



Agenda Item:

Originator: George Turnbull

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REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 7th April 2010

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1 In December 2009 Executive Board approved plans to consult on the permanent expansion of seven primary schools to take additional pupils with effect from September 2011. This report summarises the outcome of the consultation, and requests permission to publish statutory notices.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 In October 2009 Executive Board approved the formal consultation on plans to permanently expand seventeen primary schools for September 2010 in line with the authority's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. Following consultation, in February the Executive Board gave permission to publish statutory notices for these proposals.
- 3 In December 2009 and January 2010 the Executive Board approved further consultation on changes to a total of nine schools across Leeds, in order to meet continued increasing demand for primary places for September 2011. This report outlines the response to that consultation on the expansion of six schools. A separate report details the response to the consultation for three schools in the Horsforth area.

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. Although detailed designs and costs have not at this stage been developed, the current indicative budget is in the region of £3m. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5

The Executive Board is asked to:

i) note the outcome of the consultation to expand six schools: Windmill Primary, Clapgate Primary, Ryecroft Primary, Blackgates Primary, Calverley CE Primary and Cross Gates Primary

ii) approve publication of statutory notices for the expansion of four schools namely Windmill Primary, Clapgate Primary, Ryecroft Primary and Blackgates Primary;

iii) approve the withdrawal of the proposals to expand Cross Gates Primary and Calverley CE Primary.



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SUBJECT: Outcome of the 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 December 2009 Executive Board approved plans to consult on the permanent expansion of seven primary schools to take additional pupils with effect from September 2011. This report summarises the outcome of the consultation, and requests permission to publish statutory notices.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 In December 2009 and January 2010 the Executive Board approved consultation on changes to a total of nine schools across Leeds, in order to meet continued increasing demand for primary places for September 2011. This report outlines the response to that consultation on the expansion of six of the nine schools. A separate report details the response to the consultation for three schools in the Horsforth area.

3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

3.1 A statutory process is required for the permanent expansion of schools which

results in an increase in the schools' capacity by both

- more than 30 pupils and
- 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).

The proposals for changes to six primary schools meet this requirement. They are as follows:

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

3.2 The annual consultation on admissions limits includes these proposals. Both processes will have been completed by August 2010, allowing parents who are then expressing a preference for places in September 2011 to know the sizes of the schools.

3.3 **Consultation Process**

3.3.1 The consultation ran from 4 January to 12 February 2010. Public meetings were held at each of the affected schools. A single consultation document was made available to all of the schools and communities affected, including pupils, parents and carers, school governors, ward members and other stakeholders. It included details of these meetings, of how to respond to the consultation, and of the next steps in the process. A full list of consultees is in Appendix 1.

3.3.2 There were 23 responses to the consultation. Approximately 100 people attended the meetings in total. Full details of all of the responses are on www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. A full set of meeting minutes is also available. A summary of the issues raised is as follows.

3.4 **Sustainability of the proposals**

3.4.1 Pupil projections are based on the known births by postcode area, and therefore, are robust at this level, but local distribution of those children to individual schools can vary according to parental preference. We have a legal duty to ensure that there is sufficient provision in the area for those children. We have looked at the city wide situation, and at neighbouring areas in developing the specific proposals. The intention in formulating the proposals was to ensure all parents can access good local schools, a principle that has been universally accepted and welcomed throughout the consultation.

3.4.2 All the changes are proposed on the basis of permanent expansion. Current long term Office for National Statistics (ONS) data projects birth numbers continuing to rise, albeit at a slower rate, until around 2018. The proposals will not result in unreasonable travel distances, will not undermine neighbouring schools and are sustainable for the foreseeable future.

3.5 **Calverley CE Primary School**

3.5.1 Pupil projections have been a particular concern in relation to the proposal for

Calverley CE Primary. Whilst the population in that area is growing we believe that a permanent expansion of the school to 60 places per year is not yet justified by the local birth numbers. Based on these numbers Calverley children will continue to be able to access provision in either of the village schools in the short term without an increase in capacity. It is therefore recommended that **the proposal to permanently expand Calverley CE Primary School in 2011 is withdrawn**. We will continue to monitor the number of births in the area and review the local situation, and may revisit discussions with ward members and the schools in the future.

3.6 **Cross Gates Primary School**

3.6.1 We acknowledge the concerns raised during consultation that in the case of Cross Gates Primary the demographic pressure is coming from a large planning area, and that an expansion at this school may not be sustainable... Travel routes from much of the area to the school mean this is not a realistic choice for many, and there is a concern that any over expansion could also undermine some neighbouring schools, particularly in the Seacroft area. It is therefore recommended that **the proposal to permanently expand Cross Gates Primary is withdrawn**. We will continue to monitor the situation on an ongoing basis.

3.7 **How schools were identified?**

3.7.1 The first step in developing the proposals was to identify the areas where more places were needed. Further detail on the demographic data for each school was then considered. Next a combination of desktop appraisal and site visits established where viable schemes existed. Input from the schools, additional information on parental preference patterns, and the ability of the schools to manage the changes were also considered. The proposals were identified from the analysis and informal discussions with schools. In developing proposals we were also mindful of the longer term pupil projections, the sustainability of the proposals, and the possibility of delivering further schemes to meet continuing need.

3.8 **Concern about the potential impact on educational outcomes, both in terms of larger schools and staff requirements.**

3.8.1 The increase in pupil numbers will bring with it an increase in pupil-based funding, allowing the schools to provide the teaching and non-teaching staff required. The infant class size legislation still applies, and would not be effected by enlargement. There is no reason to suppose that a larger school means lower standards, and it can facilitate a greater breadth and depth of learning offer for children. Larger schools can also offer greater potential for staff development. School Improvement Officers will be engaged with the schools to expand to support them through these changes. Project Managers and Change Management Coordinators will further support the schools during the changes.

