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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

**EXECUTIVE BOARD: 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

**SUBJECT: Primary Review: Proposals for Meanwood Primary Planning Area – Deputation to Council**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1** Representatives from Miles Hill Primary School were granted a deputation to the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The deputation was in relation to the review of primary provision in the Meanwood Primary Planning Area and the proposal to amalgamate Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools in September 2007.

#### **2. THE ISSUE**

- 2.1** The deputation reiterated concerns about the effect of the closure of Miles Hill Primary School on the local community, particularly the loss of a focus for community support, drawing on the success of Surestart who are now established on site. Concern was also expressed about the timing and clarity of the whole process

#### **2.2 Education Leeds response**

The report to Executive Board in June 2006 fully acknowledged concerns about potential impact on the community. It emphasised that for the proposal to successfully proceed, there will need to be very careful management of the transition period to support parents, staff and pupils. Education Leeds will engage with local agencies and Council departments to plan implementation to minimise the negative impacts on the community. An important element of this will be to consider how current facilities can continue to be accessible to all members of the community. Options for consideration include continued use of the Miles Hill site and use of other facilities within the locality. Education Leeds will also work with all schools in the area, including the new school, to provide extended school provision that can be tailored to the community's needs.

Whilst the Meanwood planning area has experienced a protracted period of review, this reflects the complexity and sensitivity of the issues that are being addressed.

### **3. NEXT STEPS**

- 3.1** Statutory Notices will be published in September 2006. Following the representation period, all representations received will be reported back to Executive Board. The proposal will be finally determined by the School Organisation Committee later in the Autumn term

### **4 RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1** Executive Board is asked to note the concerns expressed in the deputation and the next steps described in the report.

Agenda Item:

Originator: George Turnbull

Telephone: 2243239

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EXECUTIVE BOARD: 16<sup>th</sup> August 2006

**SUBJECT: Primary Review: Proposals for Meanwood Primary Planning Area –  
Deputation to Council**

**Electoral wards Affected:**

Chapel Allerton  
Moortown

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

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### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Representatives from Miles Hill Primary School were granted a deputation to the Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The deputation was in relation to the Executive Board's decision to publish statutory notices proposing the amalgamation of Miles Hill Primary and Potternewton Primary with a new primary school occupying the Potternewton site. A copy of the deputation is attached.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Executive Board received a report on primary provision in the Meanwood Area at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2005. At that meeting it was agreed to undertake public consultation on a proposal to amalgamate Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools on the Potternewton site. This consultation took place in summer 2005 and was reported to Executive Board at their meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2005. At the request of the Board, Education Leeds undertook further work exploring the potential for a federation involving the schools in the area. Executive Board received a further report on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006 at which it was agreed to publish statutory notices proposing the closure of Miles Hill Primary, Potternewton Primary and the establishment of a new school on the Potternewton site in September 2007. This decision was called-in and considered afresh by a special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006, where it was released for

implementation without referral back to the Executive Board.

### **3.0 THE ISSUE**

- 3.1** The deputation reiterated concerns about the effect of the closure of Miles Hill Primary School on the local community, particularly the loss of a focus for community support, drawing on the success of Surestart who are now established on site. Concern was also expressed about the timing and clarity of the whole process

#### **Education Leeds response**

- 3.2** The report to Executive Board in June 2006 fully acknowledged concerns about potential impact on the community. It emphasised that for the proposal to successfully proceed, there will need to be very careful management of the transition period to support parents, staff and pupils. Education Leeds will engage with local agencies and Council departments to plan implementation to minimise the negative impacts on the community. An important element of this will be to consider how current facilities can continue to be accessible to all members of the community. Options for consideration include continued use of the Miles Hill site and use of other facilities within the locality. Education Leeds will also work with all schools in the area, including the new school, to provide extended school provision that can be tailored to the community's needs.

Whilst the Meanwood planning area has experienced a protracted period of review, this reflects the complexity and sensitivity of the issues that are being addressed.

### **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1** Statutory Notices will be published in September 2006. Following the representation period, all representations received will be reported back to Executive Board. The proposal will be finally determined by the School Organisation Committee later in the Autumn term

### **5. IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

- 5.1** Planning primary school places is relevant to a number of key priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan, in terms of managing the supply and demand of school places and school improvement. It is also relevant to the Closing the Gap agenda, with the planning of school places taking consideration of wider socio-economic factors and regeneration.

### **6.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1** This report provides information on deputations to the full Council on proposals considered as part of the statutory responsibility of the LEA to manage the supply and demand of school places.

### **7.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1** Executive Board is asked to note the concerns expressed in the deputation and the next steps described in the report.