

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 10 July 2013

Subject: Consultation on further proposals for primary school provision for September 2015

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Calverley and Farsley, Guiseley and Rawdon		
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 Outer West 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 three proposals, for which members comments are sought, and an update on six proposals consulted upon in February and March 2013.

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 five proposals consulted on in February and March 2013.

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 9 May 2013 Executive Board considered the report 'Basic Need Programme 2014 – Outcome of consultation on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in 2014 (part A) and Basic Need Programme 2015 – Permission to consult on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in 2015 (part B)' and approved consultation on the following proposals:

- the expansion of Pudsey Primrose Hill 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 2015;
- a linked proposal to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School from a capacity of 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raise the age range from 3 to 7 to 3 to 11 with effect from September 2015;
- a linked proposal to expand St Oswald's Church of England Junior School from a capacity of 360 pupils to 420 pupils and lower the age range from 7 to 11 to 5 to 11 with effect from September 2015.

- 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 three 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 3 June 2013 to Friday 12 July 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 To meet likely demand for reception places in September 2013, Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School have agreed to admit an extra 5 children into reception in September 2013.

2.6 The Catholic Diocese have indicated the need for additional places for baptized children in the Pudsey area; the governing body of Pudsey St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are therefore seeking to create additional places at the school. The school is an academy and therefore the process would be managed by the school. The proposal is complimentary to the one to increase Primrose Hill and would create additional places in an area of need.

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 Part A of the report to the May Executive Board outlined the outcome of the following proposals for primary school expansion from September 2014:
- 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

3.2.2 Public consultation on the above proposals ran from Monday 25 February 2013 to Friday 29 March 2013. Consultation on lowering the age range of Hollybush Primary School concluded on 12 April 2013. All views and responses gathered during the consultation period were presented to the Executive Board at this meeting, and permission was granted to proceed to statutory notice on these proposals. The statutory notice in relation to Hollybush Primary School was published on Friday 7 June, and the statutory notices in relation to the other five proposals will be published on Friday 21 June, with a four week representation period following each notice. A final decision on these proposals will be made by the Executive Board in Autumn 2013.

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>.

4.2 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.