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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

ADMISSIONS FORUM: 1 October 2009

SUBJECT: Demographic report and future projections of pupil numbers

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 The report gives information on:
  - demographic trends, including births and new arrivals;
  - future projections of primary and secondary populations; and
  - changes in school provision.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 Over recent years there has been an increase in the birth rate, both nationally and locally. This has been reflected in an increase in the number of pupils entering Reception, which has risen by about 800 in two years. Whilst we still have surplus places in primary and it is possible to continue to offer places to all children, the population increase is affecting the number of parents who are offered one of their preferences.
- 3 The increase in numbers has been more pronounced in areas inside the boundary of the ring road, but population growth is becoming a widespread phenomenon in Leeds as a whole. Rather than a small number of 'hotspots', most parts of the city are affected to a greater or lesser degree. It should be viewed as a city-wide issue.
- 4 The secondary sector has seen a slight fall in Year 7 numbers since 2004. Projections for 2009/10 had forecast a fall, but the admissions process is indicating a slight increase on last year. Generally Year 7 numbers are expected to be steady or slightly fall until 2015, after which time the current increase in births will feed through to the secondary sector, leading to a sharp rise from 2016 onwards.

#### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5 Reports have been submitted to the Executive Board over the past six months outlining recommended actions to increase primary provision. These include

proposing an increase in the published admission numbers of various schools for 2010/11, resulting in a potential increase of more than 300 primary places. Fuller proposals to permanently expand a number of schools from 2010 will follow. There will be a need to increase primary places for 2011 and again for 2012.

- 6 Expansion schemes will be managed through the Education capital programme, although a bid has been submitted to the DCSF for additional funding to support these in 2010 and 2011.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7 Admissions Forum is asked to note the content of the report including:
- continuing increases in birth rate;
  - plans for expanded provision for 2009 and 2010;
  - a large and sustained rise in primary projections for the foreseeable future, with a consequent need for continued expansion of provision; and
  - steady or slightly decreasing secondary Year 7 enrolment for the next 5 or 6 years.

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### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 The report gives information on:
- demographic trends, including births and new arrivals;
  - future projections of primary and secondary populations; and
  - changes in school provision.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Over recent years there has been an increase in the birth rate, both nationally and locally. This has been reflected in an increase in the number of pupils entering Reception, which has risen by about 800 in two years. Whilst we still have surplus places in primary and it is possible to continue to offer places to all children, the population increase is affecting the number of parents who are offered one of their preferences.
- 2.2 The increase in numbers has been more pronounced in areas inside the boundary of the ring road, but population growth is becoming a widespread phenomenon in Leeds as a whole. Rather than a small number of 'hotspots', most parts of the city are affected to a greater or lesser degree. It should be viewed as a city-wide issue.
- 2.3 The secondary sector has seen a slight fall in Year 7 numbers since 2004. Projections for 2009/10 had forecast a fall, but the admissions process is indicating a slight increase on last year. Generally Year 7 numbers are expected to be steady or slightly fall until 2015, after which time the current increase in births will feed through to the secondary sector, leading to a sharp rise from 2016 onwards.

### **3 MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.0 The annual number of births in Leeds continues to increase, as shown in Table 1 below and in Chart 1. Data are supplied by the Child Health Service of Leeds NHS - it should be noted that the 2009 data has only just been received, and are still subject to quality checking procedures.

Table 1: Births in Leeds

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Births	8498	8362	8227	8227	7628	7562	7783	8094	8192	8444	8897	9168	9569	9660

