



Report of: Head of Capacity Planning & Sufficiency

Report to: Inner West Community Committee

Date: 9th December 2015

Subject: Schools Place Planning

Summary of main issues

1. In the Inner West Community Committee Area it is projected that there is a need for an additional 1.5 Forms of Entry for September 2016 in the Armley and Wortley Primary Planning Area, of which 1 Form of Entry is required permanently; 0.5 Form of Entry in the Bramley area for 2016 and beyond; and 2 Forms of Entry for September 2016 in the Kirkstall, Burley and Hawksworth Wood area, of which 1.5 Forms of Entry are required permanently.
2. Discussions are taking place with local schools to accommodate the expansions required to address the additional need.
3. There is no immediate need for additional secondary provision in the area. However discussions will begin shortly with secondary schools to meet the projected increased demand from 2018 onwards.

Recommendations

4. The Community Committee is requested to:
 - Note the content of this report and the progress to date;
 - Support the expansions of schemes in schools to provide bulge and permanent additional school places.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Community Committee on the current sufficiency of school places in the Inner West area and an update on progress of the developments currently forming part of the Learning Places Programme to meet demand for school places.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The demand for additional school places has been increasing across the city as birth rates started to rise in 2000/2001. The Council has so far successfully delivered over 1400 reception places. The Cross-Party Steering Group, chaired by the Executive Member for Children's Services and endorsed by Executive Board in July 2013, continues to assist the programme with Members from across the Council taking a proactive role. The group is supported by senior officers in considering strategic issues for the programme.
- 2.2 The Council retains a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the city, but in an environment of very limited direct control. Foundation Schools, Academies (including Free Schools) and Voluntary Aided Schools all have increased powers to make changes to their capacities. This means that the Council must work in partnership with schools and with sponsors of schools to meet its legal responsibility on school places. The local authority's role is as a commissioner of places and it will seek to ensure good quality school places are provided to meet local demand. However the local authority is the provider of last resort and is only able to open a community school if no other provider wishes to do so.
- 2.3 Children's Services is responsible for ensuring that capacity and sufficiency planning leads to proposals for good quality local learning places. Children's Services leads the management and delivery of consultation and approvals for schools. Clear responsibility and accountability protocols have been established to support the client role and transparency. The Projects, Programmes & Procurement Unit is responsible for the delivery of Learning Places projects following organisational changes approved by Executive Board in September 2014.

3 Main issues

3.1 Primary Places

- 3.1.1 Appendix 1a, 1b and 1c shows the projected number of reception places needed in each Primary Planning Area for each of the three areas across the Inner West. The red and green bars show the current Pupil Admission Number for schools in the area against the projected number of reception places projected to be needed (green means there is a surplus of places, red means there is a shortage of places).
- 3.1.2 In the Armley, Wortley Area, there is a projected need for 1.5 Forms of Entry which is around 45 places for September 2016, with an ongoing need for 1 Form of Entry (30 places). Discussions are taking place with a number of Primary Schools in the area to explore potential bulge and permanent expansions of schools in the area.
- 3.1.3 In the Bramley Area, there is a projected need for 0.5 Form of Entry which is around 15 places for September 2016, with an ongoing need for 0.5 Form of Entry (15 places). The Governing Body of Bramley Primary School has agreed to a bulge cohort of 20 additional places for September 2016 and consultation is to take place regarding the permanent expansion of the school for 20 additional places.
- 3.1.4 In the Kirkstall, Burley and Hawksworth Wood Area, there is a projected need for 2 Forms of Entry which is around 60 places for September 2016, with an ongoing need for 1.5 Forms of Entry (45 places). Discussions are progressing well with some schools in the area, but it is anticipated these expansions are likely to result in there still being a need for an additional 0.5 Form of Entry (15 places) for September 2016. Discussions will continue with other schools in the area to identify further bulge cohort opportunities.

3.2 Secondary Places

- 3.2.1 Appendix 2 shows the projected number of Year 7 places needed in the Inner West area for secondary school places. The red and green bars show the current Pupil Admission Number for schools in the area against the projected number of reception places projected to be needed (green means there is a surplus of places, red means there is a shortage of places).

