



REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 11 September 2007

SUBJECT: Proposal to Make a Prescribed Alteration at Harehills Primary School

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of formal consultation undertaken on the proposal to make a prescribed alteration to permanently increase the admission number at Harehills Primary School from 60 to 90 Reception places, and seeks permission to publish a Statutory Notice.

2.0 Background

- 2.1** In response to an increase in demand for primary places in the Harehills area of Leeds, the admission number at Harehills Primary School was temporarily increased from 60 to 90 (3FE) for the academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The continued demand for places in this area led to a report being submitted to Admissions Forum on 21 November 2006 outlining the need to increase primary provision at Harehills Primary School to 3 FE for a further two years, 2007 and 2008.

- 2.2** The shortfall of places is particularly acute within a fairly well-defined area bounded by Harehills Avenue, Harehills Lane, Ashley Road, Bayswater Road, and Sholebroke Street. This increase in demand also affects the nearby school, Bankside Primary. Bankside currently has an admission number of 70 and therefore, whilst not strictly 3 FE school, it operates as such and was identified within the same Admissions Forum report with plans to also increase the admission number to 90.

- 2.3** Education Leeds believes this increase in demand in the area will continue and demand for places will be higher than the number of Reception places available in the area. Therefore it is considered that a permanent increase in provision at Harehills Primary School is necessary to meet the demand for places at the school.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 Additional accommodation will be required at the school. Plans are in place to provide additional temporary accommodation to meet the immediate demand for places. However, it will be necessary to provide more permanent additional classrooms and infrastructure to support the increase in admission number. Investigations are also underway to expand the actual site of the school.

4.0 Recommendation

Executive Board is asked to approve the publication of statutory notices to make a prescribed alteration to Harehills Primary School by permanently increasing the admission number from 60 to 90 pupil places with effect from September 2009

Agenda Item:

Originator: Amanda Jahdi

Telephone: 2475696

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EXECUTIVE BOARD: 11 September 2007

SUBJECT: Proposal to make a prescribed alteration at Harehills Primary School

Electoral wards Affected:

Gipton and Harehills
Chapel Allerton

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

On 14 March 2007, the Executive Board considered a report which outlined the reasons for the need to increase provision at Harehills Primary School. At this meeting, permission was granted for Education Leeds to undertake a public consultation on a proposal to permanently increase the admission number at Harehills Primary School from 60 to 90 Reception places, thereby establishing a three-form entry primary school.

The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of the formal consultation undertaken and seeks permission to issue a Statutory Notice.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 Harehills Primary School is situated in the Harehills/Gipton Primary Planning Area along with Hovingham, Woodlands, Oakwood, Wykebeck, Harehills St Augustine's and St Nicholas Catholic primary schools. It is located a short distance away from Bankside Primary School (0.4 miles) which is part of the Chapel Allerton Planning

Area. The other schools in this area are; Bracken Edge, Hillcrest, Chapel Allerton, St Matthews Church of England and Holy Rosary and St Anne's Catholic primary schools. The majority of schools in these two areas are two forms of entry (FE) schools (see Table 1 in Appendix 1)

- 2.2** Parental preference, density of population and local schools for local children are all important criteria when considering the pattern of provision in a particular area. These are significant factors in the popularity of a number of schools in these two planning areas but specifically in the case of Harehills Primary School. These factors, along with the high sibling occurrence and the short distances between all the schools, contribute to this area being quite unique in Leeds. Harehills Primary also attracts pupils from a relatively small area around the school with 93% of pupils living within 0.5 miles of the school and an average distance travelled of 0.28 miles.
- 2.3** Pupil numbers in this area of Leeds are increasing at a greater rate than most other parts of the city which on the whole continue to show local fluctuations both downwards and upwards. Demand is particularly high for school places in the fairly well-defined area bounded by Harehills Avenue, Harehills Lane, Ashley Road, Bayswater Road, and Sholebroke Street and the four schools most likely to be affected are Hillcrest, Bankside, Harehills and Hovingham primary schools. Due to parental demand, the admission number at Harehills primary was increased from 60 to 90 for the academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The school is consequently operating as a 3FE school in Reception and Year 1. The continued demand for places led to a report being submitted to Admissions Forum on 21 November 2006 outlining the need to increase provision at Harehills to 3 FE for a further two years; 2007-08 and 2008-09.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** Public consultation on the proposal to permanently increase the admission number at Harehills Primary School commenced on 1 May and ended on 11 June 2007. Discussions took place with the Headteacher of Harehills Primary School on the best approach to conducting the consultation taking account of the particular needs of the diverse population in this area. The consultation document was distributed widely to parents, staff and governors of Harehills Primary School, neighbouring schools, local elected members, the local Dioceses, agencies working in the area, and was made available through a number of outlets including the local library. It was also distributed widely to other services in Education Leeds and Leeds City Council including Children's Services and Early Years.

