

Report of: Director of Children's Services and Director of City Development

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 22 April 2015

Subject: Basic Need update, secondary provision in the inner east and inner north east



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Roundhay, Killingbeck and Seacroft, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, Gipton and Harehills	<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: 10.4 (3) Appendix 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The Basic Need programme is well established and has been delivering the supply of primary school places since 2009. The rising demographic is now impacting on secondary school places in this area, and there is a need to take action to secure sufficient school places.
2. There is a high degree of pupil movement across the inner east and inner north east of the city, with several schools accessible to those residents. The scale of need is projected to be an additional 375 year 7 places by 2018, with numbers continuing to rise until 2021.
3. In line with current practice a stakeholder event was held on 27 February 2015 to consider the issues and start to identify possible solutions, and they are now being shared on online forums prior to formal consultation and any recommendation to Executive Board for statutory processes.
4. Some of those solutions need immediate consultation in order to deliver within the required timescales. They include the potential for new secondary provision on land at Seacroft Hospital which would require the Council to commit to assemble the site by June 2015, and starting consultation on expansion at Roundhay. This paper provides a background briefing for Executive Board and seeks permission to formally consult on the option of a new school at the Seacroft hospital site to inform

a further report to Executive Board in June on the most appropriate way in which the Council, in liaison with the HCA and EFA can secure part of the site for education purposes.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

1. Approve consultation on the option of new secondary school provision on land at Seacroft hospital and request a report by June on the proposal for assembly of the site.
2. Note that consultation is underway on the expansion of Roundhay through school secondary phase.
3. Note that the officer responsible for implementation is the Head of Service, Strategic Development & Investment by June 2015.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks permission to consult on the option to establish new 6FE secondary provision on the Seacroft hospital site, so that it may inform a decision by Executive Board in June 2015 on potential assembly of the site for education purposes. It presents that need in the wider demographic context facing the inner east / inner north east.

2 Background information

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The current primary school population and birth cohort data are used to generate long term secondary school place projections. These show a rising demand until 2021/22, reflecting the steep rise in birth rates for those cohorts. This leads to a shortage of 200 year 7 places by 2016 and 375 by 2018.
- 3.2 These projections do not take account of additional housing planned in the area and which is not yet under construction. This will lead to further demand for places. They also do not make any attempt to estimate the impact of the opening of The Ruth Gorse Academy on its permanent city centre site on Black Bull Street in 2016. It is almost impossible to predict where it will then draw its pupils from, although reasonable to expect some would be from this area. It also does not take account of the Temple Learning Academy, which has recently been approved to open in the Halton Moor area (outside of this immediate area) and due to open its secondary phase in 2016. This school is more likely to draw from the Temple Newsam ward area.
- 3.3 There are 8 schools in the area: David Young Community Academy (DYCA), Leeds East Academy, Mount St Marys Catholic HS, the Co-operative Academy, Allerton Grange, Cardinal Heenan Catholic HS, Carr Manor Community School (4-18) and Roundhay School 4-18.
- 3.4 An event was held on 27 February 2015 to discuss the issues and identify possible solutions. Two issues were shared with the meeting.
- 3.5 Roundhay through school was established in 2012, and its first primary cohort will move into the secondary phase in 2019. Without some additional buildings, if it is to maintain the current size of its secondary phase it will then have to reduce its admission number from 250 to 190. This is because the primary pupils are already on roll, and the admission number refers only to the additional pupils admitted from other schools who are not already on roll. At the time of this decision a large body of opinion felt that the school would need to expand its secondary phase at that time to be able to continue to offer similar access to pupils attending the existing primary schools to the secondary phase.
- 3.6 The school has identified a sufficiency of accommodation issue to deal with current pupils which will impact in 2017 and will need to be addressed the local authority. The school has approached the authority to consider this sufficiency issue, and early work has identified a scheme which could allow for expansion to

a year group size of 300 in the secondary phase which could address all these needs at an estimated cost of £10m. The school is currently the most oversubscribed secondary school in the city and is highly successful, with an outstanding Ofsted rating in both phases of provision.

- 3.7 The second issue was the possibility of assembling land at the Seacroft hospital development site for new provision. This site is owned by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), which has recently selected a development partner to bring forward a major residential development. In discussion with the Council the HCA and developer have identified part of this site (see Appendix 2) that could be dedicated to a secondary school, subject to the HCA agreeing to the basis of how it is made available. The Council would need to have established how it will assemble the identified land there in June 2015, to align with the planning and development programme for the residential scheme on the wider site.
- 3.8 The only council owned sites of sufficient size in or near to this area which have been identified and have the potential for school use are the cleared site of the former East Leeds Family Learning Centre (ELFLC) in Seacroft, and the Dolly Lane site, which was the former Primrose High School before it was rebuilt in the accommodation now occupied by the Co-Operative Academy. Neither lends themselves well to provision to meet this demand.
- 3.9 The ELFLC is immediately adjacent to the DYCA, a site which has some potential for expansion of current provision. As part of local regeneration plans, consulted upon with Members and residents, there is an aspiration to build a link road through part of the site which would further compromise the area available for school use, and some housing may need to be considered to fund this, further reducing the site area. The Seacroft area is facing pressure on primary provision too, and on balance this site seems therefore better used for primary and/or SEN provision than for Secondary provision.
- 3.10 The Dolly Lane site is not located with an obvious immediate catchment area, although may in the longer term offer potential to serve the demand for school places arising from new housing planned for the city centre. In the short term it may offer an opportunity to rehouse some children's centre provision which could enable some primary expansions to take place to meet immediate demand.
- 3.11 There are no other privately owned sites of suitable size, location or availability, which the council can currently identify that would be suitable for school use. The land at Seacroft hospital therefore seems to present the only viable option for a new school in the required timeframe, and is well situated in regard to the exiting demography to meet that demand.
- 3.12 Should the Seacroft hospital site be opened as a new school then current legislation dictates there is a presumption in favour of establishing an Academy, and prior to starting the process of seeking Academy provider the authority is required to consult on the specification for the school to establish the need for the provision. This would include the site location, number and type of pupils, age range and similar details. The site could accommodate a 6FE provision.

