
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 22 July 2009

SUBJECT: Proposals for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Area

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 The report informs Executive Board of the outcome of the statutory notice published on linked proposals to
 - expand Richmond Hill Primary School by one form of entry
 - add new community specialist provision for children with special educational needs (SEN)
 - close neighbouring Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

and recommends the Executive Board approve the three linked proposals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 At its meeting on 1 April 2009 the Executive Board agreed that statutory notices be published for the proposals, following consultation earlier in the year.
- 3 The statutory notice was published on 24 April 2009 on the three linked proposals. The notice for the expansion of Richmond Hill expired on 22 May 2009. The notice for the resourced provision and the closure expired on 5 June 2009. No objections were received to any part of the proposals.
- 4 Under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 the local authority has until 22 July 2009 to make a final decision on the proposals. The Executive Board has chosen to set up the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider school organisation proposals in the event of any objections. In the absence of any objections to these specific proposals they have not been convened, and the Executive Board are required to make a decision on the proposal.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5 There would be annual revenue savings of approximately £140,000 associated with the closure of Mount St Mary's should this proposal proceed, once the new

school is built and occupied. This would in part be offset by an increase in running costs at Richmond Hill Primary as a two form entry school.

- 6 The capital funding for the new build would be delivered through the Primary Capital Programme and would be the subject of subsequent reports to the Executive Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7 Executive Board is asked to note that there were no objections to the statutory notice and approve the linked proposals to:
- Enlarge Richmond Hill Primary School by one form of entry
 - Establish community specialist provision for children with a statement of special educational needs at the new Richmond Hill Primary School
 - Close Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School

Agenda Item:

Originator: Lesley Savage

Telephone: 2243867

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EXECUTIVE BOARD: 22 July 2009

SUBJECT: Proposals for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Area

Electoral Wards Affected:

Burmantofts and Richmond Hill

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in
(Details contained in the Report)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 The report informs Executive Board of the outcome of the statutory notice published on linked proposals to

- expand Richmond Hill Primary School by one form of entry
- add new community specialist provision for children with special educational needs (SEN)
- close neighbouring Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School.

and recommends the Executive Board approve the three linked proposals.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 A public consultation on the proposals ran from 5 January to 13 February 2009. At its subsequent meeting on 1 April 2009 the Executive Board agreed that statutory notices be published for the three linked proposals.

2.2 Statutory notices were published on 24 April 2009 for the three linked proposals. A copy of the statutory notice is in Appendix 1. The notice period for the expansion

of Richmond Hill expired on 22 May 2009. The notice for the resourced provision and the closure expired on 5 June 2009. No objections were received to any part of the proposals.

2.3 Under the Education and Inspection Act 2006 the local authority has until 22 July 2009 to make a final decision on the proposals, otherwise the issue must be referred to the schools adjudicator. The Executive Board has chosen to set up the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider school organisation proposals in the event of any objections. In the absence of any objections to these specific proposals, and in accordance with their terms of reference, they have not been convened, and the Executive Board are required to make a decision on the proposal. The decision maker is required to consider 4 key issues:

- Is there any information missing?
- Does the published notice comply with the statutory requirements?
- Has the public consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?
- Are the proposals 'related' to other published proposals and should be considered together?

3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Richmond Hill Primary School had been identified through the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change (PCPSfC) as a high priority for investment. High scoring against the asset management criteria qualify it for rebuilding rather than simple refurbishment.

3.2 The nearby Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School is currently housed entirely in temporary accommodation, on a constrained site, with limited outdoor play space, and adjacent to the A64 dual carriageway. The site does not meet current guidance for a new school. The Catholic Diocese have indicated that there is no long term need for the Catholic places provided by the school, and they are therefore unwilling to invest in improvements on this site, beyond maintaining it for health and safety issues. There is however a need for the places as community provision.

3.3 Data supports the development of better community provision for primary aged children with complex communication needs across the city. There is currently no provision in the east of the city but data suggests a rising trend in the identification of children with such difficulties. The PCPSfC identified SEN provision as a key priority in determining specific schemes for schools identified in the programme. Provision for up to a maximum of 16 children at the rebuilt Richmond Hill Primary School would form part of the project, to serve the east of the city.

3.4 The opportunity exists, through the PCP funding and these linked proposals, to secure a brand new, state of the art school, which can accommodate the pupils of both existing schools and provide a secure long term future for primary provision to serve the whole community.

