

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 10 February 2016



Subject: Outcome of consultation to increase primary school places in Hyde Park/Headingley

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s) Hyde Park & Woodhouse Headingley	<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

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 the 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.

Executive Board agreed in February 2014 a process whereby a stakeholder consultation event using Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology informs consultation on options for an area, from which a route forward will be determined.

Following detailed demographic analysis, discussions took place with the Lantern Trust which includes the following schools: Rosebank Primary, Brudenell Primary, Blenheim Primary, Little London Primary, Quarry Mount Primary and Leeds City Academy. The discussions followed the OBA methodology to determine the need and possible options for this area. Subsequently an option emerged to expand Brudenell Primary school using the

council-owned former Brudenell Centre building and consultation on this was conducted from 11 November to 8 December 2015.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Brudenell Primary School from a capacity of 280 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 40 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 consultation regarding proposals to expand primary school provision at Brudenell and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of these proposals.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Due to recent increases in the number of children aged 0-5 who live in the Hyde Park area, it has been identified that additional school places are required in the area to meet the need for local families. The area is densely populated and there is significant interaction amongst all schools. Although children may not always attend their nearest school, all the schools within 0.75 miles of Brudenell Primary School are consistently full and the latest birth figures shows a steep increase on the previous year. Without adding any additional places in the Hyde Park area, it is likely that in future years some children may not be allocated a local school.
- 2.2 The current Brudenell Primary School building would prove difficult to expand. However, services that operated from the council owned Brudenell Centre have vacated over 12 months ago and this had been in void management. Following reports submitted to AMB and SIB, approval was given for children's services to include the building as part of a proposal to expand the school.
- 2.3 The leadership team and governing body at Brudenell Primary School welcomed the opportunity to potentially expand the school using the former Brudenell Centre building and also expressed interest in expanding the specialist partnership provision already in place at the school.
- 2.4 Brudenell Primary School already has 10 specialist partnership provision places for children with Complex Communication Difficulties including children who may have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). There is a growing need in the area for this type of provision so increasing the provision at Brudenell Primary School would provide an opportunity for children living in and around the Hyde Park area of Leeds to access specialist provision in the area in which they live rather than have to travel across the city to access it. Although increasing the number of specialist partnership provision places at a school where such provision is already established is not a prescribed change and would therefore not form part of a Statutory Proposal, it was decided that it should be included in the consultation on increasing the number of school places at Brudenell Primary School. Stakeholders were therefore given the opportunity to express their views on increasing the number of specialist provision places and on increasing the number of school places.
- 2.5 The need for additional Early Years places in the Hyde Park area was also reviewed as the proposals for Brudenell Primary School were being developed. It was determined that no additional Early Years places were needed in the area at that time.

2.6 Consultation on the option to expand Brudenell Primary School and to extend the number of specialist places there took place from 11 November 2015 to 8 December 2015. This included use of the WordPress on line forum and the Council's Talking Point survey system. A number of drop-in sessions were held for stakeholders to discuss the proposals with officers from Leeds City Council. The drop-in sessions were attended by parents, local residents and other stakeholders. Information was distributed widely, including through the school, via Early Years providers, via websites and at public places in the locality. Banners were placed at all of the entrances to the school to advertise the consultation and leaflets were distributed to local residents. Consultation meetings were held with the governors, staff and school council of Brudenell Primary School.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The expansion of Brudenell Primary School is proposed as it is a good school in an area of high demographic need. The school has agreed to take a temporary additional cohort of 20 children for 2016 to meet the growing need for primary school places in the area and is positive about a potential permanent expansion. The school benefits from strong leadership and management and the pupils there are making good progress. The specialist provision that already exists at Brudenell Primary School is very good quality and the proposal included the potential for more children to benefit from it.
- 3.2 During the consultation period there were 28 written responses received and one response submitted via Talking Point. 29 respondents supported the proposal to increase the number of school places and 26 respondents supported the proposal to increase the number of specialist places. There were no objections to either proposal. 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 Brudenell Primary School supports the proposal.
- 3.3 In response to the consultation a number of respondents commented that the proposal would deliver much-needed additional school places which would be a benefit to the local community and mean that potentially, fewer children would be making long journeys to access school places. Supportive comments were made about the school and some respondents commented that they would like more local children to have the opportunity to benefit from the good work being done there. Support was also expressed for the principle of extending the number of specialist places.
- 3.4 The concerns raised by respondents are listed as follows;
- 3.4.1 **Concern:** There needs to be sufficient space in the school for nurture activities, group-work, workshops and provision for children who require time out from the classroom.
- 3.4.2 **Response:** Additional classrooms and indoor spaces created would need to conform to minimum building requirements. During the design phase we would work with the school to understand how the design of the build could help the

school to operate effectively. Requirements for all internal facilities such as toilets, library, ICT suite and kitchen requirements would be assessed and where necessary improvements or additions made.