- 3.13 Consultation on the option of new provision on the site now is required to inform the way forward on land assembly, which would need to take place in a timely way to enable the Council to agree the necessary arrangements with the HCA by June and to allow a move to invite Academy proposers once that decision is made, which in turn would allow for delivery by 2018.
- 3.14 These measures combined would create 230 additional places, which is still insufficient to meet overall demand. Both measures were broadly supported by the stakeholder engagement event. It is highly likely that a range of other measures will be needed. Other options identified at the event included expansion of other existing secondary schools, creation of capacity by removal of sixth forms, and use of a shift system to enable more children to use the same space, and are currently available on the council's wordpress forum for public debate.

3.15 Conclusion

- 3.16 Current legislation does not prescribe the consultation required for either expansion of existing schools, or on the specification for new schools. Accordingly current practice adopted and endorsed by Executive Board, no longer requests permission for consultation on these matters. In this instance however, it is recognised that there are significant land assembly issues, and it is therefore appropriate in this instance to highlight the issues for Executive Board to consider. The matter being consulted on is simply the principle of a new co-educational provision on this site, for 180 pupils per year group of age range 11-16, to include some level of SEN provision.
- 3.17 Timescales preclude conclusion of the negotiations with the HCA ahead of this permission to consult on the principle of a new school provision, however this will be conclude during the consultation period and will be fully addressed in the report to June Executive Board. The negotiations have the potential to form a test case which may apply to other sites in future. This detail will inform the decision on site assembly, and whether to proceed to invite proposals from Academy providers, or indeed to create school capacity by another route on the site.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The consultation will be managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and local practice. All parents, carers, and staff will be consulted, along with ward members, and members of the local communities and public at large. Information will be available on Leeds City Council website.
- 4.1.2 Ward Members have been consulted on and are supportive of the proposition for new secondary provision at Seacroft hospital.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A screening form has been completed and there is no requirement for a full assessment.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 These proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for secondary aged children.
- 4.3.2 The proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to the Best Council and the Best City in which to grow up; a Child Friendly City, through the creation of good quality locally accessible places. That, in turn, will increase attendance, attainment and progression to education, employment and training among some of the city's most vulnerable children, as desired by the Children and Young People's Plan.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.3 The current EFA rates for building a new school suggest a cost of £14.86 m for a 6FE school. Information on the indicative site value and nature of the commercial deal that may be required in assembling the land is contained in Exempt Appendix 1.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 Under the Education Act 2011 section 6 any new school will first be presumed to be an Academy. Guidance states that consultation on the specification for a new school must be a first step, before inviting proposals under the regulations. The consultation proposed here will seek to satisfy those requirements so that it can both inform an Executive Board decision on the land assembly and also meet the requirements of this guidance, so that if approval is given the authority can commence the invitation of proposals.
- 4.5.2 The information contained in Appendix 1 attached to this report relates to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, and of the Council. This information is not publicly available from the statutory registers of information kept in respect of certain companies and charities. It is considered that since this information was obtained through one to one negotiations for the disposal of the property/land then it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this point in time. Also it is considered that the release of such information would or would be likely to prejudice the Council's commercial interests in relation to other similar transactions in that prospective purchasers of other similar properties would have access to information about the nature and level of consideration which may prove acceptable to the Council. It is considered that whilst there may be a public interest in disclosure, much of this information will be publicly available from the Land Registry following completion of this transaction and consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing this information at this point in time. It is therefore considered that this element of the report should be treated as exempt under Rule 10.4(3) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.
- 4.5.3 This report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 At this stage the recommendation is for consultation to inform a decision on land assembly. Should the project proceed risk would be managed through application of 'best practice' project management tools and techniques via the City Council's Project Management Methodology. Experienced Project Management resource would be allocated from within both Children's Services and the Public Private Partnerships Unit.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 There is a need for 375 more year 7 places in the inner east and inner north east by 2018. This scale of need cannot be met by expansion of existing schools alone, and new provision is an essential component of meeting this demand. There are no other sites currently in council ownership well placed to meet this demand in that timescale. The assembly of the land at Seacroft hospital is therefore essential as this is considered to be the only site of suitable size, location and availability at this time which would meet those needs. The opportunity is extremely time-constrained and would require a report back to Executive Board on the proposed land assembly by June, to enable the Council to secure the availability of the site.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

1. Approve consultation on the option of new secondary provision on land at Seacroft hospital and request a report by June on the proposal for assembly of the site.
2. Note that consultation is underway on the expansion of Roundhay through school secondary phase.
3. Note that the officer responsible for implementation is the Head of Service, Strategic Development & Investment by June 2015.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ 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.