



Report of the Chief Executive of Education Leeds

Executive Board: 16 August 2006

Subject: Storage units at Adel Primary School

Electoral Wards Affected:

Adel and Wharfedale

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Parents of children at Adel Primary School were granted a deputation to the Council on 21 June 2006. The deputation was in relation to the lack of consultation in relation to ongoing building work which compromises the amount of natural light in a number of classrooms.
2. Executive Board is asked to note the concerns expressed in the deputation.
3. Executive Board is asked to note that the authority's involvement and influence regarding this project is restricted as this is a school funded scheme.
4. Executive Board is asked to support Education Leeds' recommendation to the school that:
 - The modified project be completed.
 - The school review the success of the scheme during the next academic year and prioritise any potential alterations, to be funded by the school, through a premises development plan.
 - The school fully consult staff, pupils, parents and the local community prior to any future projects.

- The Authority use the issues raised by this project as a case study to highlight the importance of stakeholder consultation on Capital schemes to other schools.



Agenda Item:

Originator: Tony Palmer

Telephone: 2475342

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 16 August 2006

SUBJECT: Storage Units at Adel Primary School

Electoral wards Affected:

ALL WARDS

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 To outline the concerns of parents of Adel Primary school (raised at the deputation to Council) and put forward recommendations to be considered by Executive Board.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 In April 2005, Adel Primary School commissioned a project to provide additional storage units which was an acknowledged priority for the school. The council's Architectural Design Services designed the scheme which went on site in March 2006 and is due for completion over the summer.
- 2.2 The school fulfilled its principal responsibilities in that:
- The project addresses agreed priorities for the school (improved storage facilities and classroom supervision).
 - Professional advice was sought (from Leeds City Council's Architectural Design Service).
 - Planning permission was granted.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 A number of parents at the school are concerned that the new scheme restricts natural light in three of the rooms. Parents were granted a deputation to the Council on 21st June 2006, in relation to this issue, the management of the scheme and the perceived lack of consultation with parents and pupils. The deputation requested that the school governors, Architectural Design Services and Education Leeds identify funding for a more appropriate solution.
- 3.2 The Education Leeds Health and Safety Team have established that light levels within the classrooms are above the legal minimum. This, combined with the project being funded fully from the school's devolved capital budget restricts the Authority's responsibility for this project.
- 3.3 The Head Teacher has listened to the concerns of parents (outlined below) and as a result the design has been modified. All stores now have roof lights and three have high level windows.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

- 4.1 Responsibility for this project lies principally with the Headteacher and the Governing Body of Adel Primary school. The authority's role is principally to advise and support, at the school's request.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The project was funded entirely from school devolved capital. Central funds would not normally be made available to finance a more appropriate solution, particularly as it has been established that light levels are above the legal minimum (see 3.2).
- 5.2 Any additional alterations will have to be funded from the school's 2008/9 devolved capital budget as the school has 'drawn down' their 2007/8 allocation to fund the scheme. Education Leeds will support a request to draw down the 2008/9 budget to fund a new scheme if it addresses any recognised health and safety concerns.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Education Leeds and the Development Department are in agreement that there are alternative design solutions which could have addressed the storage problem without impacting on natural light, although such solutions would have been more expensive. Stopping the work at this late stage could make the situation worse for the school and would probably add to the cost of the scheme.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Executive Board is asked to support Education Leeds' recommendation to the school that:

- The modified project be completed.
- The school review the success of the scheme during the next academic year and prioritise any potential alterations, to be funded by the school, through a premises development plan.
- The school fully consult staff, pupils, parents and the local community prior to any future projects.
- The Authority use the issues raised by this project as a case study to highlight the importance of stakeholder consultation on Capital schemes to other schools.