

Report of Director of Children's Services / Deputy Chief Executive / Director of City Development

Report to Executive Board

Date: 23 September 2015

Subject: Outcome of statutory notices on proposals to expand secondary provision at Roundhay Through-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 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 this case 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. Projections for the inner north east and inner east areas, indicate that an additional 151 year 7 places are needed by 2016, rising to 361 by 2018 and continuing to rise thereafter.
- 3 In the case of Roundhay Through-School the authority is the proposer. In the report to its June 2015 meeting, Executive Board were advised about the outcomes of the consultation that had taken place and asked to approve the publication of a

Statutory Notice to expand Roundhay Through-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. Executive Board was also asked to 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.

- 4 A statutory notice was published on 1 July 2015 and expired on 29 July 2015. A final decision must be made within two months of expiry of the notice, therefore by 29 September 2015. Where objections are received, School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) must be convened to consider the objections and provide advice to Executive Board. No objections were received. The School's Governing Body gave a conditional agreement to the proposals and their concerns are set out at paragraph 3.3 of this report. The conditional agreement was not an objection, the concerns are likely to be resolved and the role of SOAB is to recommend not decide therefore SOAB was not convened.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve changes to Roundhay Through-School by increasing its capacity from 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. Executive Board is also asked to approve the increase to 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 the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

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 and describes the outcome of statutory notices regarding proposals to expand secondary provision at Roundhay Through-School by increasing its capacity from 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. Executive Board is asked to make a final decision to approve the recommendations in the report.

2 Background information

- 2.1 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. Projections for the inner north east and inner east areas, indicate that an additional 151 year 7 places are needed by 2016, rising to 361 by 2018 and continuing to rise thereafter. Roundhay Through-School is currently the most oversubscribed secondary school in the city. It is highly successful in terms of pupil attainment, has a good reputation and an outstanding Ofsted rating in both phases of provision. Increasing capacity at the school would enable more offers to be made to local children.
- 2.2 In the report to its June 2015 meeting, Executive Board were advised about the outcomes of the consultation that had taken place and asked to approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Roundhay Through-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.

Expansion proposals for Roundhay Through-School – Outcome of Statutory Notices

- 2.3 The notices were published on 1 July 2015 and expired on 29 July 2015. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, therefore by 29 September 2015.
- 2.4 Brief notices were published in the Yorkshire Evening Post, placed on the school gates of both the primary and secondary school sites and on notice boards within each school. The full proposals were placed on the school website and council website and a link to the proposals posted on an on-line blog, Wordpress. Awareness of the publication of the statutory notice was raised by the school through a letter to parents and other local schools were asked to share the proposals with parents. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or by email.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Roundhay (4-18) Through-School was established in September 2012, and in 2019 the first of the children from the primary phase at Roundhay Through-School will automatically transfer into year 7, the secondary phase (60 pupils per year). The

year 7 published admission number or PAN (currently 250) refers to the total number of pupils admitted into the secondary phase. To maintain the same size of secondary provision the admission number in year 7 would need to drop from its current PAN of 250 to 190 in order to admit a total of 250 children. Any admission number higher than 190 would result in the secondary cohorts increasing in size due to the 60 children moving from the primary phase into the secondary phase.

3.2 This proposal would see the secondary phase expand to 300 pupils per year group from 2017, addressing at least in part 3 issues: overall capacity and demand for places 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.

3.3 During the Statutory Notice period the Governing Body of Roundhay Through-School submitted by email its conditional support for the proposal to increase its pupil admission number to 300 per year from 2017. It also raised concerns which are summarised below (see appendix 1 for full response).

3.3.1 **Concern**

That an improved 'Pavilion' design is proposed by 20 August, that meets the teaching and learning requirements of an outstanding school in the 21st-century. That additional outdoor social space is created, including an all-weather pitch.

3.3.2 **Response**

Further design workshops have been held since the last Governing Body (GB) meeting. The latest option provides opportunities for outdoor learning, a junior football pitch next to the pavilion is to be re-provided, the all-weather pitch is included and Sport England standard changing rooms in the new building (as requested by Sport England) are to be provided.