The consultation document and an additional parents' letter summarising the proposal had been translated into three languages; Arabic, Punjabi and Urdu, and included a pro-forma response form to encourage written responses. During this consultation period, the offer of meetings was made to a range of stakeholders. A copy of all written responses received are available for inspection from the clerk to the Executive Board, named on the front page of the agenda.

Timetable of consultation meetings:

18 May 2007	Public meeting
21 May 2007	Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of schools in the Harehills/Gipton and Chapel Allerton planning areas
22 May 2007	Staff and governors of Harehills Primary School

An invitation to a meeting was also extended to local elected members.

- 3.2** A total of 48 written responses have been received; 20 (41%) from parents, 24 (50%) from pupils, 1 from other stakeholders and 3 (6%) were unknown. In general, 35 (73%) of the respondents supported the proposal and 3 (6%) were against.
- 3.3** All of the written responses received have been analysed in detail and a summary is attached in Appendix 2. The following section provides an overview of the key issues raised during consultation and Education Leeds' response. It should be noted that this is a summary of the more detailed information presented.
- 3.4 Main Issues**
- 3.5 More choice in the area**
- 3.6** Many respondents felt that by increasing the admission number to 90, more of the local children would be able to get into the school of their choice.
- 3.7 Education Leeds' response:**
- 3.8** 90 children have been allocated places at Harehills Primary School for September 2007, 81 of whom were siblings or first preferences. This supports the view that demand in the area for the school is high. The projections for the school, based on the best information currently available, indicate that demand for the school will remain high for the next four years (see Table 2 in Appendix 1). Table 3 in Appendix 1 confirms that demand for most of the schools in the area is high. The extent of in-migration, which is a factor in this area, and any future regeneration in the area is more difficult to predict. Regeneration of this area is planned through the EASEL project. These long term plans may have an impact on the housing around Harehills Primary School, however, timescales are still unclear.
- 3.9 Large class sizes**
- 3.10** There was some concern that more pupils could lead to overcrowding especially in Key Stage 1 (KS1) where this could result in 45 children in a class. Some parents also asked if this would lead to larger class sizes further up the school. One of their concerns was that if class sizes increased, this could mean less support in the classroom and could lead to more bullying.
- 3.11 Education Leeds' response:**
- 3.12** The Education Act 2002 placed a duty on local authorities and governing bodies of maintained schools to limit the size of infant classes (KS1) to 30 children per single teacher. Therefore, regardless of the admission number, the school would have to comply with this class size pledge and would organise classes accordingly. Although this requirement does not apply to children in KS2, Education Leeds is of the view that the size of classes and any additional support for the pupils will be considered by the Headteacher and Governing Body according to the needs of the pupils similar to current arrangements at the school.
- Education Leeds is not aware of a particular problem of bullying at Harehills Primary School. However, any incidents of this nature would normally be managed through the school Behaviour Management Policy.
- 3.13 Staffing issues**
- 3.14** Although many of the respondents were in favour of the proposal, this was qualified by the need to increase the number of teaching and non teaching staff at the school.

It was felt that if the teachers have more children to teach, this could result in higher levels of stress.

3.15 Education Leeds' Response:

3.16 As pupil numbers in the school increase, it would not be expected that the school would not continue with the current level of staffing. The funding of schools is primarily pupil related, therefore every additional pupil admitted to the school would result in an increase in funding which should be spent on staffing and resources. The Governing Body and the Headteacher would assess staffing levels for both teaching and support staff according to the number of pupils in the school, the teaching environment and the needs of those pupils.

3.17 Buildings and Site issues

3.18 There was a general view that if the admission number was increased, additional accommodation and play space would be needed on the site. Some parents also asked whether any new accommodation would include disabled access.

