

Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 20th September 2017

Subject: Outcome of a statutory notice to change the lower age limit of Hovingham Primary School from 3-11 years to 2-11 years



Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Gipton & Harehills		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

This report contains details of a proposal brought forward to meet the Local Authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of 0-19 provision. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and accompanying statutory guidance set out the process which must be followed when making such changes. The statutory process to make these changes varies according to the nature of the change and the status of the school and the process followed in respect of the proposal is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the Local Authority.

There is a high demographic need for additional Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places for eligible 2 year olds in the Harehills area. Hovingham Primary School is proposing to lower the age limit of the school from October 2017, to enable them to deliver this provision. A public consultation on this proposal was conducted from 28 April to 12 May 2017. At its meeting on 21 June 2017, Executive Board gave permission for the local authority, as proposer, to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal. This report gives details of the proposal and seeks a final decision from Executive Board.

A Statutory Notice for the proposal commenced on 4 July 2017 and concluded on 2 August 2017. It provided an opportunity for respondents to make representations regarding the proposal. A final decision on this proposal must be made within two months

of expiry of the notices, therefore by 2 October 2017. There were no representations during the statutory notice period.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the proposal to permanently change the lower age limit of Hovingham Primary School from 3 to 2, changing the school's age range from 3-11 years to 2-11 years, with effect from October 2017. This then enables the school to deliver free early education entitlement for eligible 2 year olds.
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report contains details of a proposal brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to secure sufficient Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE) places for eligible 2 year olds. This report describes the outcome of a statutory notice regarding a proposal to lower the age limit at Hovingham Primary School changing their age range from 3-11 years to 2-11 years and seeks a final decision in respect of this proposal.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Executive Board has considered the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to expand Hovingham Primary School. Permission was given to publish a statutory notice on this proposal, which was brought forward under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The notice was published on 4 July 2017 and expired on 2 August 2017. A final decision on this proposal must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, therefore by 2 October 2017. Executive Board is the decision maker for this proposal.
- 2.2 The statutory notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 4 July 2017. A copy of the statutory notice was displayed on the notice boards both inside and outside at the school entrance and on lampposts nearest to the school. The full proposal was posted on the school's website and on the Leeds City Council website. Stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or email.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 During the consultation to change Hovingham Primary School's lower age limit, there were 17 written responses received. 14 respondents supported the proposal to lower the age limit, two were opposed and one neither supported nor opposed the proposal.
- 3.2 The concerns raised during the consultation were addressed in the report to Executive Board in June 2017.
- 3.3 No representations were received during the statutory notice period.
- 3.4 Hovingham Primary School building is currently undergoing a permanent expansion to increase its published admission number from 60 to 90 places from September 2017. Within the scope of the capital works, accommodation has been identified which would support the delivery of 2 year old early education provision. The school is a popular and good school in an area of high demographic need.
- 3.5 The governing body continues to be very positive about the potential to engage with local families at an earlier stage of a child's development and to ensure children have the best opportunities within a high quality early years environment, to prepare them for school. No other information has emerged to suggest that the proposal should not proceed.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The consultation process in respect of this proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.

4.1.2 During the consultation the school sent letters to all parents and published the consultation on their website. The website included documents translated into multiple languages to maximise engagement with parents/carers. The statutory notice was also promoted to parents and published through the school website. Local ward members, headteachers of other schools and early years providers in the area were informed about the proposal at both the consultation and statutory notice stages. There was also promotion of the proposal at each stage, via the Leeds City Council website and through the Child Friendly Leeds and Family Information Service Twitter accounts.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The EDCI form for lowering the age range at Hovingham Primary School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

4.3.1 This proposal supports the legislative requirement on the Council to secure sufficient early education places for eligible 2 year olds in Leeds.

4.3.2 This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council outcome to give everyone the chance to do well at every level of learning, gaining the skills they need for life.

4.3.3 The proposal provides tangible support for the city's aspiration to be the Best Council, the best city in which to grow up and a Child Friendly City. The delivery of early years places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City and by creating good quality local early education places we also offer strong support towards achievement of the aim to improve educational achievement and the closure of achievement gaps. In turn, this proposal provides underlying support for the Council's ambition to produce a strong economy by compassionate means. A good quality early education place also contributes to the achievement of targets within the Children and Young people's Plan, such as our obsession to improve behaviour, attendance and achievement. It is, therefore, important that when bringing any proposal forward, there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on the teaching and learning in the school. The Headteacher and the Governing Body is confident that the proposed change can be successfully managed without detriment to the education of current and future pupils.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 At its meeting on 21st December 2016, Executive Board approved the permanent expansion of Hovingham Primary School and in June 2017 approved the publication of a statutory notice to change the lower age limit. The approved

capital scheme includes additional accommodation which will enable the school to deliver early education provision for eligible 2 year olds.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The processes that have been and will be followed are in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, and amended by School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

4.5.2 This report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The proposal to change the lower age limit at Hovingham Primary School has been brought forward to meet an immediate need for FEEE for eligible 2 year olds and create opportunities to give the best start possible for young children in the Harehills area. A decision not to proceed at this stage would mean a lack of available places for children within an area of high demographic need and the authority's ability to meet its legislative requirement to secure sufficient early education places in the Harehills area would be at risk

5 Conclusions

5.1 Our ambition is for Leeds to be the best city in the country and for Leeds City Council to be the Best Council. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that we have enough early education for pre-school children is one of our main priorities. This proposal has been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate consultation, we now seek to move it to the next stage. This would ensure that children in Leeds have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a Child Friendly City.

5.2 There is overall support for the change of the lower age range limit of Hovingham Primary School. Concerns raised during consultation have been considered and the proposal remains strong and addresses the need for 2 year old provision in the area.

5.3 The proposed FEEE places are required to ensure the authority meets the requirement to ensure sufficiency of early education provision for eligible 2 year olds. There is evidence of local need for places in the area and it is therefore recommended that the proposal to change the school's lower age limit be approved.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the proposal to permanently change the lower age limit of Hovingham Primary School from 3 to 2, changing the school's age range from

3-11 years to 2-11 years, with effect from October 2017. This then enables the school to deliver free early education entitlement for eligible 2 year olds.

- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

7 **Background documents**¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.