

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

Report to Executive Board

Date: 16 December 2015

Subject: Outcome of consultation to increase primary school places in Pudsey/Swinnow



Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s) Pudsey		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

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 these cases remains the local authority.

Consultation on a proposal to expand Park Spring (Community) Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils by increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017 took place from 8 June to 3 July 2015. At its meeting on 23 September 2015 the Executive Board gave permission for the local authority, as proposer to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of the proposals. The statutory notice period commenced on 5 October 2015 and concluded on 9 November 2015, and provided the opportunity for respondents to make representations regarding the proposals. A final decision must be made within two months of expiry of the notice, therefore by 9 January 2016. This report gives details about the representations received and seeks a final decision from Executive Board.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the expansion of Park Spring Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017.
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead.

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. This report describes the outcome of a statutory notice regarding proposals to expand primary school provision at Park Spring and seeks a final decision on these proposals.

2 Background information

- 2.1 At its meeting in September 2015 the Executive Board considered the outcome of consultation on the proposal to expand Park Spring Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017
- 2.2 Executive Board gave permission to publish a statutory notice on this proposal, which was brought forward under Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The notice was published on 5 October 2015 and expired on 9 November 2015. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, therefore by 9 January 2016. The Executive Board is the decision maker for these proposals
- 2.3 Brief notices were published in the Yorkshire Evening Post and placed on the school gates. The full proposal was placed on the school website and council website. Awareness of the publication of the statutory notice was raised by the school through an email to parents. Stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or by email.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 No representations were received during the Statutory Notice period.
- 3.2 During the consultation period there were 30 written responses received and one response submitted via Talking Point. In total there were 30 responses in support of the proposal with one response neither supporting nor opposing it.

- 3.3 The concerns raised during consultation were addressed in the report to Executive Board in September 2015.
- 3.4 It is proposed that existing modular accommodation, which has reached the end of its design life, will be demolished to make way for a purpose-built accommodation block. The work would also include the development of a new access point onto the school site which would alleviate current highways congestion along Wellstone Avenue.
- 3.5 Expansion of this school is proposed because the projected numbers of children requiring school places in the Pudsey/Swinnow area is consistently higher than the number of places available. Additional places are required in the area to ensure sufficient primary school places are available for local children.
- 3.6 The governing body continues to support the expansion and to engage in conversations regarding the process of planning the additional accommodation which would be required, should the proposal proceed. No other information has emerged to suggest that the proposal should not proceed.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation was managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and local good practice. The notice was publicised in the Yorkshire Evening Post and copies were placed on all the school entrances. The full proposal was placed on the school and council websites.
- 4.1.2 Stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or by email.
- 4.1.3 Ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage and were offered the opportunity to comment at statutory notice phase. Ward members continue to give their support to the proposals.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI screening forms have been completed and were attached as an Appendix to the original Executive Board report of 23 September 2015. They are therefore not attached to this report.

4.3 Council policies and 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 The proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to be the Best Council and the Best City in which to grow up; a Children Friendly City. The delivery of pupil

places through the Basic Need Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City, by creating good quality local places. A good quality school place contributes to the achievement of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to 'improve behaviour, attendance and achievement'. 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 in the school. Park Spring Primary School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection.

- 4.3.3 The proposal contributes towards the objectives of the Best Council Plan 2015-2020. The proposal aims to offer choice and diversity for local families and 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 indicative budget for the proposed Park Spring Primary School expansion project is estimated at £3.9m based on a high-level calculation that considers the amount of new build, external works and associated fees. Once the feasibility stage is complete and moves towards the detailed design phase the budget will be realigned to reflect the design freeze or pre-tender estimate which will take account of site investigations and survey information. To facilitate the proposed expansion of Park Spring Primary School some existing modular accommodation, which has reached the end of its design life, will be demolished to make way for a purpose-built accommodation block. The work would also include the development of a new access point onto the school site which would alleviate current highways congestion along Wellstone Avenue. During the proposed works, temporary classroom accommodation would be provided some distance from the building works to support the continued delivery of the curriculum and allow a safe construction compound.

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 statutory time limit for a final decision on the proposal detailed in this report is 9 January 2016. The proposals to increase primary provision in Pudsey/Swinnow have been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2017. Any significant change to the proposals at this stage would preclude the delivery of places for 2017, and the authority's ability to meet its

statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may also be at risk.

- 4.6.2 A detailed risk register would be established and would be maintained for the project, if approved. It is necessary to progress feasibility design work at risk during the statutory notice phase; however the decision to proceed to detailed design stages would not commence until a final decision has been made. Any delay to the statutory process would increase the risk of delayed delivery of the building solution or financial risk of abortive fees being incurred.
- 4.6.3 There is a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

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 we now seek to move them to the next stage. They 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 The proposal to expand Park Spring Primary School is a strong one. It would provide additional school places for local children in the Pudsey/Swinnow area. No objections were raised at the statutory notice stage and the concerns raised at the consultation stage were addressed in the September report to Executive Board.
- 5.3 It is therefore recommended that the proposals be approved

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to:
- Approve the expansion of Park Spring Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017.
 - Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead.

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.