
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 22 July 2009

SUBJECT: PROPOSED INCREASES IN ADMISSION LIMITS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report to Executive Board is:

- to note the outcome of the ongoing discussions with individual schools
- to seek approval to increase the admission limit for named primary schools for 2010/11 admissions
- to identify next steps in making provision from 2011/12 onwards.

1.2 Since the last report to Members, Education Leeds has worked with a number of primary schools in order to develop robust plans for future primary provision. Individual meetings arranged by Education Leeds have been held with headteachers and governors in those areas where need for primary places is required for 2010/11. These meetings shared the latest projections, reflecting the rising birth numbers in their area, and agreed the need to expand provision.

1.3 14 schools have been identified for increase in admissions in 2010 providing 260 places through expansion of facilities. All these schools have agreed to these changes. Executive Board have already agreed, through the Annual Admissions Consultation, increases at 5 other schools yielding a further 65 additional places.

1.4 Following a period of consultation these proposals have now been submitted to the School Adjudicator for determination.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Board is recommended to:

- to note the outcome of the ongoing discussions with individual schools
- to seek approval to increase the admission limit for named primary schools for 2010/11 admissions
- request a further report which identifies the next steps in making provision from 2011/12 onwards.



Agenda Item:

Originator: Jackie Green

Telephone: 2477163

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SUBJECT: PROPOSED INCREASES IN ADMISSION LIMITS FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

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)

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- to note the outcome of the ongoing discussions with individual schools
- to seek approval to increase the admission limit for named primary schools for 2010/11 admissions
- to identify next steps in making provision from 2011/12 onwards.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 The Local Authority's statutory duty is to secure sufficient school provision for all of the children in its area. Our response to this duty is driven by important principles:

- Ensuring sufficient local places for all of the children in the local community
- Continuing, as far as possible, to meet parental preferences
- Where possible, expanding successful and popular schools
- Ensuring high quality accommodation
- Achieving value for money solutions
- Optimising the size of the school to meet parental preference and improving outcomes for children
- Making appropriate provision for children with SEN.
- Responding to statute and meeting statutory responsibilities laid down in the School Admissions Code.

2.2 At the Executive Board meeting of the 17th June, Members noted the changing context for the provision of primary school places and the potential demand on the future capital programme in Leeds. Members also approved communication with relevant stakeholders including the Schools Adjudicator, and agreed to receive later individual school reports pertaining to exact spend/planning proposals.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Since the last report to Members, Education Leeds has worked with around 25 primary schools in order to develop robust plans for future primary provision. Individual meetings arranged by Education Leeds have been held with headteachers and governors in those areas where need for primary places is required for 2010/11. These meetings shared the latest pupil projections, reflecting the rising birth numbers in their area, and agreed the need to expand provision. We have assessed the physical potential of each site in partnership with the schools, to be adapted or expanded to admit more pupils. We have identified any risks an expansion might bring. The School Improvement Service have begun to support individual school needs to ensure schools continue to be successful and improving. The school improvement service is committed to ensuring that schools undergoing expansion will continue to provide a good quality education and continue on their journey of improvement. As part of the agenda for the SIP visit the strategies for ensuring continued improvement are being discussed. Additional adviser support will be provided where necessary.

3.2 14 schools have been identified for increase in admissions in 2010 providing 260 places through expansion of facilities. All these schools have agreed to these changes. Executive Board have already agreed, through the Annual Admissions Consultation, increases at 5 other schools yielding a further 65 additional places. A number of schools have indicated their willingness to offer flexibility to admit additional pupils should the need arise. Education Leeds has consulted on these proposals with every other primary school in Leeds, with all elected members, with both Dioceses, with neighbouring local authorities and also published a public notice inviting any views on these proposed increases. The proposals were also published on the Education Leeds website inviting comments. The consultation period ended on Friday 3rd July 2009.

3.3 The schools proposed for expansion in 2010 are:

Victoria	50 to 60
Greenmount	45 to 60
Swarcliffe	30 to 45
New Beverley	45 to 60
Hugh Gaitskell	75 to 90
Beeston	60 to 90
Ireland Wood	30 to 60
Iveson	30 to 45
Highfield	45 to 60
Thorner	20 to 30
Mill Field	45 to 60
Ebor Gardens	30 to 60
Blenheim	30 to 60
Ingram Road	30 to 45

3.4 Since the Admission Arrangements for 2010 have already been determined by the Local Authority, any change to them requires the submission of an in year variation request to the Schools Adjudicator, who will consider each request on its merits.

3.5 All views expressed in writing during the consultation have now been forwarded to the Schools Adjudicator, together with a completed pro forma for each school which provides supporting information. The Adjudicator is now considering these proposals with a final determination expected by 14th August 2009. Agreed admission limits will then be published in the Admissions Booklet for parents starting school in 2010.

4.0 OTHER ISSUES

4.1 Education Leeds will produce a School Organisation Plan to provide a strategic overview in relation to school places and pupil numbers for each of the Leeds school planning areas. It will be shared with elected members so that they are clear at an early stage about the issues facing the communities they represent and able to positively influence and shape any response to the increases in the primary population. It will also be shared with schools, stakeholders and partners and neighbouring authorities. The Plan will describe what will be required to discharge our statutory obligations, and will describe how adding to and re-shaping the primary estate requires consideration of the capital and revenue resources required for the future.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 The next steps include clarification of the pressures for 2011/12 onwards. A series of informal discussions between groups of schools and ward members will take place early in the Autumn term, in areas of projected need, to establish where further places could be introduced. Through a consultative process we intend to bring forward proposals for increased admission limits as part of the annual

consultation on admission arrangements, which commences around the end of November each year. Responses to the consultation will be considered by Executive Board prior to determining the Admission Arrangements for September 2011 in March/April 2010.

5.2 Given the significantly increased numbers of births in the city our ability to expand existing schools is likely to become increasingly constrained beyond 2013. The changing need may generate creative solutions in some areas, but a need for new schools is likely to arise in parts of the city. (The School Organisation Plan and the area based consultations will identify any areas of the city where new schools are required). This will require close working with colleagues in the Development Department to identify and acquire appropriate sites. If new schools are required with capital implications there would be informal consultations, identification of preferred bidders in advance of a competition to run the school, formal consultation on any proposal, a competition, followed by a statutory process. There would also be a planning application and a procurement exercise leading to construction.

6.0 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposed increases in admission limit for 2010 have been developed on the basis that each of the schools could, with support or additional space, accommodate the children in reception classes in 2010. Consideration will need to be made in the near future about the longer term planning for these increased admissions. In each case the school could be adapted to permanently accommodate this future growth. In most cases this is likely to constitute a prescribed alteration to a school. This would then require a consultation to be undertaken and a statutory process to be concluded. A report seeking permission to consult on such proposals will follow in due course.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Board is recommended to:

- to note the outcome of the ongoing discussions with individual schools
- to seek approval to increase the admission limit for named primary schools for 2010/11 admissions
- request a further report which identifies the next steps in making provision from 2011/12 onwards.

Background Papers:-

- i) Executive Board Report June 2009 "Expanding Primary Place Provision"
- ii) Executive Board report April 2009 "Annual Report on Admissions Arrangements for September 2010"
- iii) Executive Board report in June 2006 "A framework for Managing School Places"

