

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 24th June 2015

Subject: Outcome of consultation on proposals to increase secondary school places at Roundhay School



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Roundhay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and accompanying statutory guidance set out the process which must be followed when making such changes. The statutory process to make these changes varies according to the nature of the change and status of the school and the process followed in respect of these proposals is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority.
2. 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 across the city but in particular across the inner east and inner north east, with a need to take action to secure sufficient school places in these areas from September 2018 onwards.
3. Projections for the inner north east and inner east areas, indicate that an additional 200 year 7 places are needed by 2016, rising to 375 by 2018 and continuing to rise thereafter.
4. A stakeholder event was held on 27 February 2015 to consider the issues and to start to identify possible solutions for increasing school places in the inner east and

inner north east. This was followed by an online discussion allowing the wider community to engage on the options that had been identified. One option that was identified and received positive feedback was to expand Roundhay School from 250 places in year 7 to 300 places.

5. Consultation on this option was then conducted from 1 April 2015 to 30 April 2015.
6. This report summarises the outcome of consultation on these proposals and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of Roundhay School, for which the Local Authority is the proposer.

Recommendations

7. Executive Board is asked to:
 - Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Roundhay School from a capacity of 1250 pupils to 1500 pupils in years 7 – 11 with an increase in the cohort sizes from 250 to 300 with effect from September 2017.
 - Note that legally the change would be to increase the year 7 admissions number in 2017 and 2018 to 300, then reduce it to 240 in 2019, as the primary children are already on roll of the school and the admission number is the number of additional children from other primary schools that would be admitted
 - Note that the responsible officer for implementation is the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead by September 2017.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. It describes the outcome of a consultation and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of Roundhay School.

2 Background information

- 2.1 A stakeholder consultation event using Outcomes Based Accountability methodology was held on 27 February 2015 to discuss options for increasing school places in inner east and inner north east. Those invited included local head teachers, ward members, school governors, parent representatives and local authority officers, representatives from the Church of England and Catholic diocesan education boards. Data about birth rates, housing, and parental preferences for schools was shared.
- 2.2 The event provided an opportunity to allow for discussion amongst small groups of stakeholders, and for options to be suggested. A number of different solutions were put forward to create additional school places and these are outlined in the discussion document, which is available online at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentconsultation.aspx>
- 2.3 These options included the expansion of Roundhay High School's secondary phase and a short period of public discussion hosted on the online forum supported this.
- 2.4 Consultation took place from 1 April 2015 to 30 April 2015. This included use of wordpress online forum, Leeds City Council's Talking Point consultation service, meetings with staff, governors and pupils of the school. Three drop-in sessions also took place to allow parents, residents and the wider community to discuss the proposal and have their say. Leaflets and banners were also used to advertise the proposal and meetings.
- 2.5 Roundhay (4-18) Through-School was established in September 2012, and in 2019 the first of the children from the primary phase at Roundhay School will transfer into year 7, the secondary phase. The year 7 admission number refers to the number of additional pupils admitted to that phase, over and above those already on roll having progressed through the primary phase. Therefore to maintain the same size of secondary provision the admission number in year 7 would need to drop from its current 250 to 190. Any admission number higher than 190 will result in the secondary cohorts increasing in size.
- 2.6 This proposal would see the secondary phase expand to 300 pupils per year group from 2017, addressing at least in part all 3 issues: overall capacity in the area, sufficiency of accommodation, and changes to address primary transition. 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.

