



Report of Chief Executive, Education Leeds

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 1st February 2010

Subject: Consultation on expansion of Blackgates Primary School

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley and Robin Hood

Morley South

Morley North

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Area Committee with the consultation document on proposals for the expansion of Blackgates Primary School.

The consultation document appended forms the basis of the report. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider this and comment on the expansion proposals.

Purpose of This Report

1. The consultation document appended forms the basis of this report.
2. The consultation document asks for comments on proposals to permanently expand Blackgates Primary School by half a form of entry to two forms of entry with effect from September 2011.

Background Information

3. Leeds City Council has a legal duty to provide school places for every child in the city taking into account where those children live and may want to attend school. Pupil projections for the combined Ardsley, Tingley and Morley area suggest there could be over 587 reception places needed by 2011
4. The consultation period runs from Monday 4 January 2010 to Friday 12 February 2010. Education Leeds are holding meetings to gather the views of schools, families, young people, governors, and the general public to create opportunities to debate the proposals and ask questions. The findings from the consultation will be presented to the council's Executive Board.

Main Issues

5. All the issues are described in full in the consultation document. In addition, the following points should be noted:
6. Detailed plans for the schemes are not yet available. Education Leeds is in the process of procuring a framework to deliver the design and build of the accommodation necessary to realise these expansions, and has to wait until the proposals have been approved before committing to the delivery of those schemes. Any schemes involving building works will be subject to the normal planning permission process, allowing any interested parties to comment, and meaning any traffic and access issues will receive due consideration. Schools are fully involved in the design of the building schemes. At present it is anticipated that the scheme will primarily be achieved through the addition of modular units.
7. The demographic data suggests further provision is needed beyond these proposals, and this is unlikely to be solved purely through the traditional approach of expanding existing schools. Long-term planning for the area is ongoing, and whilst some options are still at an exploratory stage, this includes:
 - expansion and refurbishment at Gildersome Primary School under the Primary Capital Programme
 - working with council officers to consider the impact of new housing.
 - identifying sites / other buildings and interested parties to run new schools or split site / federated schools.
 - collaboration with all primary, Early Years and secondary providers to optimise overall use of space.
 - secondary planning for when the increased numbers work through to high school – this needs to be linked for changes to the 14-19 provision, and BSF plans.

We are establishing a new process for working with all schools and other stakeholders on an area by area basis to respond to trends and to plan and deliver a place at a local school for every child in the city. Ongoing engagement with Area Committees and ward members will be essential to this process.

8. Although not directly in the area affected, there are also proposals in neighbouring Middleton Park that may have a knock on effect on this area. These are:
- expansion of Windmill Primary School from one and a half to two forms of entry
 - expansion of Clapgate Primary School from one and a half to two forms of entry
 - expansion of Middleton St Mary's C of E Primary School

The Sharp Lane housing development is likely to create additional pressure for places in the Middleton Park area. The Clapgate and Windmill Primary School proposals, currently being consulted on, are aimed at providing some of these additional places. The proposal at Middleton St Mary's C of E Primary School is at an exploratory stage.

Implications For Council Policy and Governance

9. All the issues are described in the Executive Board report considered in December 2010, which gave permission to consult on the proposals. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. In planning that capacity, they need to take into account where those children live and where they might want to attend school.

Legal and Resource Implications

10. All the issues are described in the Executive Board report considered in December 2010, which gave permission to consult on the proposals.

Recommendations

11. The Area Committee is requested to
- Note and consider the report appended
 - Consider any response they wish to make as a part of the consultation

Background Papers

12. Executive Board Report December 2009 Proposal to expand six primary schools from September 2011