

Report of the Director of Children’s Services



Appendix A: Basic Need Programme – Permission to consult on school place expansions for 2015

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Horsforth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. 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.
2. At its July meeting the Executive Board considered a report requesting permission to consult on proposals for the expansion of existing primary provision for 2015 in Calverley and Farsley as part of the Basic Need Programme. This paper seeks permission to consult on the expansion of further provision in 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. This paper seeks permission to start that public consultation.
3. This proposal forms 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 approve the following consultations:

- 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

1 Purpose of this report

- This report requests permission to consult on the expansion of Broadgate Primary to take effect from September 2015 in order to meet the authority's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In July 2013 Executive Board considered a paper requesting permission to consult on school expansions for 2015 as part of the basic need programme to ensure the authority discharges its statutory duty to secure sufficient school provision. This paper requests permission to consult on a further proposal for permanent expansion with effect from September 2015.
- 2.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 this proposal constitutes a prescribed alteration requiring a statutory consultation process. The first step of this process is a public consultation, which would run from 25 November 2013 to 17 January 2014. This paper seeks permission to start that public consultation.
- 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 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the proposal constitutes a prescribed change requiring a statutory process, of which public consultation is the first step. If approved, the consultation would run from 25 November 2013 to 17 January 2014. Dependent on the issues raised it could then be possible to seek approval to move to the statutory notice stage in March 2014, and a final decision in summer 2014.

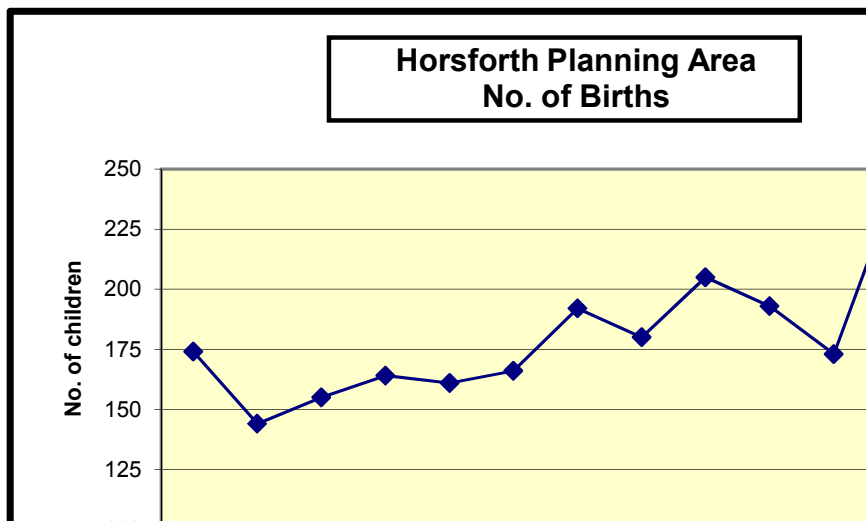
Horsforth Planning Area:

Proposal 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.

- 3.2 Horsforth is an area of the city where there has already been a need to increase the number of school places to manage the growing demand. 30 additional primary

school places were created in Horsforth in 2011 following the conversion of Horsforth Featherbank Infant School into a primary school and Horsforth Newlaithes Junior School into a primary school. At that time a proposal to expand Horsforth West End Primary School from a 1 to 1.5 FE primary school was consulted upon but did not proceed.

- 3.3 There are currently 270 reception places available across the seven primary schools in Horsforth. It is a popular residential area, with demand for school places continuing to exceed supply, with 279 and 276 first preferences received for the 270 places available in 2012 and 2013 respectively. Each of the schools was full on primary offer day and therefore when families move in to the area, they are not able to access a school place.
- 3.4 The graph below demonstrates the increase in the birth rate since 2000, with 144 births in 1999/2000 to a peak of 245 in 2009/2010; these children will enter reception in 2014. The 0-5's data which is used to track changes in the cohort size shows that the groups tend to increase in size slightly demonstrating the need for an increased number of school places.



- 3.5 Informal meetings have taken place during the year including a meeting with school representatives of the Horsforth primary schools, ward members and LCC officers from Traffic, Highways, Built Environment and Capacity Planning to discuss the projected need, local context and also debate the options and have a shared understanding of a way forward
- 3.6 Most of the existing schools are too constrained to be expanded, and there is no council owned land currently available for a new school in the area. The options which have some physical potential are Broadgate, West End and St Mary's Catholic Primary schools. Broad support to move to consultation was secured in respect of the Broadgate proposal, although it was noted that some form of highways measures would need to form part of the proposal. The governing body of Broadgate Primary School support the move to consultation on expansion.

4 Programme

- 4.1 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 this proposal constitutes a prescribed change requiring a statutory process, of which public consultation is the first step. If approved, the consultation would run from 25 November 2013 to 17 January 2014. Dependent on the issues raised it could then be possible to seek approval to move to the statutory notice stage in March 2014, and a final decision in summer 2014.

5. Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1 The consultation would be conducted in line with statutory guidance and local good practice. In drawing up these proposals all ward members have been engaged in discussions to formulate proposals, 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 areas, 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 proposals progress would require a further statutory notice period prior to final decision being made.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.2.1 The recommendation within this report does not show a direct impact on the groups falling under equality legislation and the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. An EDCI impact assessment was completed and is available on request from Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team.

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 Site appraisal work has been managed in house. The high level estimated cost of delivery of the proposals is £3.7million which will be funded through the capital programme. Feasibility studies will be commissioned at risk for all projects to run in parallel with the statutory consultation stage. Any off-site infrastructural requirements will be developed alongside the project detail and individual requests for authority to spend will be brought forward at the appropriate time, subject to successful delivery of the statutory process.

5.5 Revenue Effects

- 5.5.1 None

5.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.6.1 This proposal constitutes a Key Decision and will be subject to Call In.

5.6.2 The proposed change constitutes a prescribed change under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006). The consultation process has been managed in accordance with that legislation, and local practice.

5.7 Risk Management

5.7.1 The proposed project is complex, involving various external and internal partners. A project manager has therefore been assigned to the project at this early stage. However, building designs will not progress beyond feasibility stage until such time as the statutory process progresses into its next phase in order to minimise the risk of abortive design fees. There is significant risk that some building work will not be completed for September 2015; in which case some temporary accommodation may be required. The project will be considered on its own merits in this respect, with the clear objective that no solution can adversely impact on the ability of any school to admit additional pupils or on the education of pupils already at each school.

6 Conclusions

6.1 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. 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.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Members of the Executive Board are asked to 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

8.0 Background documents¹

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

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.