3.19 Education Leeds' Response:

The site at Harehills Primary School is 12,306m² and is quite limited with regards to expansion. Options are being developed to increase the capacity of the school to accommodate the additional pupils. Plans are in place for additional temporary accommodation of five class bases to be installed on site for September 2007. This accommodation will be sufficient for the additional classes created by the temporary increase in Admission number and will also include two additional classrooms that will have been taken out of commission in the main school building to create additional Hall space in the school. A further five class bases will be placed on site for September 2008 to create two storey units.

Unfortunately, this means that some of the playground space will be taken up by the temporary units but this will be minimised with the removal of the two classroom temporary accommodation currently on site. The school has existing disabled access which will remain available to children and adults at the school.

Children would not be housed in temporary accommodation for longer than necessary. This is a feature of many transitional arrangements. Without its occasional and appropriate use it would be very difficult to bring forward organisational change. This is a long term issue and a permanent solution to the imbalance between parental preference and the shortage of pupil places is being explored through the Primary Capital programme.

3.20 Alternative option to create a new school

3.21 One parent suggested the Local Authority could create a new school in the area.

3.22 Education Leeds' response:

3.23 The level of demand in the area is such that this proposal is in addition to the expansion of the neighbouring school, Bankside Primary School. The admission number for Bankside Primary is currently 70 but the school has been operating as a 3FE school for a number of years and is already larger than two-form entry. The additional 20 places to increase the school to a three-form entry does not require a statutory process. Therefore, if this proposal did not proceed, an additional two-form entry school would be needed in the locality. Due to the scarcity of land in the area, and the associated timescales, it would be difficult to establish a new school to deal with the short to medium term pressures. Following discussions with the

Regeneration Team in the Development Department and the Area Management Team, it has not been possible to identify a site in the area large enough to accommodate a 2FE school. If it had been possible to pursue this option, the timescales involved for construction work would be approximately 18 months with an additional 12 months for the planning and feasibility stage.

3.24 Impact on standards

3.25 There was some concern that the rise in pupil numbers may affect the quality of teaching, particularly if one teacher has more children to teach.

3.26 Education Leeds' response:

3.27 It is not anticipated that an increase in pupil numbers would have an impact on standards at the school. The available budget tends to determine how governing bodies decide to organise classes. How the school chooses to do so would depend on the number of children who attend the school. Any increase in pupil numbers is likely to have a corresponding increase in both teaching and support staff proportionate to the needs of the children.

3.28 Local access to provision

3.29 Some respondents were in favour of an increase in the admission number as it would mean that children who live near the school would not have to walk longer distances to another school.

3.30 Education Leeds response:

3.31 There is a close knit community around the school, and as already indicated, a large proportion of the children attending Harehills Primary live within a small radius of the school. This fact, along with the tendency for large families in the area means that some families are reluctant to walk longer distances to school especially when having to manage small children and babies.

3.32 What would happen if pupil numbers continued to rise?

3.33 There was one enquiry about what would happen in the area if pupil numbers continued to increase over and above what could be accommodated by a 3FE school.

3.34 Education Leeds Response:

3.35 The future school population in this area is very difficult to predict for a number of reasons. The area is already very densely populated, as indicated in the map in Appendix 3. There is also a high prevalence of new migrants in the area comprising of asylum seekers, refugees and economic migrants. There is the potential for transience within this element in the population; some are known to remain in the area whilst others will return to their country of origin or move out to different areas of Leeds. Currently, there is also uncertainty over the detail and timescale of the regeneration plans for the area.

Education Leeds will continue to monitor the demographic changes in the area and although it is difficult to say with any certainty, based on current data, it is not anticipated that pupil numbers will continue to rise to such an extent that cannot be accommodated within the planned provision for the area.

3.36 Early Years

3.37 Harehills Primary School has a nursery which would not be affected by this proposal.

3.38 Special Educational Needs

3.40 The Way Forward

3.41 Following careful consideration of the views expressed during the consultation period, Education Leeds retains the view that there is a need to increase the admission number at Harehills Primary School in order to meet local parental demand.

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 Financial Implications

5.2 To accommodate the increase in numbers, Harehills Primary School has been identified as a priority under the Primary Capital Programme. This will involve a permanent extension to the building to provide additional classroom space and the infrastructure needed to meet the needs of the school. Discussions will take place with the management of the school to identify what will be needed but is anticipated this will include additional hall space, staff facilities, resource rooms and cloakroom areas. However, this is a longer term solution which may not be in place until 2010/11 at the earliest.

5.3 The plans to install temporary accommodation on the site for September 2007 is estimated to cost £480,000. Further work is planned for September 2008.

