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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

**EXECUTIVE BOARD: 12 February 2010**

**SUBJECT: Outcome of consultations on the expansion of primary provision at Gildersome Primary School in 2011 and at Richmond Hill Primary School in 2012**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### 1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

In October 2009 the Executive Board approved statutory public consultation on prescribed alterations to;

- permanently expand Richmond Hill Primary School from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from September 2012 when it is due to move into new purpose-built premises delivered through the Primary Capital Programme
- permanently expand Gildersome Primary School from 210 to 420 pupils with effect from September 2011 when it will occupy significantly refurbished and extended premises, also delivered through the Primary Capital Programme.

This report details the outcome of these separate consultations, and seeks permission to publish statutory notices.

#### 2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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. However, a further statutory process is required where expansion of the school's physical capacity is required, necessitating a public consultation. Both Richmond Hill Primary and Gildersome Primary have been approved as schools to benefit from significant capital investment through the Primary Capital Programme, but are also in areas of population growth. In order to progress the design of appropriate building schemes a consultation and decision on the future size of these schools is required.

In 2009, the Executive Board gave permission to consult on these proposed expansions, and this report details the outcome of that consultation.

#### 3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The capital works required to deliver the expansion of these two schools for 2011 and 2012 respectively will be delivered as part of the Primary Capital Programme. The costs for the expansion element of the projects are estimated in the region of

£1.7m for Gildersome Primary and £2.3m for Richmond Hill Primary, and will be subject to review and development. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board in due course.

#### 4 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Executive Board is asked to;

- i) note the outcome of statutory public consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand Gildersome Primary and Richmond Hill Primary Schools
- ii) to approve the publication of a statutory notice proposing
  - a) the expansion of Gildersome Primary School to a new capacity of 420 pupils from September 2011, with an admission limit of 60 pupils
  - b) the expansion of Richmond Hill Primary School to a new capacity of 630 pupils from September 2012, with an admission limit of 90 pupils.
- iii) note that a report detailing the response to the statutory notice will be brought back to the Executive Board in Summer 2010 for a final decision.

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## REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

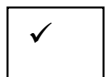
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### Electoral Wards Affected:

**Morley North  
Burmantofts and Richmond Hill**



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

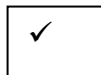
### Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

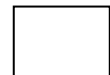
Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in



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



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## 1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 In October 2009 the Executive Board approved statutory public consultation on prescribed alterations to;
- permanently expand Richmond Hill Primary School from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from September 2012 when it is due to move into new purpose-built premises delivered through the Primary Capital Programme
  - permanently expand Gildersome Primary School from 210 to 420 pupils with effect from September 2011 when it will occupy significantly refurbished and extended premises, also delivered through the Primary Capital Programme.
- 1.2 This report details the outcome of these separate consultations, and seeks permission to publish statutory notices.

## 2 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. However, a further statutory process is required where expansion of the school's physical capacity is proposed,

necessitating a public consultation.

- 2.2 Both Gildersome Primary and Richmond Hill Primary had been agreed as schools to benefit from significant capital investment through the Primary Capital Programme, but are also in areas of projected population growth. In order to progress the design of appropriate building schemes a consultation and decision on the future size of these schools is required. A statutory process is required for proposals which result in the permanent expansion of the school's physical capacity
- by more than 30 pupils, and
  - by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser)
- 2.3 Also in July 2009 the Executive Board determined a proposal to permanently expand Richmond Hill Primary School from 210 to 420 pupils, linked to the closure of Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary School and noted that further proposals were likely to be brought forward to respond to a growing population in the area. In October 2009 the Executive Board received a report which noted that Richmond Hill Primary was due to have new buildings provided as part of the Primary Capital Programme, opening in 2012, and which identified the opportunity to rescope these plans to allow for further expansion to meet the needs of the local population. Permission was given to hold a public consultation on this proposal.
- 2.4 Similarly, in November 2009 the Executive Board received a report that noted Gildersome Primary school was planned to receive significant investment as part of the Primary Capital Programme, delivered in 2011, and the necessary additional accommodation needed to be incorporated into the scope and design of the project. Permission was again given to hold a public consultation.

