

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 16 May 2012

Subject: Basic Need 2013 - Final decision on proposal to expand Morley Newlands Primary School

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Morley South, Morley North	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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. In January 2012 Executive Board considered the outcome of a public consultation to expand Morley Newlands Primary School, and gave permission to publish a statutory notice. The expansion was brought forward as part of the authority's basic need programme, to meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places in response to the growing pre school population. The expansion would see the maximum number of pupils on roll rise from 420 to 630 over a period of 7 years, by increasing the reception admission number from 60 to 90 pupils from September 2013. The notice was published on Friday 24 February and expired on Friday 23 March 2012. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, ie by 22 May 2012. There were no responses to the notice, and this report seeks a final decision on the proposal. This is part of the local authority strategic medium to long term planning in respect of school place planning.

Recommendations

2. Executive Board is asked to approve the expansion of Morley Newlands Primary school from 420 to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from 1 September 2013.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report requests Executive Board to make a final decision on the proposal to expand Morley Newlands from 420 to 630 pupils, with an admission number increasing from 60 to 90, with effect from September 2013.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In January 2012 Executive Board considered the outcome of a public consultation to expand Morley Newlands Primary School, and gave permission to publish a statutory notice. The expansion was brought forward as part of the authority's basic need programme, to meet the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places in response to the growing pre school population. The expansion would see the maximum number of pupils on roll rise from 420 to 630 over a period of 7 years, by increasing the reception admission number from 60 to 90 pupils from September 2013. This is part of the local authority strategic medium to long term planning in respect of school place planning.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the proposal constitutes a prescribed change requiring a statutory process, of which the statutory notice is the final step. The notice was published on Friday 24 February and expired on Friday 23 March. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, ie by 22 May 2012. There were no responses to the notice, and this report seeks a final decision on the proposal.
- 3.2 The public consultation ran from 12 September to 21 October 2011. The report considered by Executive Board on 4 January 2012 considered the responses received. These focussed on the short and long term impact on the learning community, and specifically on the likely building solution. Executive Board approved the publication of the statutory notice on this basis.
- 3.3 In response to queries raised at this stage, reassurances were given that the proposal for a larger school would not increase class sizes, which would continue to be based on classes of 30. All schools receive funding based on the number of children attending, thus ensuring the required level of teaching a non teaching staff could be recruited in a phased manner as the school grew. The school would introduce an appropriate management structure, and are confident they can deliver high quality provision with appropriate support and nurture as a larger school. Some respondents also noted the positive benefits of a larger staff body with an increased range and depth of expertise and skills.
- 3.4 Many of the initial responses focussed on the design of the new building, and some of the challenges and condition issues of the existing buildings. Following the public consultation a detailed option appraisal was carried out by the Council's Joint Venture Company partner, NPS Leeds Limited, which explored a range of options for Morley Newlands including a modular complete rebuild, refurbishment and modular extension to the existing building, or a complete rebuild by traditional construction. Consideration of the option appraisal by cross council officers has

determined that the solution offering the value for money given the range of condition issues in the existing school building as well as the necessary expansion, is the complete rebuild of the school through traditional construction.

- 3.5 There have been no further representations received in response to the statutory notice.
- 3.6 Since the consultation began, the primary applications for 2012 have been received. These confirm the need for the places in Morley, with 383 first preferences for 352 places in Morley schools. The birth rate continues to increase in the area and this increase in places should enable local children to be able to gain a place at a school within a reasonable distance.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The process has been conducted in line with statutory guidance and local good practice. All ward members have indicated their support for the expansion, as have the governing body of the school.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI impact assessment was completed and is available on request from Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team.

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. In providing places close to where the children live the proposals will allow improve accessibility of local and desirable school places, and thus reduce any risks of non attendance.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.2 The estimated cost delivery of the proposal is £10.1M, inclusive of a provision for temporary accommodation, which will be funded through the education capital programme. The funding allows for the provision of a 3 F.E. Primary School inclusive of a 39 place nursery. The new school building will not be available from the start of term, September 2013. A solution will be agreed with the school to deliver the number of additional pupil places until the new building can be delivered.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The proposed change constitutes a prescribed change under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006). The consultation process has been managed in accordance with that legislation, and local practice.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Due to the complexity of the project and the tight delivery timeframe a detailed risk register has already been started for the project, and if approved the register will be maintained until completion.
- 4.6.2 There is a statutory time limit for a final decision on this proposal of 22 May 2012. The proposal has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2013. A decision not to proceed at this stage would mean fresh consultation on new proposals, and would mean places could not be delivered until 2014, and may risk the authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The proposal to expand Morley Newlands remains a strong one, which would meet an immediate need for places in the area, and is broadly supported. The delivery of the project will be complex, and will be overseen by an experienced project manager, supported by colleagues in PPPU. In terms of project delivery the Council is working with the Council's Joint Venture Company partner, NPS Leeds Limited, an experienced multi disciplinary agent with a successful track record in the delivery of new schools. The ongoing need for places in the area will continue to be carefully assessed, and any further additional plans brought forward as necessary.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to approve the expansion of Morley Newlands Primary school from 420 to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from 1 September 2013.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 17 June 2009 Expanding Primary Place Provision
- 7.2 22 July 2009 Proposed increases in Admissions Limits for September 2010
- 7.3 19 May 2010 Outcome of statutory notices for changes to primary provision for September 2010, 2011 and 2012
- 7.4 21 July 2010 Outcome of statutory notices for proposals for expansion of primary provision for September 2011, and
- 7.5 Outcome of statutory notices for changes to primary age provision in Horsforth for September 2011
- 7.6 15 Dec 2010 Primary provision for 2012

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

- 7.7 30 March 2011 Basic Need Programme 2012 – Part A Outcome of consultation on proposals for primary provision for 2012 and Part B Request for Authority to spend.
- 7.8 18 May 2011 Basic Need Programme 2012 – Outcome of consultation on proposals for primary provision in 2012
- 7.9 27 July 2011 Primary Basic Need 2012 – Permission to consult on proposals for expansion of primary provision on 2013 and 2014
- 7.10 4 January 2012 Basic Need Programme 2013 – Outcome of consultation on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2013

Officer reports

- 7.11 21 May 2010 and 5 November 2010 SIB reports
- 7.12 7 May 2010 and 17 September 2010 AMB reports
- 7.13 EDCI impact assessment