- 3.4.3 **Concern:** Provision for children with SEN should include a dedicated, secure outdoor play space, a breakout room, a sensory room and a health suite.
- 3.4.4 **Response:** Requirements for children with SEN would be assessed according to government guidelines for this type of specialist provision. Children's Services would work closely with the Complex Needs team to understand how the design of the building could be developed to meet all relevant aspects of these standards (site permitting).
- 3.4.5 **Concern:** The hall needs to be large enough to accommodate all staff and children.
- 3.4.6 **Response:** As part of the design phase, hall accommodation would be looked at. Working within the constraints of the site, wherever possible the aim would be to deliver hall accommodation of a sufficient size according to current school building requirements. All options for remodelling areas within the school / adjacent to the hall would be considered in order to maximize the use of the available space.
- 3.4.7 **Concern:** The expansion should include space for community/parents' use.
- 3.4.8 **Response:** Current building requirements for schools do not include provision for community/parents' use however some schools choose to utilise accommodation for this purpose. It would be for the leadership team at Brudenell Primary School to determine if use of accommodation within their school could be organised in such a way as to provide a space for community/parents' use.
- 3.4.9 **Concern:** That sufficient provision will be made for car parking.
- 3.4.10 **Response:** Children's Services would liaise closely with highways colleagues throughout the design phase to ensure that the School Travel Plan is updated and that requirements arising from it are incorporated into the final proposals.

A high proportion of children already travel to school on foot and it is anticipated that this would continue to be the case if the school were to expand, given the number of children aged 0 – 5 who live within a reasonable walking distance.

- 3.4.11 **Concern:** With additional children at the school, outdoor space would need developing in order to provide adequate opportunities for outdoor play. Suitable all-weather outside play provision would be needed.
- 3.4.12 **Response:** Use of outdoor play space would be looked at as part of the design process, taking in to account the needs of the school. Options for remodelling outdoor space could include the creation of a multi-use games area (MUGA). Given the nature of the school site, any remodelling of outside hard play areas would need to provide children with all-year round access.
- 3.4.13 **Concern:** Facilities should include provision for staff to cycle to work.

- 3.4.14 **Response:** The associated works required to expand the school would comply with the Planning Authority requirements which takes note of the School Travel Plan.
- 3.4.15 **Concern:** As well as expanding Brudenell Primary School, Spring Bank Primary School should also be expanded.
- 3.4.16 **Response:** Work is ongoing to provide sufficient local school places in many areas of the city including the Hyde Park and Headingley area. Updates will be provided on the LCC website and on Wordpress as potential schemes for delivering additional places progress to consultation. The Spring Bank Primary School site has been investigated and is not large enough to support an expansion.
- 3.4.17 **Concern:** With two separate buildings on site, it is important to ensure that the ethos of the school and the sense of togetherness is retained.
- 3.4.18 **Response:** Brudenell Primary School is a successful and popular school and creating additional places here would give more local families the opportunity to benefit from the high standards of teaching and learning that exist there.

The head teachers, senior leadership team and governing body are keen to retain the ethos of the school and are confident that they could manage any changes successfully without any detriment to the sense of “togetherness” that exists within the school. They would be able to draw upon the experience of colleagues from other schools that have expanded when considering how to retain a suitable atmosphere.

- 3.4.19 **Concern:** Interpretation services should be provided at consultation drop-in meetings.
- 3.4.20 **Response:** It is acknowledged that some stakeholders may require an interpreter in order to read the consultation booklet and provide a response. The consultation booklet states in 14 languages that interpretation services are available by prior arrangement and includes details of how to request this. We were not aware of any specific need for language support prior to the consultation drop-ins and would ask for schools to advise us ahead of drop-in sessions if additional support is required.

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 Consultation included a four week period of on-line consultation on the preferred options supported by use of the councils Talking Point system. The consultation included drop in sessions for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders at Brudenell Primary 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 Children's Services at these sessions. Drop in sessions were held at the beginning and end of the school day to talk to parents before and after they dropped off and picked up their children. A drop in session was also held in the evening.
- 4.1.4 Meetings were also held with the school council, staff and governing body of Brudenell Primary School.
- 4.1.5 Ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage, to both ensure awareness of all proposals city wide and to improve understanding of the impact of proposals in neighbouring areas. No concerns were raised. The consultation document for this proposal can be found at: <https://leedsschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/category/hyde-park/> or requested from the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team at: educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI form for Brudenell Primary School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report.

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 and SEN places for all the children in Leeds. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places is an efficient use of resources and 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. Brudenell Primary School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection.
- 4.3.3 Further objectives of the Best Council Plan 2015-2020 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 indicative budget for the proposed Brudenell Primary School expansion project is estimated at £1.461m based on a high-level calculation that considers the amount of new build, external/internal 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 Brudenell Primary school the interior of the council-owned former Brudenell Centre building would be re-modelled to provide classrooms and ancillary spaces.

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 proposals to increase primary provision in Hyde Park/Headingley have been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 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.

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 All of the respondents support the expansion of Brudenell Primary School, with many of them also supporting the concept of an expansion to the existing specialist SEN provision. Concerns raised during consultation have been considered, and on balance, the proposal remains strong. It addresses the need for school places in the area and offers the potential for additional SEN places.

5.3 The proposal has been supported during the public consultation, and although some concerns were raised, no respondents objected to it. This report demonstrates how the concerns raised may be addressed.

5.4 The additional places are required to ensure the authority meets its legal requirement to ensure sufficiency of primary provision for September 2017. There is evidence of local need for places and it is therefore recommended that the proposal be approved.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Brudenell Primary School from a capacity of 280 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 40 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.