

**Report of: Director of Children and Families**

**Report to: Executive Board**

**Date: 19 September 2018**

**Subject: Outcome of Statutory Notice on a proposal to increase primary places at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School**



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Roundhay, Moortown	<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

This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. 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 status of the school and the process followed in respect of these proposals is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority (LA).

A public consultation on a proposal to expand Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils by increasing the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019 took place from 23 March to 4 May 2018. At its meeting on 27 June 2018 Executive Board gave permission for the local authority, as proposer, to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of the proposal.

A Statutory Notice was published on 2 July 2018 marking the start of a four week formal consultation, also known as the 'representation' stage as prescribed in the 'Prescribed Alterations' regulations. During this four week period which ended on 30 July 2018 anyone could object to or comment on the proposals. There were 19 representations made during the representation period, 8 of which were formal objections and 11 of which were submitted as comments rather than objections. As objections were received the School

Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) was convened to consider the matter and make a recommendation to Executive Board. SOAB met on 15 August 2018, the notes of their meeting are attached as an appendix to this report. A summary of SOAB's recommendations is included in the conclusions section of this report. This report summarises the outcome of the Statutory Notice period and seeks a final decision from Executive Board.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the proposal to permanently expand primary provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019.
- Note that implementation of the decision is subject to feasibility and planning permission as indicated at 3.9.15 and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2019.
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

## 1 **Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the LA's duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places, which support the achievement of the Best Council priority to improve educational achievement and close achievement gaps. This report describes the outcome of Statutory Notice published regarding a proposal to expand primary school provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School (PS) and seeks a final decision in respect of this proposal.

## 2 **Background information**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 27 June 2018 Leeds City Council's Executive Board considered the outcome of the consultation on this proposal. Permission was given to publish a Statutory Notice, 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 2 July 2018 marking the start of a four week formal consultation, also known as the 'representation' stage as prescribed in the 'Prescribed Alterations' regulations. During this four week period which ended on 30 July 2018 anyone could object to or comment on the proposal. A final decision on a proposal must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the Statutory Notice, therefore by 29 September 2018. Executive Board is the decision maker for this proposal.
- 2.2 Copies of the Statutory Notice were displayed at the entrance to the school and on lampposts in the area near to the school. The full proposals were posted on the school website and on the Leeds City Council website and parents/carers at the school informed, along with any stakeholder who responded to the original consultation and the previous consultation to establish a through-school where contact details were provided. Other local schools and the Dioceses were also informed about the proposals along with ward councillors and community groups.
- 2.3 During the representation period, 19 representations were made, 8 of which were formal objections and 11 of which were submitted as comments rather than objections. As objections were received the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) was convened to consider the matter and make a recommendation to Executive Board. SOAB met on 15 August 2018 and the notes of their meeting are attached as an appendix to this report. A summary of SOAB's recommendations is included in the conclusions section of this report.

## 3 **Main issues**

- 3.1 As indicated in the report to Executive Board in June 2018 one of the main issues in this area is that there are not enough places at Talbot Primary School (PS) for all of the children who live closest to it. A number of the other local schools fill with siblings and their own 'nearest' children making it difficult for some families living nearest to Talbot PS to access a place either at Talbot PS or at most of the other local schools.
- 3.2 A large range of options have been explored over the years to provide the additional places needed in this area. This has included establishing permanent and/or bulge places at a number of local schools and reviewing the feasibility of

further expanding schools to meet the ongoing demand for places. Site suitability, highways and location were among the considerations when assessing which schools could expand. Although Talbot PS was able to admit a bulge cohort of children in 2016 it is not possible to permanently expand it. Moor Allerton Hall PS is situated within a reasonable distance of this area of pressure and would be well placed to address additional demand.

3.3 During the representation period following publication of the Statutory Notice 19 respondents commented on the proposal. 11 responses were to be counted as 'comments' rather than objections and 8 responses were 'objections'. Of the 11 respondents who commented, both support for and concerns about the proposal were raised. A summary of the comments received is provided below along with a response.