### **3 MAIN ISSUES**

- 3.1 The consultation for Richmond Hill ran from 2<sup>nd</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009, whilst the consultation for Gildersome ran from 9<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Consultation documents for each proposal described the city-wide context of changing demographics, as well as the local situation for both of the areas where expansion was proposed.
- 3.2 The document was made available to parents through the schools and local early years providers, libraries, and via the Education Leeds website. It was also distributed to all ward members, the Church of England and Catholic dioceses, trade unions, and neighbouring authorities.
- 3.3 Public meetings were held at both schools. Ward members were also briefed and consulted with on these proposals, through the area committee meetings and individual briefings.
- 3.4 Both governing bodies had previously been engaged with and support the proposals. Staff and School Councils were consulted.
- 3.5 The document gave details of how to respond, and the subsequent processes that would be followed and further opportunities to comment or influence decisions prior to a final determination.
- 3.6 Full details of the responses received can be found in Appendix 1. A summary of the issues raised, and the response to them is provided below.

#### **3.6 Gildersome Primary School Proposal**

- 3.6.1 A total of 18 written responses were received during the public consultation of which 16 were in support of the proposal, although six of these felt that the Council should also provide a nursery to complement the expansion. A summary of the issues raised at the public consultation meeting held at the school and at the Outer South Area Committee Meeting follows.
- 3.6.2 **Where do the children responsible for the proposed increase live and are the pupil projections reliable?**
- 3.6.3 Both schools in Gildersome have historically taken the vast majority of their pupils from the village. The births in the village and immediate surrounds (the LS27 7 post sector) alone have increased from 90 in the 2008/9 Reception cohort (when both schools filled to a total of 60), to 135 in the 2011/12 Reception cohort. The births further increase to 145 in this same area for the 2013/14 Reception cohort.
- 3.6.4 Although there is minimal new housing planned for the area, there is anecdotal evidence to suggest that recent new housing in the area is now yielding extra children as families move in. Population projections from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) suggest that birth increase for Leeds is a long term phenomenon.
- 3.6.5 **Why was Gildersome Primary chosen over Birchfield Primary?**
- 3.6.6 Gildersome Primary had already been prioritised for significant investment through the Primary Capital Programme because of existing condition issues. Expansion at Gildersome Primary can address both condition and suitability issues at the same time.
- 3.6.7 If the local population continues to grow then the potential to expand Birchfield Primary remains for the future.
- 3.6.8 **Will this have an affect on Birchfield Primary School? What happens to Birchfield if the numbers of children decrease again?**
- 3.6.9 The proposal is not envisaged to have any effect on Birchfield Primary. The number of births in the area suggests that both schools will fill, even with the expanded provision.
- 3.6.10 **Will all the pupils arrive at the same time?**
- 3.6.11 The admission limit will increase for each successive Reception class, so the numbers on roll at the school will increase gradually over a number of years, to match the growing need.
- 3.6.12 **When will the building plans be available and when will construction work start?**
- 3.6.13 Architects have been appointed and are starting to work in consultation with the school. Preliminary plans will be available some time after February 2010, subject to the outcome of this consultation.
- 3.6.14 Building work is envisaged to start in Summer 2010 and will take around 12 months to complete. The funding that is available through the Primary Capital Programme only covers the refurbishment of the main school building, with the additional space provided through modular accommodation. A demolition and rebuild scheme would cost significantly more.