5.4 The site is very constrained and investigations are currently taking place with Leeds City Council to ascertain whether land adjacent to the school can be obtained to extend the school site and increase play space. However, again this is a longer term measure.

5.5 Legal Implications

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

5.7 Equality Implications

5.8 The proposals have been subject to equality impact assessment. There are no anticipated significant differential impacts on the basis of ethnicity, disability or gender associated with this proposal.

5.9 Indicative Timescale

5.10 October 2007 – Statutory Notices published
January 2008 – Report to Executive Board reporting results of the statutory notice period and seeking a decision on the proposal
September 2009 - Effective date for permanent increase in admission limit

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1** Executive Board is asked to approve the publication of statutory notices to make a prescribed alteration to Harehills Primary School by permanently increasing the admission number from 60 to 90 pupil places with effect from September 2009.

Appendix 1
Demographic Data

Table 1: Pupil data for schools in the Chapel Allerton and Harehills/Gipton Planning Areas based on PLASC 2007

SCHOOLS	ADM No.	NUMBER ON ROLL	NET CAPACITY	SURPLUS	
				Number	%
Chapel Allerton Planning Area					
Bankside PS	70	522	518	-4	-0.8%
Bracken Edge PS	45	285	378	93	25%
Chapel Allerton PS	60	379	420	41	10%
Hillcrest PS	60	359	387	28	7%
St Matthews CE PS	60	406	417	11	3%
Holy Rosary and St Anne's PS	30	197	210	13	6%
Harehills/Gipton Planning Area					
Harehills PS	60	477	473	-4	-0.8%
Hovingham PS	60	393	413	20	5%
Oakwood PS	60	354	420	66	16%
Woodlands PS	60	359	407	48	12%
Wykebeck PS	45	198	208	10	5%
Harehills St Augustine's Catholic PS	50	356	352	-4	-1%
St Nicholas Catholic PS	40	265	280	15	5%

Table 2: Pupil numbers at Harehills Primary School including projections for future numbers (based on PLASC 2007)

	REC	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	YR 6	TOTAL	AD LT	CAPACITY	SURPLUS	%	
Actual	2001\2	59	60	60	52	59	58	60	408	60	408	0	0%
	2002\3	57	59	59	57	54	58	60	404	60	420	16	4%
	2003\4	60	60	60	59	61	57	60	417	60	473	56	12%
	2004\5	60	59	56	57	58	60	60	410	60	473	63	13%
	2005\6	90	59	60	60	61	59	60	449	90	473	24	5%
	2006\7	86	88	60	61	61	61	60	477	90	473	-4	-1%
Projection	2007\8	89	84	88	61	63	61	62	509	60	473	-36	-8%
	2008\9	82	87	85	91	63	63	62	534	60	473	-61	13%
	2009\10	99	81	88	87	93	64	64	576	60	473	-103	22%
	2010\11	90	97	81	90	90	94	65	607	60	473	-134	28%

Table 3: School Reception numbers and Intake Projections

School	Reception numbers for Sept 2006	Siblings and 1 st prefs Sept 07	2007 Allocations at 14 Aug	Projections			
				2008	2009	2010	Ad Limit
Chapel Allerton Planning Area							
Bankside PS	73	83	87	75	75	83	70
Bracken Edge PS	39	29	34	37	37	43	45
Chapel Allerton PS	50	51	60	55	54	59	60
Hillcrest PS	52	43	46	54	54	60	60
St Matthews CE PS	59	58	60	60	63	68	60
Holy Rosary and St Anne's PS	27	24	27	27	27	28	30
Total	300	288	314	308	310	341	325

Harehills/Gipton Planning Area							
Harehills PS	86	81	90	82	99	90	90
Hovingham PS	58	59	60	55	65	62	60
Oakwood PS	60	55	59	61	61	57	60
Woodlands PS	52	51	52	58	61	62	60
Wykebeck PS	26	28	29	31	26	30	45
Harehills St Augustine's Catholic PS	50	49	50	49	49	49	50
St Nicholas Catholic PS	38	39	41	39	38	39	40
Total	370	362	381	375	399	389	405