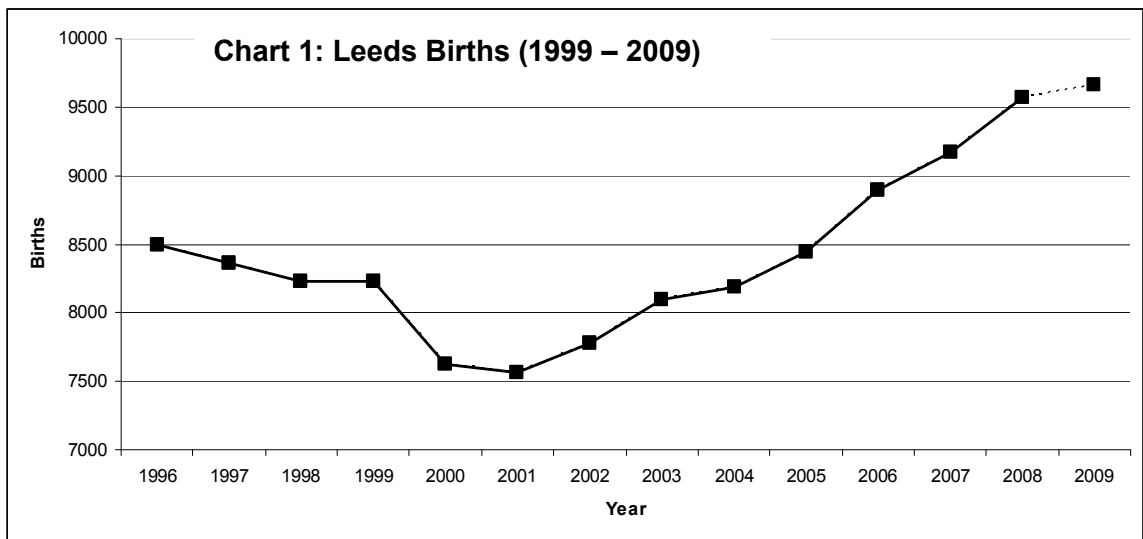
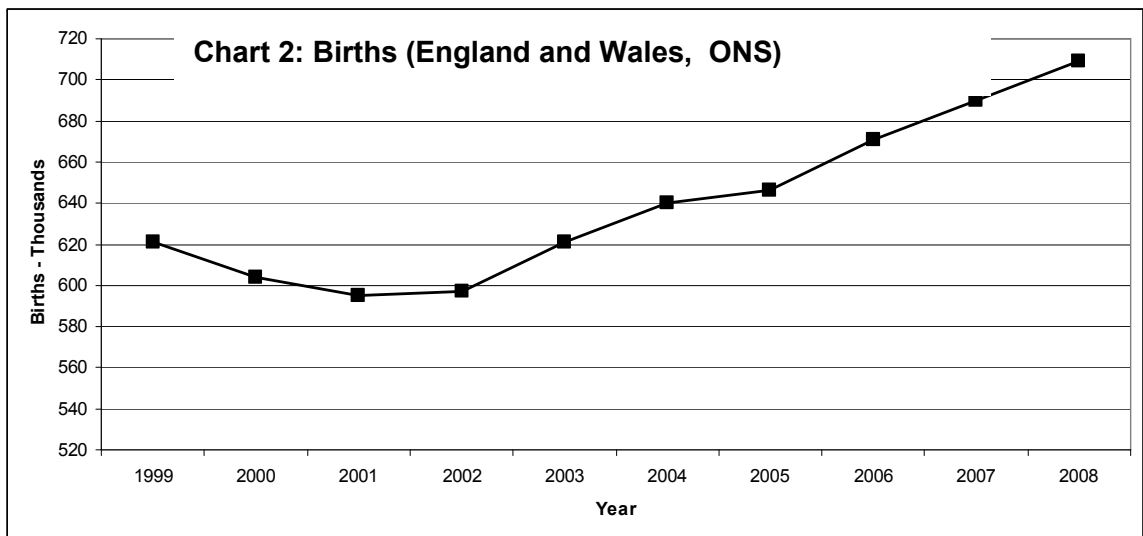
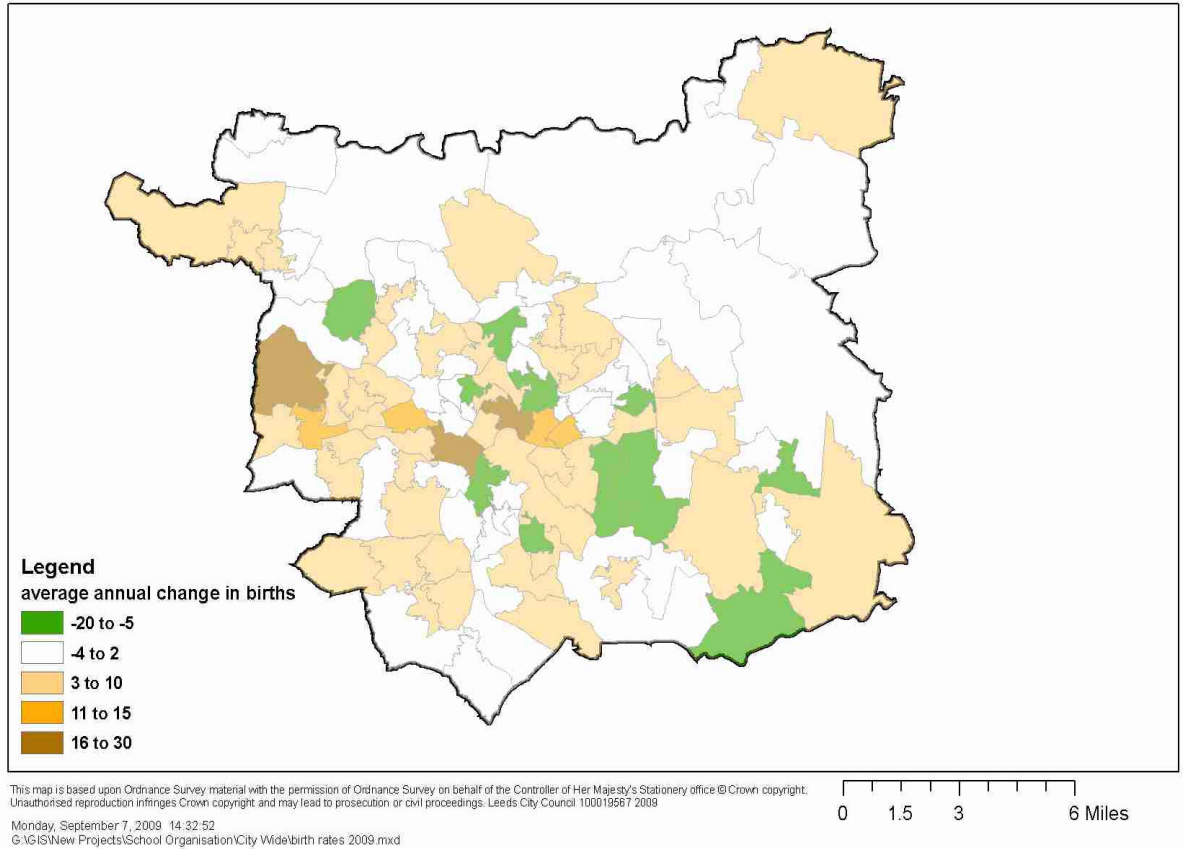