- 3.6.15 **Concern about traffic, road safety and parking issues including footpath routes to and from school and safety of pupils from contractors**
- 3.6.16 The proposals will all be subject to normal planning approvals which will need to clearly address any highways issues. Education Leeds will work with the school to generate a green travel plan. This will include plans for walking to school.
- 3.6.17 The health and safety of all pupils, staff and visitors will be of paramount concern during construction. It is hoped that plans will include a separate access point for contractors.
- 3.6.18 **Will these proposals affect the playing fields?**
- 3.6.19 It is envisaged that the modular accommodation will be located where the temporary classrooms have been sited, so there should be no impact on green space. There are strict controls in place in Planning regulations which give protection to green space from encroachment.
- 3.6.20 **Is the funding secured?**
- 3.6.21 The scheme will be funded from the Primary Capital Programme. Leeds has the first two years funding agreed and we have the grants from the DCSF.
- 3.6.22 **Nursery provision should be added as part of the building scheme**
- 3.6.23 The Early Years Service are monitoring demand for pre-school provision in the area and will bring forward proposals as necessary.

### **3.7 Richmond Hill School Proposal**

- 3.7.1 There were no written responses to the proposal to expand Richmond Hill Primary. Consultation meetings were held with the school council and with staff. A public meeting at the school attracted four people whose prime concerns were in relation to the detail of the proposed new building, in particular the retention or re-provision of the rugby pitch as part of the scheme. The school is planned to be completely rebuilt for 2012. The design will be the subject of further local consultation, and will be subject to normal planning approvals in due course. One parent enquired about the proposed transition arrangements for pupils at Mount St Mary's Catholic Primary which will close in summer 2010. It was explained that these have yet to be determined and will depend on the numbers of pupils opting for a place at Richmond Hill Primary, although all pupils are guaranteed a place at Richmond Hill if they want one.

## **4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of these two schools for 2011 and 2012 respectively will be delivered as part of the Primary Capital Programme. The costs for the expansion element of the projects are estimated in the region of £1.7m for Gildersome Primary and £2.3m for Richmond Hill Primary, and will be subject to review and development. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board in due course.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The Executive Board is asked to;

- i) note the outcome of statutory public consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand Gildersome Primary and Richmond Hill Primary Schools
- 5.2 ii) to approve the publication of a statutory notice proposing
  - a) the expansion of Gildersome Primary School to a new capacity of 420 pupils from September 2011, with an admission limit of 60 pupils
  - b) the expansion of Richmond Hill Primary School to a new capacity of 630 pupils from September 2012, with an admission limit of 90 pupils.
- 5.3 iii) note that a report detailing the response to the statutory notice will be brought back to the Executive Board in Summer 2010 for a final decision.

#### **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.

22 July 2009 Proposals for changes to primary provision in the Richmond Hill area

14 October 2009 Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2010

4 November 2009 Proposal for consultation on expansion of Gildersome Primary School

9 December 2009 Proposals for statutory consultation on the expansion of primary provision for September 2011

6 January 2010 Proposals for statutory consultation on the expansion proposals in Horsforth

## APPENDIX 1

### List of consultees

The following persons or bodies were consulted:

Consultee	Consultation method
Parents of directly affected schools	documents, posters and spare response sheets
Other primary schools	documents, posters and spare response sheets
LCC Councillors	documents
MPs	electronic link to document
Education Leeds board	documents
Education Leeds Heads of Service	electronic link to document
LCC Leadership Team	electronic link to document
Early Years Managers	electronic link to document
Locality Enablers	electronic link to document
Area Managers	electronic link to document
Leeds Racial Equality Council	electronic link to document
Leeds Chamber of Commerce	electronic link to document
Trades Unions	electronic link to document
Catholic diocese	electronic link to document
C of E diocese	electronic link to document
Children's Centres	documents, posters and spare response sheets
Private Early Years Providers	documents, posters and spare response sheets
All libraries in Leeds	documents and posters
Family of schools (4)	meeting
School Council (4)	meeting
Public (10)	meeting
Area Management (6)	meeting
Staff & Governing body (2)	meeting

### Summary of written responses

	Respondent					
School	Parent	Local Resident	Member of staff	Governor	Other	Total
Birchfield PS				1		1
Gildersome PS	4	1	8	2	2	17
Total	4	1	8	3	2	18

The minutes from both of the Public consultation meetings are available at [www.educationleeds/schoolorganisation](http://www.educationleeds/schoolorganisation)