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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

**EXECUTIVE BOARD: 6 June 2007**

**SUBJECT: Primary Review: Guiseley Planning Area**

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **1 Introduction**

**1.1** The purpose of the report is to inform the Executive Board of the outcomes of a review of primary provision in the Guiseley Planning Area.

#### **2.0 Proposal for the Guiseley Planning Area**

**2.1** The report provides a summary of the review of primary school places that has been undertaken in the area.

**2.2** Education Leeds is of the view that there is potentially insufficient capacity within the existing provision to meet projected demand. The anticipated increase in demand is due to:

- A temporary increase in births in 2008 & 2009, with an underlying upward trend; and
- New housing planned in the area

**2.3** Current projections suggest an increase in admissions numbers at both Guiseley Infant School and St. Oswald's Junior School will be sufficient to accommodate the known children from families already in the area. Both schools already have sufficient capacity to accommodate this increase.

**2.4** Demand created by new housing is difficult to predict. The most significant development at High Royds lies within the Leeds boundary, but is closer to Menston which is in Bradford. It is likely that primary children from this development will attend school in Menston, however it is difficult to accurately predict the effects of parental preference. Other developments lie more centrally within Guiseley.

**Option 1:** Increase the admissions number at both Guiseley Infant School and St Oswald's Junior School from 80 to 90 with effect from September 2009. Consultation will take place through the Annual Admissions process.

**Option 2:** Expand provision either Tranmere Park or Hawksworth

**Option 3:** Expand Provision in Queensway

**Option 4:** Convert both Guiseley Infants School and St Oswald's Junior school into through primaries (either 1.5FE or 2FE).

**3. Recommendation**

**3.1** Members are asked to note the outcome of the review of primary provision in the Guiseley Planning Area.

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**Electoral wards Affected:**

Guiseley and Rawdon  
Otley and Yeadon

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Executive Board of the outcomes of a review of primary provision in the Guiseley Planning Area.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 In November 2006, a review of primary provision was initiated as a result of a relatively low number of surplus places across the area (4% by 2010/11). Within this there was a prediction of unmet demand for reception places in 2008/9, driven by temporary increases in birth rates. In addition there were significant new housing developments in the area.

2.2 The schools included in the Guiseley planning area are; Guiseley Infant School, Hawksworth CE Primary School (VA), Queensway Primary School, St Oswald's Junior School, Tranmere Park Primary School.

2.3 As part of the review, informal consultation has taken place with the head teachers and chairs of governors of each of the schools, officers within

Education Leeds and Leeds City Council, and elected members in the Guiseley and Rawdon and Otley and Yeadon Wards.

### **3.0 MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1** The purpose of any review of provision is to ensure that all schools are thriving and sustainable and that school buildings provide an inspiring environment in which to learn. A comprehensive analysis of surplus places, admission numbers, accommodation needs, standards and community links of schools serving the area has been undertaken to develop options for the future pattern of provision.
- 3.2** Based on the January 2006 PLASC (school census) there was projected unmet demand for around 7 primary school places in Guiseley in 2008, and sufficient places thereafter. However, there was also an underlying trend for more demand from increasing birth rates. Combined with these peak years this means surplus places were projected to be down to 4% by 2010.
- 3.3** Early indications from updated projections based on PLASC 2007 data suggest unmet demand is likely to be slightly higher at around 14 places in 2008 and 4 in 2009. In 2010 demand is projected at admissions limits levels, with no surplus places across all age ranges. Further work is in progress to validate this data.
- 3.4** Tranmere Park Primary and Hawksworth CE Primary (VA) are projected to be the most heavily oversubscribed. Both schools take children from the Bradford area, many of whom have closer schools within Bradford. Under the current admissions policy these would be the first to fail to secure a place in the event of oversubscription.
- 3.5** All the schools in the area currently take children from the neighbouring Yeadon planning area. Additional capacity should not be built in Guiseley if it undermines the viability of Yeadon schools by further encouraging this travel. Under current admissions policy children nominating their nearest school will receive priority, and so Guiseley children will not be prevented from accessing their local school by those applying from Yeadon. Yeadon children failing to secure a place in Guiseley may therefore lead to increased demand within Yeadon or Rawdon. Both areas are already projected to run at their admissions levels for the next three years, before any unmet demand from Guiseley is considered.
- 3.6** These projections do not take account of new housing developments, which could create demand for approximately 90 more primary school places (ie. 12 per cohort). The largest development is at High Royds, which whilst within the Leeds boundary, is closer to Menston which is in Bradford. It is also the most advanced, with building work well underway. High Royds accounts for around two thirds of the additional children, but due to proximity it is likely that most of the children from this development will attend school in Menston. It is difficult to predict the effects of parental preference. Within Leeds, their nearest school is Tranmere Park Primary.
- 3.7** The remaining developments are centrally situated in Guiseley, with either Tranmere Park Primary or Guiseley Infant as their closest schools. Only the Silver cross development is currently in progress, and this may account for a further 11 children.
- 3.8** Guiseley Infant and St Oswald's Junior both currently have surpluses in excess

of 10%, and could help to accommodate the short term peak in unmet demand at Tranmere Park and Hawksworth, subject to parental preferences.