#### 3.4 **Comments in support of the proposal**

3.4.1 Subject to the Community Centre and Children's Centre moving to the former New Highwood pub site (referred to thereafter as 'the pub site'). This would ensure that sufficient space is made available to meet the needs of the whole school, particularly in relation to play space, leading to a focus on healthy lifestyles.

3.4.2 That the proposed changes to the building include sufficient provision for Children who are Deaf and Hearing Impaired including meeting BB93 performance standard guidelines as plans are developed. That the proposed changes will lead to improved outcomes for deaf children as required by the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice. That parents and deaf children are involved in the expansion process to ensure that they have a voice in helping to shape the proposals, that flashing fire alarms are fitted, and that aspects such as flooring, lighting and decorating requirements are considered to ensure a calm environment with good acoustics.

3.4.3 In the absence of a new school being built, support for the proposal including an indication that the proposed drop-off loop road would reduce the impact of traffic.

3.4.4 That all possible steps are taken to improve pedestrian access to the school.

3.4.5 Using the existing leadership team to shape and guide the expansion is positive and key to using this investment in the school to support its improvement journey. The success of this proposal is very much dependent on the involvement and support of the head and governors.

#### 3.5 **Response to comments in support of the proposal**

3.5.1 The proposal to relocate the Community Centre and Children's Centre to the pub site is predicated on the requirement to meet shortfalls in sports pitch provision at Moor Allerton Hall PS. The school currently has sufficient external areas (soft play, hard play, habitat etc.) for a 3 form entry (FE) school but is lacking in sports pitches. As a grass sports pitch cannot be provided the project is seeking to remedy this shortfall by utilising the location of the Community Centre, subject to relocation, as a hard-surface Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) that can be used all

year round. This provision is not proposed to have floodlighting. Current local arrangements for grass pitch access, managed locally by Moor Allerton Hall PS, will continue and will be supplemented by access to the MUGA on-site.

3.5.2 The proposed new teaching block will continue the principles established in the main school with respect to the DAHIT provision. This will include appropriate fire alarm beacons for lone working areas, sound-field systems in the required classroom ratio, acoustic enhancements where necessary etc.

3.5.3 Pedestrian access to the school would be considered as part of the full traffic assessment if the proposals were to progress.

### 3.6 **Comments raising concerns about the proposal**

3.6.1 The places are not in the right location to serve the area of need and although an extra 30 school places will have some positive impact on the shortfall within the Roundhay area, this will not make a long term difference under the existing admissions policy unless there is a change to the admissions policy to a catchment model. Concern has been raised that parents in the Talbot area won't preference Moor Allerton Hall PS and the extra places won't be filled, or be filled with children living further away.

3.6.2 If the pub site is included in the plans, alternative parking should be considered for parents and people visiting the Community and Children's Centres as it is currently used by Moor Allerton Hall PS parents.

3.6.3 Highways related concerns including congestion, unsafe parking, pollution and whether consideration will be given to additional parking, crossing points, restrictions on parking on certain roads and whether strategic hedging or trees along the perimeter could be introduced along with parking restrictions banning idling cars around the school to minimise emissions. Also that the planning for this proposal should include safe and healthy routes to school to enable children to travel to school by sustainable means considering that families may be travelling further distances. To increase the likelihood of parents from the Talbot area walking to Moor Allerton Hall PS, pedestrian access from Talbot Road should be considered to reduce the travel distance considerably.

3.6.4 The school would need financial and management support to ensure that the improvement journey the school is currently on is not jeopardised and the education of existing and future children at the school is safeguarded.

3.6.5 Concern that a school that is rated 'Requires improvement' by Ofsted is being considered and what will be done to ensure that the school doesn't deteriorate as it grows.

3.6.6 Concern that as the school grows that the ethos, structure and organisation of the school will be adversely impacted.

