

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to South (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 25th March 2013

Subject: Consultation on further proposals for primary school provision for September 2014

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|---|---|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Ardsley and Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South, Kippax and Methley, Bramley | | |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number: | | |

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. This includes formal consultation on six proposals, for which members comments are sought, and an update on four proposals consulted upon in September and October 2012.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider the consultation information and comment on the proposals, and note the update on previous consultations. Individual members have been briefed where the issues discussed directly affect their wards.

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. This report also updates members on the four proposals consulted on in September and October 2012.

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. At its meeting on 15 February 2013 Executive Board considered the report 'Basic Need Programme – Part A Permission to consult on a further round of school place expansions for 2014, Part B – Design and Cost Report Morley Newlands Primary School and approved consultation on the following proposals:

- to expand Allerton Bywater Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- to expand Asquith Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- to expand Morley St Francis Catholic Primary School from a capacity of 154 pupils to 210 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 22 to 30 with effect from September 2014;
- to expand East Ardsley Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- to expand Robin Hood Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School from 5 to 11 to 3 to 11

- 2.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 these require a statutory process, and this consultation forms the first part of that process. A consultation document is available for the five expansion proposals, which provides further information and background to the proposals. The document can be found on the Council website at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx>.

- 2.3 The consultation period runs from Monday 25 February 2013 to Friday 29 March 2013. Consultation on lowering the age range of Hollybush Primary School will conclude on 12 April 2013. Children's Services are holding meetings and drop in sessions to gather the views of the community and enable them to ask questions. The findings from the consultation will be presented to the Executive Board, who will decide whether to proceed to the next stage of the process.

- 2.4 These proposals form part of the ongoing programme of work to address capacity and sufficiency across all of Children's Services. This includes provision for primary and secondary school places, early years places and those for children with complex needs. The primary places are proposed in response to demographic growth in the city. Further papers will be brought forward in 2013 to address ongoing sufficiency issues.
- 2.5 The proposal in relation to Hollybush Primary School seeks to formalise the arrangements in respect of the governor led nursery provision delivered previously by the Local Authority but since September 2011 by the leadership and management of the school.
- 2.6 To meet likely demand for reception places in September 2013, some of the schools identified above have agreed to admit extra children into reception in September 2013, namely Allerton Bywater (up to 30 additional children), Asquith (up to 30) and East Ardsley (up to 15).
- 2.7 Part B of the report relates to capital spend on the Morley Newlands Primary School linked to the rebuilding and expansion of the school as part of the basic need programme.

3 Main issues

3.1 Consultation on proposals.

- 3.1.1 The proposals are being brought forward to address a predicted shortage of school places in the city due to a rising birth rate and the impact of new housing. Details of the proposals are described in full within the consultation document. In addition, the following points should be noted:
- 3.1.2 Any new school buildings are subject to the normal planning permission process, allowing any interested parties to comment. The two processes are independent and the outcome of one does not presuppose the outcome of the other. Based on our experience to date we have started to progress consultation with planning colleagues much earlier, although we remain mindful of how much can be done whilst still at risk of the proposals not proceeding.

3.2 Update on previous proposals

- 3.2.1 On 18 July 2012, the Executive Board granted permission to consult on the following proposals for primary school expansion from September 2014:
- Expansion of Little London Primary School from 210 places to 630 places, by increasing the admission limit from 30 to 90
 - Expansion of Rufford Park Primary School from 210 places to 315 places, by increasing the admission limit from 30 to 45
 - Expansion of Tranmere Park Primary School from 315 places to 420 places, by increasing the admission limit from 45 to 60

- Expansion of Sharp Lane Primary School from 420 places to 630 places, by increasing the admission limit from 60 to 90

3.2.2 Public consultation on the above proposals ran from Monday 10 September 2012 to Friday 19 October. All views and responses gathered during the consultation period were presented to the Executive Board at its December meeting, and permission was granted to proceed to statutory notice on three of the proposals – the expansions of Rufford Park, Sharp Lane and Little London Primary Schools. It was agreed that the Tranmere Park proposal be paused to allow officers to carry out further work in relation to the proposal. There are no alternatives currently identified for 2014, and temporary measures will be put in place until a permanent solution is found for the Guiseley/Yeadon/Rawdon Area.

3.2.3 The statutory notices in relation to Rufford Park, Sharp Lane and Little London were published on 8 February and a four week representation now follows this, where the public have a further opportunity to comment on the proposals. A final decision will be made by the Executive Board in spring 2013 at the earliest.

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 the consultation document. Further copies are available on <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx>.

4.1.2 Papers have been provided to all area committees city wide to ensure all indirect as well as direct impact on all wards is considered.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening exercise has been completed for each proposal, and the potential impact of the proposals on age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief has been considered.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The proposals are 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 projects will be funded from the education capital budget.

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 these proposals be approved, the delivery risks will be managed through a risk register kept by the project manager assigned.
- 4.6.2 Should these proposals 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 These proposals form part of the authority's ongoing planning to meet the need for school places across the city due to rising demographics and new housing. Secondary planning is also now forming an increasing part of the work and discussions continue with schools to release existing capacity.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Area Committee is requested to:
- Note and consider the report
 - Consider any response they wish to make as a part of the formal consultations

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no background documents associated with this paper.

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.