**3.9** All the schools in the area are good schools with good results. Tranmere has recently been judged by Ofsted as outstanding in every category.

### **3.10 Options for the future pattern of provision in the Guiseley area**

**3.11** It is important that any proposals to change provision consider the geographical location of schools in the context of housing development plans and potential future demographic demand. Four options and variations have been suggested during informal consultation with key stakeholders and these are presented here with a brief comment on each option. Option 1 is a short term option, whereas options 2-4 are longer term responses.

**3.12** **Option 1:** Increase the admissions number at both Guiseley Infant School and St Oswald's Junior School from 80 to 90 with effect from September 2009. Consultation will take place through the Annual Admissions process.

**3.13** Both schools have sufficient space already to accommodate this increase. Both are centrally placed, and close to much of the new housing.

**3.14** **Option 2:** Expand provision either at Tranmere Park Primary or Hawksworth Junior.

**3.15** Both schools exist on constrained sites and so present less realistic options for expansion. Hawksworth CE Primary (VA) is a small village school, which is a key component of its popularity, and would be affected by any expansion.

**3.16** **Option 3:** Expand Provision in Queensway

**3.17** The site does have spare land which could be used. A detailed feasibility study has not been conducted at this time. Queensway is not closest to any of the new housing developments, and draws most of its pupils from Yeadon. It is currently building a Children's centre for Yeadon.

**3.18** **Option 4:** Convert both Guiseley Infants School and St Oswald's Junior school into through primaries (either 1.5FE or 2FE).

**3.19** Both schools are supportive of this option, as is the CE Diocese. Some building work would be required, however this would not be extensive. A detailed feasibility study has not been conducted at this time. The schools are both centrally placed, and close to much of the new housing. Guiseley Infant School has been identified as a potential candidate for the Guiseley Children's Centre (phase 3)

### **3.20 Initial Stakeholder Consultation**

**3.21** During informal consultation, two group meetings have been held with the head teachers and chairs of governors of the five primary schools, with individual meetings with each school. Meetings were also held with local Ward Councillors, other Education Leeds officers, and Leeds City Council officers. The main points raised were that:

- There is a need to ensure that provision is sustainable for the future and

that any changes to provision do not undermine schools that are currently healthy in terms of pupil numbers. This includes those in the neighbouring planning areas of Yeadon and Rawdon.

- Further additional housing in Bradford (Menston) may affect the availability of places for High Royds children in that school.

### **3.22 Preferred Option**

**3.23** The preferred option is option 1. Further consideration of the longer term options (options 2-4) will be given in spring 2008.

**3.24** The increase in admissions limit of Guiseley Infant School and St Oswald's Junior school from 80 to 90 is required to accommodate the known projected increase in pupil numbers in the area.

**3.25** It is difficult to predict the impact of parental preferences. Expansion should be sustainable for the individual school(s), and for neighbouring schools. This is particularly complex to model in areas where movement in and out of the Leeds boundary are commonplace.

**3.26** Detailed analysis of parental preference data, in particular for the known peak years of 2008 and 2009, will help ensure additional provision is made in the appropriate place.

**3.27** The conversion of Guiseley Infant School and St Oswald's Junior school OR the expansion of Queensway are the two most likely options for consideration for any further expansion within Guiseley.

## **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**4.1** Planning primary school places is relevant to a number of key priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan, in terms of managing the supply and demand of school places and school improvement. It is also relevant to the Closing the Gap agenda, with the planning of school places taking consideration of wider socio-economic factors and regeneration.

## **5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** The review of primary provision fulfils the LEA's statutory requirement to keep under review the supply and demand of school places.

**5.2** There are no immediate financial implications

**5.4** Further detailed feasibility studies are required for the long term expansion options.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

**6.1** A review of pupil places was undertaken in the Guiseley area following concerns about the potential unmet demand due to increasing birth rates and new housing in the area. The PLASC 2007 data shows higher than anticipated intakes in 2006, which is reducing future flexibility still further.

- 6.2** Option 1, the increase in admissions limits from 80 to 90 for both Guiseley Infant School and St Oswald's Junior School, would alleviate the immediate pressure for places in the area in line with underlying demand.
- 6.3** It is likely that even with this change there will be some unmet demand in the peak years of 2008 and 2009. Some pupils applying to Guiseley schools from neighbouring Leeds and Bradford areas are likely to find themselves unable to gain a place in Guiseley.
- 6.4** It is proposed that the position is reassessed in Spring 2008, when further analysis of parental preference patterns for these peak years will help inform any future decisions about further longer term expansion in the area.
- 6.5** Waiting for this information will also allow housing plans to be monitored and updated, and for detailed feasibility studies conducted for those schools offering potential further expansion.

**7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** Members are asked to note the outcomes of the review of primary provision in the Guiseley Planning Area.