
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 9 December 2009

SUBJECT: Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2011

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 In October 2009 Executive Board approved plans to consult on the permanent expansion of 17 primary schools to take additional pupils with effect from September 2010. It was noted that further proposals for expansion from 2011 onwards were being developed to meet continued population growth. This report seeks the permission of the Executive Board to consult on those further proposals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 In July 2009, the Executive Board approved plans to change admissions limits at a number of primary schools across Leeds in order to meet increasing demand for primary places for September 2010. In October 2009 the Board approved the formal consultation on plans to permanently expand schools in line with these new admissions limits. The Schools Adjudicator has indicated that the Authority should proceed with that consultation, and use its own powers to admit increased numbers in 2010.
- 3 In addition, the October report identified the need for further expansion in 2011 and subsequent years to keep pace with the changing population. This report seeks permission to commence the consultation to permanently expand more schools in 2011 to meet projected demand.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of schools for 2011, including the schools outlined in this report, will be funded through the Education capital programme. The estimated costs are £5m at this stage. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board. A bid has been submitted to the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) for additional funding. As yet there has been no determination or outcome notified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5 The Executive Board is asked to:

i) approve statutory formal consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand the primary schools identified in Appendix 1 of this report;

ii) note that a report detailing the outcome of these consultations will be brought back to Executive Board in Spring 2010; and

iii) note that proposals for further primary school expansions from 2012 onwards are being developed which will be the subject of further reports to the Board in due course.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 9 December 2009

SUBJECT: Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2011

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)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 In October 2009 Executive Board approved plans to consult on the permanent expansion of 17 primary schools to take additional pupils with effect from September 2010. It was noted that further proposals for expansion from 2011 onwards were being developed to meet continued population growth. This report seeks the permission of the Executive Board to consult on those further proposals.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 In July 2009, the Executive Board approved plans to change admissions limits at a number of primary schools across Leeds in order to meet increasing demand for primary places for September 2010. In October 2009 the Board approved the formal consultation on plans to permanently expand schools in line with these new admissions limits.
- 2.2 The proposed changes to admissions limits were submitted to the Schools Adjudicator. He has indicated that the Authority should use its existing powers to admit above the published admissions limits to meet the need for 2010. Furthermore the Adjudicator also suggests the formal consultation on permanent

expansion already agreed by the Executive Board offers the appropriate level of consultation on these expansions.

- 2.3 In addition, the October report identified the need for further expansion in 2011 and subsequent years to keep pace with the changing population. This report seeks permission to commence the consultation in January 2010 to permanently expand more schools to meet projected demand for entry in September 2011.

3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 Under The Education and Inspections Act 2006, the enlargement of the premises of a school which would increase the physical capacity of the school
- by more than 30 pupils, and
 - by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser)
- constitutes a prescribed alteration, which requires a statutory process to confirm the change and make it permanent. Changing the capacity of the school means making sure the school has the right amount of space available for classrooms as well essential non-teaching activities, such as hall, storage and staff rooms. It may be achieved by changing the way the school facilities are used at the moment, or by adding extra accommodation on school grounds, or both. Where extra rooms are needed we will provide modern, high-quality modular accommodation, built to last for decades, which can be put up quickly on school grounds. This consultation does not replace the normal planning process, which would still be followed before any extra accommodation is placed on site.
- 3.2 A complete list of the proposed expansions for 2011 is contained in Appendix 1. All of the schools for which expansion is planned for 2011 will need a statutory process. Some will require additional buildings, whilst others may be able to meet need from remodelling and redesignation of existing space.
- 3.3 The annual consultation on admissions limits will include these proposals. Both processes will be complete by August 2010, allowing parents who are then expressing a preference for places in September 2011 to understand the sizes of the schools that will be available to them.
- 3.4 Should these proposals proceed following consultation, Education Leeds will work with individual schools to ensure that they have sufficient accommodation to admit to their higher admission number by September 2011.
- 3.5 These proposals have been developed after a series of meetings with all heads and chairs of governors during October / November 2009. At these meetings the current local context, existing 2010 proposals, and projected need were shared. Schools have already been involved in helping to shape proposals for 2011 and beyond. Desk top appraisals, further site visits and discussions with head teachers have been part of the process to establish those schemes being brought forward for 2011. All governing bodies will have been engaged in the proposals by the time the Board consider this report.
- Consultation**
- 3.6 The proposed consultation will run from 4 January to 12 February 2010. A single consultation document will be produced which describes the changing demographic context and pupil projections, and breaks this down to describe the local demographic context. This will be made available to all of the schools and communities affected, including pupils, parents and carers, school governors, ward members and other stakeholders.

- 3.7 A series of public meetings will be organised in the communities involved. Where there are groups of neighbouring schools, a single meeting will be arranged within that community. The document will make clear how anyone can respond during the consultation. It will describe the subsequent processes to be followed and further opportunities to comment or influence decisions prior to a final determination.

4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of schools for 2011, including the schools outlined in this report, will be funded through the Education capital programme. The estimated costs are £5m at this stage. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board. Phasing of some schemes may result in expenditure over two or more financial years.
- 4.2 Proposals for further expansions in 2012 and beyond are being developed. These will be brought to Executive Board in autumn 2011 for permission to consult. The anticipated need for places is expected to be on a similar scale in 2012 to those for 2010 and 2011, potentially a further 10 or more forms of entry in each year. It is likely that our ability to respond to this need through expansion on existing school sites will become more challenging, and new schools will be needed. This would significantly increase the resource requirements. Alternative ways of organising schools, including the delivery of extended services, early years and transition to high school may also need to be considered.
- 4.3 A bid for additional basic need 'safety valve' funding has been submitted to the DCSF to support the capital delivery in 2010 and 2011 but this would not meet the full costs. The Education capital programme will need to be reprioritised to assess the scope to deliver this statutory responsibility whatever the success of this bid.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Executive Board is asked to;
- i) approve statutory formal consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand the primary schools identified in Appendix 1 of this report;
 - ii) note that a report detailing the outcome of these consultations will be brought back to Executive Board in Spring 2010; and
 - iii) note that proposals for further primary school expansions from 2012 onwards are being developed which will be the subject of further reports to the Board in due course.

6.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS

22 July 2009 Proposed increases in Admissions Limits for September 2010
17 June 2009 Expanding Primary Place Provision
17 June 2009 Proposal to add specialist community provision at Whitkirk Primary School for pupils with complex physical difficulties and medical needs.
October 2009 Letter from Office of Schools Adjudicator
October 2009 Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2011

APPENDIX 1 – Proposed Changes for 2011

Planning Area	School Name	Current Capacity	Proposed Capacity
Morley	Blackgates Primary	300	420
Belle Isle	Clapgate Primary	315	420
	Windmill Primary	315	420
Armley / Wortley	Ryecroft Primary	210	420
Calverley	Calverley CE	270	420
Cross Gates	Cross Gates Primary	210	420
Horsforth	West End Primary	210	420 (315)