3.6.7 Concern about potential use of the former New Highwood pub site for school use as a split site and that moving any part of the school to pub site would not be acceptable, would be contrary to the wishes of the school leadership team as

expressed in its response to the earlier consultation, present unacceptable safeguarding risks and would compromise the ethos of the school. If the land currently occupied by the Community Centre is not secured as part of this proposal, alternative solutions should be considered.

### **3.7 Response to comments raising concerns about the proposal**

- 3.7.1 In the report to Executive Board in June 2018 following the initial consultation, a response to concerns raised about highways, location and sufficiency, use of the pub site, funding, and the school's improvement journey was provided and considered by Executive Board. Please refer to that report for further detail.
- 3.7.2 In response to additional concerns raised during the representation period about the impact of the proposal on the ethos, structure and organisation of the school and the financial support that the school would need, it will be for the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team within the school to manage these aspects if the proposals were to progress. The Governing Body indicated in its response to the original consultation on this proposal that 'the ethos, identity and leadership of the school would be retained as there would be no merger with another school, providing stability for staff'...'improved facilities for the school'...'greater opportunities for staff retention and development with a 3FE school'. The school will receive support from the Authority in terms of its learning improvement journey.
- 3.7.3 The proposal to relocate the Children's Centre and Community Centre onto the pub site would be predicated on a replication, where practical, of existing facilities.
- 3.7.4 In its current location the Community Centre has a number of dedicated parking spaces, following negotiation with the Trustees a like-for-like provision is a condition of any potential relocation. The proposals currently in development reflect this requirement. Existing lay-by parking along Lidgett Lane will also continue to be available for people visiting the Community Centre.
- 3.7.5 The Children's Centre currently has no allocated parking, access for visitors is via an electronically controlled security gate monitored by Moor Allerton Hall PS's main school office. Parking within the school car park is intended for staff only, including employees of the Children's Centre. As such suitable staff parking for Children's Centre employees would be provided as part of any relocation. These parking spaces would also be available for use by the Community Centre outside of their core business hours, e.g. for evening groups, weekend events etc.

### **3.8 Objections to the proposal**

- 3.8.1 'The Lodge' which sits next to the school site was purchased due to its location and views of Moor Allerton Hall and it has had significant renovations. The proposal will extend the school boundary surrounding the property on three sides, spoiling the views of the Grade II Listed Moor Allerton Hall and will detract from the character of both buildings and Curtilage of The Hall. The one way system will restrict access to the Lodge and increase congestion on Lidgett Lane and will increase noise from traffic. There will be increased noise, light and air pollution due to the proposed Multi Use Games Area. Safety is a concern due to a recent

accident involving two school children. The emergency access road from Lidgett Lane to Allerton Grange Secondary school is to be connected to the Moor Allerton Hall Primary School Access Road and is not authorised to be used as a general access road. The development will increase further water surface run off and flooding. The questions which were raised at the meeting/drop-in session on 19 April relating to the effect of the development upon the Curtilage of Moor Allerton Hall were not answered because the Leeds Council Planning Department did not attend the meeting and not addressed after the meeting. The written objection of 4th May 2018 was not considered in the decision to progress the scheme to Statutory Notice.

- 3.8.2 The school is too far from the area of need and would place pressure on families with one car or who don't drive, contributing to a worsening of air quality.
- 3.8.3 If families living closer to Moor Allerton Hall were to preference the school some Talbot families would not get a place.
- 3.8.4 There are existing traffic issues on Talbot Avenue and the Bentcliffes and this proposal will further increase problems for residents if another entrance is considered on Talbot Avenue. A full traffic and air pollution assessment has not yet been done so how can the council give any reassurances about pollution and safety?
- 3.8.5 The council has a poor record in Early Years development for 3FE schools and how can a school that is in Requires Improvement continue to improve whilst managing greater numbers? A 3FE school is not conducive to a nurturing environment and the issues felt at Roundhay School reflect this. There needs to be a different entry system for 2/3 years to address the sibling issues felt at Talbot Primary School.
- 3.8.6 Modelling data is flawed. The expansion is in the wrong place and a waste of money as the school will not fill. The council has examples of expanding schools that don't fill and if a parent has to drive to a school they will travel further to access a one with a better reputation. The expansion of an existing more desirable school should be considered.
- 3.8.7 Use of the former New Highwood pub should not be for another school due to existing traffic, congestion and litter issues. A better use of it would be for extra care housing for older people.