3.9 **Impact that an increase in size might have on the ethos of a school and its role in the community**

3.9.1 Whilst the management and leadership of a school will reflect its size, this does not need to impact on the 'feel' of the school for children and families. The existing governing bodies and head teachers have been supportive of the changes. Expansion does not in itself necessitate changes in class sizes or the staff to pupil

ratio since funding is allocated on a per pupil basis, and based on class sizes of 30. These are issues which the schools and governing bodies manage. An9. are experienced in.

3.9.2 Some halls may not be able to accommodate the whole school in their main hall for whole school events such as dining or assemblies. Many schools were not concerned about this, and were confident that they could to manage split arrangements. This was not a concern for School Councils.

3.10 **The physical impact of larger schools on transport and traffic issues.**

3.10.1 Any additional building works required as part of these projects will be subject to the normal Planning application process. This includes engagement with the Highways Agency, and with local residents, and will cover traffic issues. Any additional pupil numbers may place an additional requirement on the local road networks, but planning policy may not necessarily provide for more parking spaces. Remodelling of parking and access to school sites, including the options of drop off zones and walking buses, will need to be addressed on a school by school basis, and will need to ensure safety of children and all road users.

3.10.2 Planning applications will also be subject to scrutiny by bodies such as Sport England, a statutory consultee, which will be concerned to protect existing green space from over development.

3.10.3 Work on detailed plans would be scheduled to start in summer 2010 following a final decision. These would be drawn up in consultation with the schools, and would consider the planning issues for residents, staff and families. Plans would need to be available in time to ensure that schemes requiring additional space could be delivered for September 2011. At Clapgate Primary and Windmill Primary well developed schemes already exist.

3.11 **Is there sufficient funding for the expansion and what are the implications for individual school budgets?**

3.11.1 Schools are funded on a per pupil basis, and this amount includes funding for teachers, support staff and the resources required. This means that schools should get the funding appropriate for the number of children they admit. Funding is normally given to schools in the April of each academic year, based on the census taken in the January of that year. Clearly staff and equipment will need to have been in place since the preceding September. A 'reorganisation factor' within the school funding formula will ensure delivery of this revenue at the point when it is needed.

3.11.2 There is considerable experience of managing building projects within Education Leeds, and all schemes will have a dedicated project manager to manage risk, including budget risks.

3.12 **Space and facilities**

3.12.1 Building Bulletin 99 provides guidance for the space requirements for school sites when building new schools, and as far as possible any schemes will aim to meet these standards. This includes infrastructure and play space needs. The initial building scheme proposals include the provision of toilets, cloakroom and circulation space, and will seek to reprovide hard play area where this is removed.

3.12.2 Schemes may be delivered in phases, ensuring sufficient accommodation at all times as far as possible not building ahead of need, and minimising disruption. Schools will have a key role in agreeing what will ensure the health, safety and well being of their pupils and staff...

3.12.3 The proposals do not involve removal or addition of private users, extended services provision, or Children's Centres.

3.12.4 Additional building will be provided predominantly through modular accommodation, which provides high quality buildings, meeting all current buildings regulations, and designed to last in excess of 50 years. It is manufactured off site, enabling it to be assembled on site very quickly with least disruption to the schools, and providing flexibility to be moved in the long term if necessary.

3.13 **Future secondary school places**

3.13.1 The numbers entering primary school now will take seven years to reach high school, providing time to plan for this need. In this time, significant changes to the use of secondary school accommodation are expected, especially for the 14-19 age range. More pupils are already being educated off site, often to access specialist courses, and sixth form provision is likely to be consolidated. These trends are likely to continue, impacting significantly on the overall requirements for secondary school accommodation. Work to plan for this is in its early stages and will continue in the context of a rising population trajectory within the 14-19 strategy...

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. Although detailed designs and costs have not at this stage been developed, the current indicative budget is in the region of £3m. 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.

5.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Executive Board is asked to:

i) note the outcome of the consultation to expand six schools: Windmill Primary, Clapgate Primary, Ryecroft Primary, Calverley CE Primary, Blackgates Primary and Cross Gates Primary.

ii) approve publication of statutory notices for the expansion of four schools: Windmill Primary, Clapgate Primary, Ryecroft Primary and Blackgates Primary;

iii) approve the withdrawal of the proposals to expand Cross Gates Primary and Calverley CE Primary.

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 2010

December 2009 Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2011

December 2009 Proposal for statutory consultation for changes to primary provision at Newlathes Junior School and Featherbank Infant School in 2011

February 2010 Outcome of consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2010

APPENDIX 1 – List of consultees and meetings, and summary of responses.

Consultee	Consultation method
Parents/carers of children at directly affected schools	individual letters, documents, and spare response sheets
Parents/ carers of children at other primary schools	letters advising documents and spare response sheets at schools and on line
Parents/ carers of children preferencing Horsforth schools for Sept 2010	individual letters, documents, and spare response sheets (sent 2 weeks into consultation)
All Schools in areas	posters advertising meetings and spare documents.
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	meeting
School Councils at Newlaithes and West End	meeting
Public	meeting
Area Management Committees	meeting
Staff & Governing bodies at all schools	meeting

Summary of written responses

School	Respondent					Total
	Parent	Local Resident	Member of Staff	Governor	Other	
Windmill PS	1					1
Clapgate PS						0
Ryecroft PS			1		1	2
Calverley CE	4	4		1	4	13
Blackgates PS					2	2
Cross gates PS	1			1	3	5