions**

6.1 A key part of the 'Best City' Vision for Leeds is for Leeds to be the best city in the UK for children, young people and families – a Child Friendly city. This proposal forms part of the authority's planning to meet the need for school places. That work is ongoing, and involving other council directorates to ensure holistic planning and best use of corporate assets in line with the Best Council plan objective for an efficient and enterprising council. Secondary planning is forming an increasing part of the work, however discussions continue with schools to release existing capacity, and statutory proposals are not being brought forward at this time.

6.2 To ensure Children's Services can manage the increased admission requirement in Harehills the proposal is to progress with the construction of a new build primary school to a maximum capacity of 420 pupils.

6.3 The project to construct a new primary Academy on the Florence Street site has been managed by Children's Services in partnership with PPPU, NPS Leeds, the Academy Sponsor and other key stakeholders. The cost of the accommodation will be met through capital scheme 16585/FLS/000 to the value of £10,026.3k.

6.4 It is proposed that Executive Board approve the decision to revise the implementation date to September 2014.

6.5 As a result of an increased intake of pupils at Sharp Lane Primary School for the 2014/15 academic year the expansion scheme detailed within this report is required to ensure sufficient accommodation as the school fills from 420 to 630 pupils.

6.6 The project to expand and remodel elements of Sharp Lane Primary School to create additional teaching space and enhance essential core provision has been managed by Children's Services in partnership with the school management team, NPS Humber and other key stakeholders. The cost of the accommodation will be met through capital scheme 16505/SHL/000 to the value of £2.141m.

- 6.7 As a result of the increased admission limit at Rufford Park Primary School from September 2014, additional accommodation is required to provide sufficient capacity as the school fills from 210 to 315 pupils.
- 6.8 The project to deliver additional accommodation at Rufford Park Primary School has been managed by Children's Services in partnership with QED and other key stakeholders. The cost of the accommodation at Rufford Park Primary School will be met through capital scheme 16585/RUF/PH2 to the value of £1,430,000.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members of the Executive Board are asked to:

### **Appendix A**

Approve the following consultation:

- to expand Broadgate Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2015;

### **Appendix B**

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### **Appendix C**

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- Note that the Director of Children’s Services is responsible for implementation.

## **8.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

8.1 No background documents are included as part of this report.

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The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council’s website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.