Table 1 and Chart 1 clearly show the magnitude of the rise in the number of births seen in recent years. Typically, they have been rising by about 250 - 300 per year. Leeds is not alone in experiencing such a phenomenon, as can be seen from the very similar trend in national births shown in Chart 2.

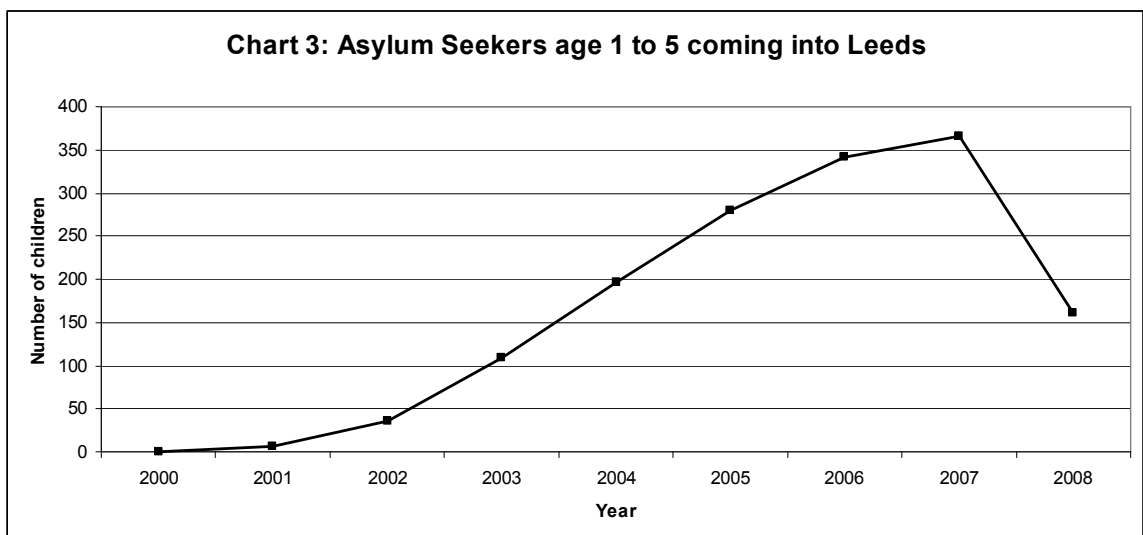


3.1 The increase in numbers has been more pronounced in areas in the inner east, inner south and west of Leeds. A large part of the city is affected to a greater or lesser degree, and hence it should be viewed as a city-wide issue. Map 1 shows the variation in the change in annual number of births across the city, based on average changes between 2006 and 2009.