### **3.9 Response to objections to the proposal**

- 3.9.1 In the report to Executive Board in June 2018 following the initial consultation, a response to concerns raised about highways, location and sufficiency, use of the pub site and the school's improvement journey was provided and considered by Executive Board. Please refer to that report for further detail.
- 3.9.2 Concerns about traffic and highways was also raised during the public consultation period and commented on within the executive board report of 27 June 2018. Officers acknowledge the concerns relating to traffic in the area due to existing issues and colleagues within Highways Services would look at ways of

managing this where appropriate. If the expansion were to progress a full traffic assessment and a transport statement, based on the results of surveys commissioned for this project would be produced to reflect and support the planning application proposals. This would include an assessment of current highways issues and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. LCC encourages sustainable travel so enhancements to or new crossing points would be considered along with the school's travel plan. A pick-up/drop-off area is also being considered which would take some of the traffic off the road and manage it within the site via dedicated parking bays. A full and transparent planning process would be followed if the proposals were to progress.

3.9.3 Concern has been raised during the representation period that an alternative school should be considered for expansion. As previously indicated to Executive Board in June 2018 a large range of options have been explored over the years to provide the additional places needed in this area. This has included establishing permanent and/or bulge places at a number of local schools and reviewing the feasibility of further expanding schools to meet the ongoing demand for places. Site suitability, highways and location are among the considerations when assessing which schools could expand. Although Talbot PS was able to admit a bulge cohort of children in 2016 it is not possible to permanently expand it. Moor Allerton Hall PS is situated within a reasonable distance of the area of need and would be well placed as an Admission Point to address additional demand.

3.9.4 With regard to the comments made about Early Years provision, this proposal is to expand primary provision not early years provision and there is no evidence that the school will be unable to manage its early years setting appropriately. The latest Ofsted report states that Early Years provision is 'good' and makes a number of observations:

Leaders accurately assess children's starting points and they design stimulating activities to meet the diverse needs of individual children. Hence, children get off to a positive start and make at least good progress in the early years. Over the last three years the proportion of pupils achieving a good level of development has continued to improve and is now around that seen nationally. Children are well prepared for Year 1;

Teachers ensure that they promote the values of the school from the time children start attending. The culture of care that is present throughout the rest of the school begins here and is evident in children's thoughtfulness towards each other and adults;

The leader of early years ensures that activities and learning themes run throughout the high-quality learning environment, indoors and in the outdoor area. These promote children's development in all key areas of learning well, and enable children to be happy, resilient and self-confident learners;

Staff have high expectations for what children can achieve, and challenge them effectively to develop early skills in literacy and numeracy. Imaginative teaching, including in phonics, enables children to improve their ability to read and write words and sentences rapidly.



With regards the concern raised about 3 form entry schools having a poor record in early years, there are six 3FE schools within Leeds and all are rated 'good' or 'outstanding' for early years as of their latest Ofsted reports.

