

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Report to the South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee**

**Date: Monday 5th September 2011**

**Subject: Consultation on expansion of primary school provision for September 2013**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Morley South  Morley North	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report presents the Area Committee with an update on the work being undertaken across the city to ensure the authority meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places in the context of an increasing birth rate. In particular, it draws members' attention to the proposal directly affecting the outer south area. Leeds City Council's Executive Board have approved a consultation on a proposal to expand Morley Newlands Primary School from September 2013.

**Recommendations**

2. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider the consultation information and comment on the proposal.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report is intended to ensure members are fully briefed on the proposals being brought forward in response to rising demand for reception places city wide and are able to comment on them, in particular those affecting the outer south area.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The local authority has a legal duty to ensure there are enough school places to meet the needs of its children and families. We are now planning to create the extra places we believe will be needed from September 2013 onwards. At its meeting on 27 July 2011 Executive Board approved consultation on the following proposals:

- Expansion of Bramley St Peter's Primary School from 315 to 420 pupils from September 2013
- Expansion of Rawdon St Peter's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School from 315 to 420 pupils from September 2013
- Expansion of Morley Newlands Primary School from 420 to 630 pupils from September 2013
- Creation of a new 420 place school through competition on land at Florence Street in Harehills from September 2013
- Creation of a new 420 place school through competition on the site of the former South Leeds Sports Centre on Beeston Road from September 2014

- 2.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the last four of these require a statutory process, and this consultation forms the first part of that process. The expansion of Bramley St Peter's does not require significant new building, and therefore will be consulted on as an admission limit change during the annual consultation on admissions arrangements later in the year.

- 2.3 The consultation document should be read in conjunction with this report and describes the proposed expansion of Morley Newlands. The Executive Board report 'Primary Basic Need Programme - Permission to consult on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2013 and 2014' presented to the 27 July 2011 meeting provides further contextual information on the need for places, and the ongoing work to develop further proposals in each area.

- 2.4 The consultation period runs from Monday 12 September 2011 to Friday 21 October 2011. Children's Services are holding meetings to gather the views of the community and enable them to debate the proposal and ask questions. The findings from the consultation will be presented to the Executive Board.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The details of the proposal are described in full within the consultation document. In addition, the following points should be noted:
- 3.2 Any new school buildings will still 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. The two processes are independent and the outcome of one does not presuppose the outcome of the other.

3.3 Long-term planning for the city is continuing with the help of other stakeholders which includes:

- 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.
- Consultation with members to develop proposals, and throughout the process, using area committee meeting and specific ward member briefings.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Any proposal to create additional school places requires engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders, and is managed in accordance with the relevant legislation. This occurs before a proposal has been developed as well as during the consultation period. All members have had copies of all 4 consultation documents supplied via hard copy and electronic copy. Further copies are available on [www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation](http://www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation) .

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 This report does not have a particular impact on any of the following groups: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and maternity, Religion or belief.

4.2.2 For the proposal an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form has been completed, which determined that it is not necessary to carry out a formal impact assessment. We will however continue to consider this proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The proposal is brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 The estimated cost of the Morley Newlands project is £7,552,255 and will be funded through the education capital programme. This high level estimate uses the modular accommodation cost basis and will be subject to significant development through detailed design. It does not include site acquisition costs or provision for any site specific conditions, risk or abnormalities.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 The authority has a legal duty to ensure sufficiency of provision. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the proposed expansions and new schools are prescribed changes, requiring a public consultation in the first instance.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Should the proposal be approved, the delivery risks will be managed through a risk register by the project officer.

4.6.2 Should the proposal not be approved, alternative measures will need to be identified to ensure the council meets its statutory duties. This work is being developed in parallel with the proposal.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 We are proposing the expansion because the birth rate in this area has increased significantly over the past few years and there is a need for more school places. We have looked at the existing schools across the area, and have expanded several of them already. We do not think we can create enough places in this way, and so have looked at Council owned land and assets to see if any could be used for a new school. This site has been identified as deliverable and well located demographically.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is requested to:

- Note and consider the report and consultation document
- Consider any response they wish to make as a part of the consultation

## **7 Background documents**

7.1 Executive Board report of July 2011: Primary Basic Need Programme – Permission to consult on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2013 and 2014.

7.2 Consultation document: Proposal to expand Morley Newlands Primary School from September 2013