Map1: Average annual change in births by area 2006 - 2009



3.2 New arrivals including asylum seekers and economic migrants have been a feature of the demographic situation in Leeds for the past ten or more years. Reliable statistics on economic migration are very difficult to obtain. There are some indications from data collected by Education Leeds that the number of children in Leeds schools from eastern Europe may be falling. In support of this, on a national scale, it has been reported (BBC Website, 8 September 2009) that worker registration numbers from Poland have been falling for the past eighteen months. For asylum seekers the statistical data is more robust, and suggests that the number of asylum seeker children arriving in Leeds declined last year (Leeds Refugee and Asylum Service).



Data for other age groups of children show similar decreases in the past year. It is too soon to say whether this is a trend and will continue; or whether these decreases are due to changes in legislation, the recession or some other factors.

- 3.3 Primary population projections indicate a steady increase in Reception numbers from the low point in 2005/6, and are projected to rise by nearly 31% by 2012/13. Across the whole primary enrolment, numbers are projected to rise by 12% in the same period. For the next few years, many schools will find themselves in the position of losing comparatively small Year 6 groups and receiving large Reception groups.

**Table 2: Total primary projections (Sept 2009)**

	<b>REC</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
2003/2004	7,740	56,151
2004/2005	7,456	55,518
2005/2006	7,428	54,805
2006/2007	7,502	54,193
2007/2008	7,734	53,760
2008/2009	8,088	54,029
2009/2010	8,481	54,878
2010/2011	8,972	56,692
2011/2012	9,349	58,881
2012/2013	9,722	61,410

- 3.4 The secondary sector has seen a slight fall in Year 7 numbers since 2004. Projections for 2009/10 had forecast a fall, but the admissions process is indicating a slight increase on last year. Generally Year 7 numbers are expected to be steady or slightly fall until 2015, after which time the current increase in births will feed through to the secondary sector, leading to a sharp rise from 2016 onwards.

**Table 3: Total secondary school projections (Sept 2009)**

	<b>YR7</b>	<b>TOTAL 11 to 16</b>
2003\4	8,341	41,169
2004\5	8,158	42,047
2005\6	8,160	42,151
2006\7	7,986	41,628
2007\8	7,953	40,873
2008\9	7,789	40,095
2009\10	7,742	40,070
2010\11	7,675	39,382
2011\12	7,403	38,606
2012\13	7,312	37,795
2013\14	7,453	37,275
2014\15	7,653	37,231
2015\16	7,921	37,520
2016\17	8,296	38,373
2017\18	8,490	39,469
2018\19	9,040	41,028
2019\20	9,379	42,668

#### **4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Reports have been submitted to the Executive Board over the past six months outlining recommended actions to increase primary provision. These include proposing an increase in the published admission numbers of various schools for

2010/11, resulting in a potential increase of more than 300 primary places. Fuller proposals to permanently expand a number of schools from 2010 will follow. There will be a need to increase primary places for 2011 and again for 2012.

- 4.2 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of schools for 2010 will be funded through the Education Capital Programme. Education Leeds will report separately on each scheme, in due course, seeking financial approval for the specific schemes. A bid for additional basic need 'safety valve' funding has been submitted to the DCSF to support the capital delivery in 2010 and 2011. If the bid is unsuccessful, the Education capital programme will continue to be reviewed and reprioritised to deliver this statutory responsibility.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Admissions Forum is asked to note the content of the report including:

- continuing increases in births in Leeds;
- plans for expanded primary provision in 2010;
- a large and sustained rise in primary projections for the foreseeable future, with a consequent need for continued expansion of provision; and
- steady or slightly decreasing secondary Year 7 enrolment for the next 5 or 6 years.

## **6.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS**

22 July 2009 Executive Board Proposed increases in Admissions Limits for September 2010

17 June Executive Board 2009 Expanding Primary Place Provision