

Annex 2

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: CITY OF LEEDS

Introduction

This booklet contains information about the challenge to raise standards for young people in the inner North West and inner East of Leeds. It includes a proposal to close City of Leeds High School. We are holding a public consultation between 7 January 2010 and 5 March 2010 to find out what you think about this proposal. This public consultation will help the executive board of Leeds City Council make a decision about the proposal.

Please read this booklet. You can also attend the public meeting. We want to know what you think about this proposal. Details of how you can tell us your views are at the end of this booklet.

What is the proposal?

To close City of Leeds High School on 31 August 2011.

Why do we want to close City of Leeds High School?

City of Leeds High School faces significant challenges. The standards achieved by the school are very low compared with those achieved in similar schools in Leeds and nationally. This means that not enough young people are succeeding and reaching their potential at present.

In 2008, the Government launched the National Challenge. This means that the minimum standard expected of every secondary school is that 30% of their young people achieve five good GCSEs including English and Maths. At present City of Leeds is not helping enough young people to achieve this. Indeed the school has consistently struggled to support enough young people to achieve good grades.

The school has not been successful in attracting enough good leaders. We are not confident that the leadership; attendance, standards, achievement, and the budget can improve quickly enough to benefit the young people in the school.

We believe that by offering places in other schools as an alternative for the young people currently attending City of Leeds High School, this will create more viable school places that will maximise their potential. We also anticipate this being welcomed by parents. Each of these schools have more leadership capacity than City of Leeds High School and can point to recent improvements in young people's attendance, standards, and achievement.

The consultation on the closure of the City of Leeds high school will provide opportunities for respondents to comment on the use of the site for educational provision should the school close. This would be the subject of a further consultation. However you may wish to comment on the use of the site for educational provision should the school close.

What will this mean for young people?

Important and urgent work will develop a specific plan for each young person currently attending the school. Dependant upon where they live they will be offered a place in either Carr Manor High School, the proposed Parklands Academy, the proposed Primrose Academy, Leeds South Academy, or Lawnswood High School. For some older pupils, and particularly those on vocational courses provision other than at a school might be more appropriate. This will be arranged.

What happens to staff?

The staff currently employed at City of Leeds High School will be potentially redundant. Education Leeds and Leeds City Council will use their existing and largely successful arrangements to find alternative employment for these staff. Where possible these arrangements will be linked to the transition arrangements developed for each young person so that there will be someone employed in each school who is known to the pupil.

What other options have been considered?

The other options we have considered are :

- Close City of Leeds High School and replace it with an academy.

There have been a range of interventions, including headteachers from other schools and a formal partnership with another school. There is some evidence that these have helped pupils and staff in the short term improve. However, this improvement has not continued for more than one or two years as has happened in other schools in Leeds. The school struggles to draw in children from its local area or community. Having considered potential academy sponsors we were not convinced that this would deliver both the urgent improvement for young people attending the school now and keep this improvement going for future generations.

- Leave City of Leeds High School unchanged.

There is a need to act quickly so that City of Leeds High School delivers high quality education - both now and in the future - and effectively meets the needs and aspirations of the community it serves. Leaving the school unchanged means that not enough young people will succeed and reach their potential.

How to comment on these proposals

This consultation runs from Thursday 7 January 2010 to Friday 5th March 2010. If you want the council's Executive Board to consider your views, we must receive your comments no later than 4pm on Friday 5th March 2010.

We will be consulting with the Inner North East area committee at the meeting on 1 February 2010 at 4pm and the Inner North West area committee on 25 February at 7pm.

We are holding a public meeting on 10 February at 7pm at the City of Leeds High School, where you will have the opportunity to debate the proposal and let us know your views.

Responses need to be in writing, or verbally at the meeting. We minute all public meetings and place the minutes on our website: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It is important that, if you can, you give reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals so that as much information as possible is available to the Executive Board when making their decision.

Written responses can be made:

- Using the form in this booklet, which includes details of where to send it.
- By letter, to school organisation team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8DT,
- By email: educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses can be anonymous, but if you require an acknowledgement please include your name and address.

In addition further copies of this booklet and the response form are available on the Education Leeds website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It has also been widely distributed to many interested people and groups, including local councillors, MPs, the Catholic and Church of England Dioceses, and trades unions.

What happens to your comments?

All your views will be summarised and presented to Leeds City Council's Executive Board, which will decide whether to proceed with the proposal or to change it in any way. We expect the Board to make this decision at their meeting on 7 April 2010.

Your comments are treated equally, whether you put them in writing or say them at the public meetings.

If the Executive Board decides to proceed a statutory notice confirming the details of, and inviting comments on, the final proposal is likely to be published after Monday 12 April 2010 in the Yorkshire Evening Post, and at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation.

If you want to make sure the Executive Board considers your comments when making their final decision, you should make them again at this stage. This applies even if the comments are the same as you have contributed to this consultation.

The Executive Board must make its decision within two months of the statutory notice period, so the final decision on this proposal is likely to be made at their meeting June 2010.

The School Organisation Advisory Body is made up of representatives from the area's education community. It has been established by the council's Executive Board to consider responses and make recommendations on the final decision regarding any proposals to change the size or organisation of schools. If objections are received, the

School Organisation Advisory Board will sit ahead of the Executive Board meeting to make its recommendation on the proposals.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please read the consultation booklet on the proposals and tell us what your views are. The questions on this form are provided to help you do so, but you do not have to respond to all of them. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter. Letters and forms should be sent to the address at the bottom of this form. Extra copies of this booklet and response form are available at www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. You may also respond by e-mail to educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses must be received by 4pm on Friday 5th March 2010. All responses will be reported to a meeting of the Executive Board of Leeds City Council in April 2010.

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PROPOSALS

1. What are your views on the proposed closure of City of Leeds High School in August 2011?

2. Have you found this booklet useful?

3. Have you found the consultation process useful?

4. Do you have any other comments or views?

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Your personal details (if you would like your response can be formally acknowledged):

Name:

Address:

e-mail address:

Parent/Carer of present pupil(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Carer of primary school child	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Resident	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other adult relative	<input type="checkbox"/>	Elected Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Data Protection Act 1998
Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Education Leeds and Leeds City Council are seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Please send your reply to:
The Chief Executive, Education Leeds, FAO School Organisation Team
9th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT

Appendix 1

City of Leeds

Capacity: 798

Achievement

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
5A*-C incl English and maths	12.2	15.0	14.0	12.0	11.5
5A*-C	29.0	16.0	21.0	32.0	23.0
5 A*-G	82.2	77.0	74.0	80.0	72.7
1+ A-G	92.2	87.0	93.0	93.0	93.5

Parental preferences

Year	Capacity	First pref	Second pref	Third pref	% 1st pref of capacity
2007	150	48	6	5	32
2008	150	41	8	2	27.3
2009	150	43	4	1	28.6

Number on roll

Year	No on Roll	% surplus
2005	488	45
2006	591	30
2007	627	25
2008	625	27
2009	575	28

Attendance

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Attendance	82.6	84.78	87.33
Authorised absence	6.7	7.83	8.08
Unauthorised absence	10.7	7.4	4.59