



Report of the Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

Date: February 2011

Subject: Deputation to Council November 2010 Friends of Allerton Grange

Electoral Wards Affected:

Roundhay
Moortown

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs the Executive Board about a deputation received by Council on 17 November 2010 concerning the site of the former Allerton Grange High School playing fields.

The deputation outlines concerns about the use of the former Allerton Grange playing fields for primary place provision. It also seeks support and guidance on progressing environmental improvements to the fields. The deputation also seeks assurances that other options for primary school places were being fully considered and that creating or extending a school on these fields should be a last resort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Executive Board are asked to:

- (i) Note the contents of the report; and
- (ii) Agree that meetings with the Friends of Allerton Grange will continue and subject to the outcome of the statutory process to create new primary provision in the area, if the proposal is agreed, to continue to engage with the Friends through any subsequent design and planning stages.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report provides information in relation to proposals being considered to create additional primary provision in the Roundhay / Moortown area from September 2012 by establishing primary provision on land adjacent to Allerton Grange High School.
- 1.2 The report informs Executive Board of the meetings which have taken place with the Friends of Allerton Grange since the deputation to the Council in November 2010, which outlined a number of concerns and requests for clarification in relation to both the primary provision and future use of the fields adjacent to the school.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 A deputation from the Friends of Allerton Grange was heard by the 17 November meeting of the Council. The deputation is attached at appendix 1. Concerns were outlined about the proposals to create additional primary provision on land adjacent to Allerton Grange school and the future use of the land. The deputation sought the following:
1. Agreement on Community use of the Allerton Grange playing fields
 2. Assurances that other options for primary school places are fully considered and that creating or extending a school on these fields would be a last resort
 3. Support and guidance on progressing environmental improvements to the fields
 4. Support for the nomination of the fields to the national Queen Elizabeth Playing Fields Challenge.
- 2.2 The deputation outlined the aspirations of the Friends to protect and enhance the Allerton Grange playing fields and how this would benefit the local community. The land in question falls outside the boundary of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) funded new Allerton Grange school. Prior to the increase in primary demographics it had been the intention of Education Leeds to declare the two former school pitches surplus to educational requirements. The increasing demographic growth and demand for additional primary school places in the Roundhay Ward has required a number of proposals to be brought forward for consultation. The proposed use of part of the land is being considered as one of the proposals to create additional primary provision from September 2012. This proposal is currently subject to a statutory consultation process. The public consultation concludes on Friday 18 February 2011.
- 2.3 The Executive Board will consider the outcome of the public consultation before making any decision to proceed to publication of statutory notices confirming the final proposal. The notice will invite representations or comments on the final proposal before a final decision is made by the Executive Board. There would be a further consultation opportunity as part of the planning application process.
- 2.4 Education Leeds officers have met with and responded in writing to issues raised by the Friends of Allerton Grange. The Friends of Allerton Grange have acknowledged the statutory requirement to provide sufficient school places and the proposed strategic and future use of this land to provide additional primary places. However, it has been requested that all possible options for location of the new buildings are considered. The Friends have requested that if a new provision is established on the land that a dialogue remains open to reach agreement on community use of the open space adjacent to the new school.
- 2.5 In a meeting with the Friends on 17 December 2010 it was explained that the land in question is designated N6 protected playing field with the exception of the former

building footprint, which is classed as brown field. If the proposal is approved the new buildings would need to be designed to sit within the brown field area. The meeting on 17 December also outlined to the Friends the process for consideration of other options for providing additional primary school places in the area. Importantly, the minutes of the meeting reflected a joint wish to work towards a conclusion which could reflect the needs of all the stakeholders. A further meeting between the Friends, Education Leeds and Council representatives including Asset Management, Highways and Parks and Countryside was held on 14 January 2011. The Friends were encouraged to make a formal response to the public consultation so that their views could be properly reflected in the statutory process, and have been sent consultation materials.

3.0 Legal And Resource Implications

3.1 The report has no specific legal or funding implications for the City Council.

4.0 Conclusions

4.1 This report has outlined the issues relating to the deputation to Council by the Friends of Allerton Grange regarding future use of the land adjacent to the school.

4.2 The public consultation around the proposal to create additional primary school provision on part of this land has been outlined and the Friends of Allerton Grange have been encouraged to make a formal response within the public consultation.

4.3 Meetings have taken place, and a dialogue will be maintained which takes account of the outcome of the statutory process, and seeks to ensure that any building solution meets both the need for increased pupil places and the aspirations of the Community.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Members of the Executive Board are asked to:

5.1.1 Note the contents of the report; and

5.1.2 Agree that meetings with the Friends of Allerton Grange will continue and subject to the outcome of the statutory process to create new primary provision in the area, if the proposal is agreed, to continue to engage with the Friends through any subsequent design and planning stages.

6.0 Background Papers

There are no background papers