3.2.2 Across the secondary schools in the Inner West Community Committee (Swallow Hill, Leeds West Academy and Abbey Grange C of E Academy) there is currently a surplus of capacity, largely due to the current under capacity within Swallow Hill.

3.2.3 It is projected that current capacity would be sufficient across the area until 2018 and the Capacity Planning & Sufficiency Team will begin discussions with secondary schools shortly to discuss possible expansions in the area.

3.3 Consultation and Engagement

3.4.1 The programme includes a comprehensive approach to consultation with programme and project stakeholder engagement plans in place. Consultation is managed in accordance with relevant legislation and good practice.

3.4.2 Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) consultation sessions have been held in each of the Primary Planning Areas to explore potential options for additional capacity. An OBA session was held in 2013/14 in the Armley/Wortley area; in 2014/2015 in the Bramley area; and in March 2015 in the Kirkstall/Burley/Hawthornthwaite Wood area.

3.5 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

3.5.1 Each project is assessed on an individual basis, with EDCI screening accompanying the Design and Cost Report. Each project is designed to comply with British building regulations including adherence to the building regulations associated with the Disability Discrimination Act.

3.6 Council policies and City Priorities

3.5.1 The approach to school places is to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children living in Leeds. Providing places local to where children live improves accessibility, reduces the journey to school and reduces the risk of non-attendance.

3.6.2 An objective in the Best Council Plan for 2015-16 and the vision in the Children & Young People's Plan 2015-19 is to build a child-friendly city with a focus on ensuring all children and young people are safe from harm; do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life; enjoy healthy lifestyles; have fun growing up; are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence. The approach seeks to deliver a supply of good quality accessible local school places which can contribute to these outcomes.

- 3.6.3 When consulting on the schemes to progress as part of the city wide programme, the consultation process is in line with the Best Council value 'working with communities' in ensuring that 100% of major decisions are supported by community engagement, consultation and due regard for equality.

3.7 Resources and value for money

- 3.7.1 Funding for new school places is provided by central government in the form of an annual basic need capital grant allocation and this has previously been supplemented with bid rounds for targeted funding. The funding provided to local authorities is rationed by central government based on the projections of places required nationally and locally. Some funding adjustments are made to the allocations to fund the national Academy and Free School programmes.
- 3.7.2 The latest announcement by the Department for Education was made on the 12th February 2015 and provided allocations for 2017-18, for which Leeds is due to receive £33,141,952. The Education Funding Agency has advised that this amounted to £12,320 per primary place and £15,400 per secondary place, an increase of 8.7% over the 2016-17 allocation. The latest Department for Education scorecard showed that Leeds is one of the best performing local authorities for the value for money on Learning Places schemes delivered. However, construction costs are increasing and projects are becoming more and more complex, which increases the 'abnormal' costs, reduces the opportunity to utilise standardised designs and makes the projects less attractive to the contractors, which results in higher 'risk pricing'. Contractors are becoming more selective around the schemes they tender for leading to either low tender return rates, or inflated prices.

3.8 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 3.8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the information provided in this report.
- 3.8.2 The processes for school expansions which have been followed are in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

3.9 Risk Management

- 3.9.1 There are a range of risks on projects which are managed by the city wide programme approach to the governance and funding of the schemes. Projects to

deliver new places routinely carry a range of risks from their inception and the Council continues to review its approach to ensure risks are effectively managed.

- 3.9.2 Risks arise because project delivery timescales are limited, school sites are constrained, land in the right locations is limited, funding is limited, disruption to the school must be minimised and new school places must be available from the respective Autumn term (September) to meet the statutory duty. A cross-Council approach to dealing with site issues is in place to deliver solutions when risks materialise.

4 Conclusions

- 4.1 Whilst demand for schools places in the Inner West continues to be challenging, considerable work between the local authority and local schools has taken place, and is continuing to take place, to ensure the Council meets its duty to provide a sufficiency of learning places and deliver its ambition to be a child friendly city.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Community Committee is requested to:
- Note the content of this report and the progress to date;
 - Support the expansions of schemes in schools to provide bulge and permanent additional school places.

6 Background documents¹

- 6.1 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.