3.5 The original submission within the PCP plan was to expand Richmond Hill to 2FE without the closure of Mount St Mary's. Throughout the consultation Education Leeds have stated that they would continue to monitor the demographic situation, and develop alternative proposals for expansion should they be needed. This planning process has been conducted in parallel with the consultation, and it is the view of Education Leeds that expansion in this area is needed. This would offer both the secure long term future for the community of Mount St Mary's Catholic

Primary School, and meet the Authority's duty to provide sufficient places. The plans for expansion of provision city wide are the subject of a separate paper also going to Executive Board in July 2009.

- 3.6 The proposal is to close Mount St Mary's from August 2010, and use the facility initially as part of a split site two form of entry Richmond Hill Primary School, before moving into the new 2 form entry school building when it becomes available through PCP. This helps bring the two communities together to form a collective identity and plan the transition to the new building as early as possible. It also minimises any confusion for parents applying for reception places at a school they would know to be closing, and it also mitigates some of the risks associated with co-ordinating the revised admissions arrangements and the new building project. It is anticipated the new building will be available for use in 2012.
- 3.7 A total of 8 responses were received during the public consultation. These were detailed in the Executive Board Report of 1 April, and are summarised in Appendix 2. No objections to the statutory notice were received.

4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There would be annual revenue savings of approximately £140,000 associated with the closure of Mount St Mary's should this proposal proceed, once the new school is built and occupied. This would in part be offset by an increase in running costs at Richmond Hill Primary as a two form entry school.
- 4.2 The capital funding for the new build would be delivered through the Primary Capital Programme and would be the subject of subsequent reports to the Executive Board.
- 4.3 Leeds City Council Executive Board will need to make a decision by 22 July 2009.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Board is asked to approve the linked proposals to:

- Enlarge Richmond Hill Primary School by one form of entry
- Establish community provision for children with a statement of special educational needs at the new Richmond Hill Primary School
- Close Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School

6.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS

Proposals for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Area 1 April 2009

Options for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill Planning Area - 3 Dec 2008 Executive Board

Primary review: Richmond Hill Planning Area – 6 July 2005 Executive Board

APPENDIX 1 Statutory Notice

LINKED PROPOSALS TO EXPAND RICHMOND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, AND TO CLOSE MOUNT ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, AND TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY SPECIALIST PROVISION FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AT RICHMOND HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

PART 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Leeds City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Richmond Hill (community) Primary School, Clark Crescent, Leeds, LS9 8QF from 01 September 2010.

This proposal is to expand the school from 30 pupils per year group to 60 pupils per year group. This will require a physical enlargement of the school from 189 pupils to 420 pupils.

The current capacity of the school is 189 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 173. The current admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

A new school building will be provided on the existing site as part of this proposal, which should be available in 2012. Until then the school will operate as a split site, using the current Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School site.

PART 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Leeds City Council, c/o Education Leeds, 10th Floor Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT intends to discontinue Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School (VA), Raincliffe Road, Richmond Hill, Leeds LS9 9LR on 31 August 2010.

It is expected that all existing pupils will be offered a place at Richmond Hill Primary School, Clark Crescent, Leeds LS9 8QF. Pupils choosing not to take up this offer will be able to apply for places at alternative schools. The Catholic diocese will assist those preferring to continue a Catholic Education to find a place at an alternative Catholic school. Any pupils preferring an alternative non Catholic school will be assisted by Education Leeds to find an alternative place using the normal application process.

The alternative provision at Richmond Hill Primary School is 0.4 miles from Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and so the proposal is unlikely to significantly affect car usage. The normal transport policy will apply to all pupils.

There are currently no children with statements of special educational needs attending Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School, and no specific provision for them. There are however some children with recognised additional need. Provision for these children will be enhanced by providing a modern fit for purpose building, with better accessibility, and which includes specific provision with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

PART 3

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Leeds City Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Richmond Hill (Community) Primary School, Clark Crescent, Leeds, LS9 8QF from 01 September 2012.

It is intended that the school will make provision for the following type(s) of special educational needs: Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Moderate Learning Difficulty, Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulty, Speech, Language and Communication Needs

The proposal is to add provision for up to 16 children with severe communication difficulties (autism) to serve the east of Leeds. The provision will be part of the planned new building for the school, and will be available for admission from 1st September 2012.

OBJECTIONS AND COMMENTS ON ALL PARTS OF THE PROPOSALS

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals and transport policy can be obtained from: School Organisation Team, Education Leeds, 9th Floor West Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT or www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on part 1.

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposals, any person may object to or make comments on parts 2 and 3.

All objections or comments on any part can be made by sending them to Chief Executive, Education Leeds, c/o School Organisation Team, Education Leeds, 9th Floor West Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT, or by email to educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk.

Signed:

Director of Children's Services

Leeds City Council

Publication Date: 24th April 2009