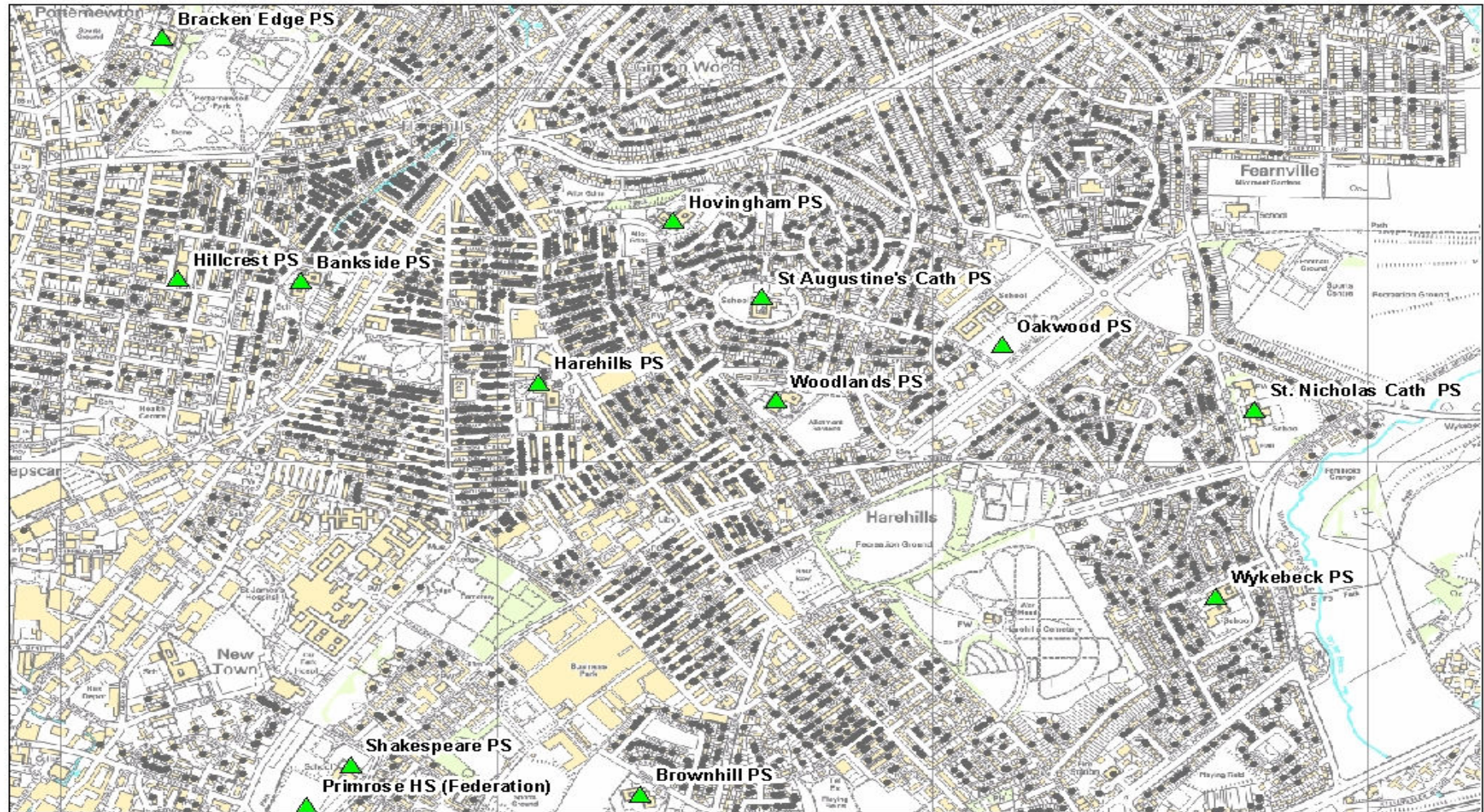
Appendix 2

Summary of consultation responses received

Consultation responses to proposal to permanently increase the Admission Number at Harehills Primary School from 60 to 90		
Access	People who live near Harehills PS won't have to walk further distances	3
Buildings & Sites	Add extra rooms on school grounds	1
	Will there be lifts to provide disabled access	3
	Need extra playgrounds	1
	Create a new school in the area	1
Parental Choice	The proposal provides more choice for parents and children	23
Pupil numbers	Concerns over larger class sizes	7
	More pupils will mean less support	7
	Bigger numbers could lead to bullying	2
	Concerns if demand for places continues to rise	1
Staffing	Will there be enough teachers	6
Standards	Increase in pupil numbers may affect quality of teaching	12
Other	Supports proposal	35
	Against proposal	3

Appendix 3

Primary schools in Harehills with primary-age children



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