3.3.3 **Concern**

That there are improvements to the dining arrangements, including an increase in size of the dining centre through an extension, improved design and additional furniture etc is provided as part of a holistic whole school improved service for current and future pupils under the PFI contract.

3.3.4 **Response**

We have met with the PFI contractor since the last GB meeting to discuss the layout of the dining extension and are awaiting a further revised plan. We have also discussed ways of improving the existing service and the PFI lead for catering is already implementing new strategies for increasing efficiency.

3.3.5 **Concern**

That there is adequate revenue funding provided by the local authority to make up for the shortfall in funding whilst the school reaches its new proposed capacity over a period of five years to ensure the pupil number expansion of staffing/accommodation/services/Facility management is cost neutral to the existing school budget.

3.3.6 Response

Colleagues across Children's Services and the School Finance Team will be working with the school to address concerns.

3.3.7 Concern

That there is provision for increased car parking, that addresses increased staffing for the proposed growth in pupil numbers whilst improving the current situation including secondary campus pedestrian safety management.

3.3.8 Response

The PFI contractor will be reviewing the existing parking arrangements and to assess where additional spaces could be included. We have 3 options that are currently being costed and continue to discuss with highways.

3.4 During the design phase of any project, issues and concerns are raised by parties. In this case those issues are not expected to compromise the project and resolutions have been agreed or currently under discussion and expected to be resolved shortly.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The process in respect of the proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.

4.1.2 Consultation on this proposal 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 with the council's Talking Point survey being promoted and used. This was supplemented by drop in sessions for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders at Fearnville Leisure Centre and at the school. 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. Meetings were also held with the school council, staff and governing body of Roundhay Through-School. Other local schools were engaged in the stakeholder event and in the on-line consultation.

4.1.3 Ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage to ensure awareness of all proposals city wide and improved understanding of the impact of proposals in neighbouring areas. No concerns were raised.

4.1.4 During consultation 14 responses were received, 12 in favour and 2 against the proposed expansion. A summary of the issues raised was summarised in the report to Executive Board in June 2015.

4.1.5 A brief statutory notice was published in a newspaper, the Yorkshire Evening Post; notices were placed on all the school entrances and other conspicuous places on

the school premises. Information was also placed on the Leeds City Council website, the school website and WordPress. Parents of Roundhay Through-School and other local schools were notified of the proposals.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The EDCI form for Roundhay Through-School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report (appendix 2).

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 These 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 The proposal contributes to the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 and the commitment to build a child friendly city with a priority, 'Ensure sufficiency of school places'. The delivery of pupil places through the Basic Need Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City. A good quality school place contributes to the achievement of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as the priority to 'improve behaviour, attendance and achievement' with indicators around '% with good achievement at the end of primary school' and '% gaining 5 good GCSEs including English and Maths'. It is vital that when bringing any proposal forward, there is a degree of certainty that any change will not affect teaching and learning. Roundhay Through-School was rated 'Outstanding' at its most recent inspection-the inspection report noted the following: 'Students make rapid progress and academic standards are high. The gap in attainments between students supported by pupil premium and others is closing at a remarkable rate'.

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 An initial indicative budget of £10.4m has been set for the project at Roundhay Through-School based on a high-level viability study. The project is approaching the end of the feasibility stage and will be moving into a detailed design phase, where the budget will be realigned once the scheme has developed and a robust design freeze or pre-tender estimate can be provided which takes account of further site investigation and survey information as the design develops. A Design and Cost Report will be submitted at this stage to request Authority to Spend based on the latest accurate cost information available at that time.

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 A final decision on the proposals regarding Roundhay Through-School must be made before 29 September 2015, which is 2 months after the end of the statutory notice period. A decision not to proceed at this stage would necessitate fresh consultation on new proposals, a further statutory notice period and would place a risk on places not being delivered in time for 2017.

4.6.2 The authority's ability to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities may also be at risk if approval is not given on the recommendations.

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. These proposals have been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate consultation and statutory notice we now seek to move them to the next stage. Increasing the capacity at Roundhay School, a popular and oversubscribed successful community school, would ensure that children in Leeds would have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a child friendly city.

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

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve changes to Roundhay Through-School by increasing its capacity from 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. Executive Board is also asked to approve the increase to 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 the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

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.