- 2.7 The projected need for secondary provision across the inner north east and inner east areas is 200 places by 2016 rising to 375 places by 2018, and this proposal will provide 50 of those required places but will also address the sufficiency of accommodation at Roundhay School which requires immediate action to be able to deliver provision for September 2017. The proposal for this modest expansion is therefore being brought forward now, whilst also being considered in the wider context. A paper is also being taken to June Executive Board on the option of site assembly to secure new provision to the south of Seacroft Hospital which could contribute a further 180 places.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 During the consultation period, 14 responses were received, 12 in favour and 2 against the proposed expansion. A summary of the issues raised follows. A copy of the responses received can be requested from the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team at educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk. The Governing Body of Roundhay School supports the proposal.
- 3.2 The concerns raised during consultation are outlined below.
- 3.2.1 **Concern:** There will be a negative impact on the students as the school would be too big for staff to get to know them properly. Some of the students may feel daunted by the size of the school
- 3.2.2 **Response:** One of the key things the headteacher and governing body are keen to maintain is the ethos of the school and the continued success of the school is building upon that. They have considered this issue carefully and are confident they can manage it. Leeds does have another secondary school with cohorts of 300, and this is also a popular and successful school. If the proposed expansion of this school was to proceed, the additional accommodation would help address the current sufficiency issues, whilst providing additional places for the increase projected for year 7 places.
- 3.2.3 **Concern:** The building and grounds do not have the capacity for the proposed increase in pupil numbers
- 3.2.4 **Response:** This proposal is intended to address existing accommodation deficit issues, and through careful design and consideration of curriculum delivery will, if it progresses, ensure that there is an appropriate building solution for the revised numbers. Initial work suggests that there is an area of land to the rear of the existing main school building that could be developed to provide additional accommodation. The land in question has previously had buildings on it and is of sufficient size to accommodate the required additional facilities. There is also an unused football pitch beyond this portion of land. As part of the early feasibility that has taken place, this area has been identified as potential for use as an all-weather pitch, providing additional and usable space for PE curriculum. The governing body are being fully consulted on the plans and will need to be satisfied that they deliver sufficient and appropriate accommodation.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The process in respect of all the proposals has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 4.1.2 The consultation in relation to the proposals relating to Roundhay School included a stakeholder event, a period of online consultation on the Wordpress site followed by a further four week period of online consultation on the proposed option. This was supplemented by drop in sessions for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders at Fearnville Leisure Centre and at the school.
- 4.1.3 The drop-in sessions were information sharing sessions and also provided an opportunity for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders to ask questions. Officers from Highways supported officers from Strategic Development and Investment at these sessions. Drop in sessions were held at different times over 3 days to allow more opportunity for the community to engage.
- 4.1.4 Meetings were also held with the school council, staff and governing body of Roundhay School. Other local schools were engaged in the stakeholder event and in the on-line consultation.
- 4.1.5 Ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage, both individually to ensure awareness of all proposals city wide and improved understanding of the impact of proposals in neighbouring areas. No concerns were raised.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI form for Roundhay School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 4.2.2 The screening forms for the proposals to increase places in Inner North East were previously published when the authority brought forward those proposals. Given the change in circumstances in the area the forms have been revisited, and it was concluded that there are no further implications. They are attached for information.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all the children in Leeds. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, and thus reduces the risk of non-attendance.
- 4.3.2 A key objective within the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 is to build a child friendly city. The delivery of good quality local school places is one of the most basic entitlements of a Child Friendly City. A good quality school place contributes to the KPIs to improve attendance and attainment. It is therefore important that when bringing any proposal forward, there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on the teaching and learning. Roundhay School was rated 'Outstanding' at its most recent inspection.

- 4.3.3 Further objectives of the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 are 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty and 'Become a more efficient and enterprising council. Choice and diversity for parents and families is promoted by responding to the needs of communities, by delivering additional school places in the areas where families need them. Meeting these expectations while demonstrating the five values underpinning all we do is key to the basic need programme.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The total estimated cost of the project at Roundhay School is £10m based on the latest RIBA Stage D Budget Estimate. The project is at an early feasibility stage.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The processes that have been and will be followed are in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, and amended by School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 4.5.2 This report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The proposal to increase secondary provision at Roundhay School has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for September 2017, as well as addressing the sufficiency of accommodation which requires immediate action to deliver existing provision for September 2017
- 4.6.2 A decision not to proceed at this stage would mean fresh consultation on new proposals, and would mean places may not be delivered in time. The authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may also be at risk. It will also cause in delay in addressing the underlying sufficiency of accommodation issue.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that we have enough school places for the children is one of our top priorities. This proposal has been brought forward to meet that need as well as addressing accommodation sufficiency issues at Roundhay School, and following the appropriate consultation we now seek to move this to the next stage.
- 5.2 This proposal would ensure that children in Leeds would have additional secondary school places to help meet with a rising demand from September 2017 onwards. The proposal would also provide much needed additional quality teaching accommodation and help towards delivering our vision of a child friendly city.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Roundhay School from a capacity of 1250 pupils to 1500 pupils in years 7 – 11 with an increase in the cohort sizes from 250 to 300 with effect from September 2017.
- Note that legally the change would be to increase the year 7 admissions number in 2017 and 2018 to 300, then reduce it to 240 in 2019, as the primary children are already on roll of the school and the admission number is the number of additional children from other primary schools that would be admitted
- Note that the responsible officer for implementation is the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead by September 2017.

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.