- 3.9.5 In relation to the impact of the proposal on the setting of the Grade II listed Moor Allerton Hall, this will be a material planning consideration to be resolved as part of the planning application process.
- 3.9.6 The land surrounding The Lodge is vested with Moor Allerton Hall PS and forms part of their site. It is maintained accordingly by the school. The proposal is to sympathetically extend the school's perimeter fence so it can utilise the full extent of the site, a planting scheme will support this to soften the impact of any new fencing. This will ensure the school site is safe and secure for all pupils and staff. The location of The Lodge next to a 'live' school site has not changed, the proposal seeks to simply define this boundary in-line with the land registry plans.
- 3.9.7 The noted parent / pupil drop-off loop was presented at the consultation following initial consultation with Highways and Planning, these proposals have since evolved and are still in development. Extensive consultation is taking place with both Planning and Highways departments to ensure these proposals address the noted concerns. It is not currently possible to provide further detail on this as work is still ongoing and Highways have not yet completed their final review to ensure their requirements are met. The project will seek to address congestion and traffic issues generated by the school expansion, these are being drawn up in conjunction to the parent / pupil drop-off proposal in consultation with Highways. A package of Highways works will be undertaken based on new survey data and the Transport Statement generated as part of this project.
- 3.9.8 The 'access road' to the secondary school was historically designed as school bus access and service vehicles. Due to congestion along Talbot Avenue, and in consultation with Planning, Highways and the Police, the road was opened for parent / pupil drop-off. Any modifications to this road undertaken by the project will be subject to Highways design requirements and will need to provide suitable drainage based on the design proposal. Note, an attenuation tank is currently connected to this road as part of its original construction ten years ago. Any planning application will include a flood risk assessment covering the proposals.
- 3.9.9 The MUGA will be located on the school site and as such subject to daily use. It will not be illuminated by floodlighting so will generate no light or air pollution. Where applicable the landscaping measures will provide a planting scheme to soften the new developments.
- 3.9.10 If approved, it is expected that the building work will commence through 2019 to ensure delivery of accommodation for the additional intake from September of that year. Much of the internal remodelling will take place during school holidays and in particular the summer holiday period to ensure minimum disruption to the children's teaching and learning.
- 3.9.11 As objections were received the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) was convened to consider the matter and make a recommendation to Executive Board. SOAB met on 15 August 2018 and the notes of their meeting are attached

as an appendix to this report. A summary of SOAB's recommendations is included in the conclusions section of this report.

- 3.9.12 The Headteacher and Governing Body are confident that the school can manage an expansion alongside the school's improvement journey. The Learning Improvement team within Leeds City Council will continue to work with Moor Allerton Hall PS and other partners, to ensure that the progress already made by the leadership and staff at the school continues and that outcomes for children will rise further.
- 3.9.13 During the representation period the Governing Body reiterated its support for the proposal. It notes that having consulted more widely with parents and carers, the Governing Body would underline the importance of gaining the space currently occupied by the Community Centre. This is to ensure that its children will have significant play space to play outside given the focus on healthy lifestyles supported by the Department for Education and Leeds City Council.
- 3.9.14 As previously indicated to Executive Board an option being considered is the potential to utilise the pub site. The freehold for the pub site is owned by Leeds City Council and the leasehold for the building was recently purchased. The site has been allocated to support the proposed development of Moor Allerton Hall PS and curriculum requirements necessary to expand to 3FE. Officers' preferred option is to relocate the Children's Centre which sits currently within the existing school building and the Community Centre which is located next to the existing school building, onto the pub site. A letter of comfort has been received via email from the Trustees of the Community Centre which demonstrates support for the proposal subject to the plans being implemented and a formal lease agreement being put in place.
- 3.9.15 Implementation of the decision - a feasibility study has been commissioned to determine options and ensure we proceed with the most effective solution, financially and educationally. Any scheme would be subject to relevant consultation at the appropriate juncture as informed by the key stakeholders and local ward members and any design/proposals would be drawn up in full consultation with the school based on area schedules provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Planning permission would be required prior to the commencement of any construction. The proposal to increase primary provision in the Moortown area has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2019.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The process in respect of all the proposals has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 4.1.2 The Statutory Notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 2 July 2018. Copies of the Statutory Notice were displayed at the entrance to the school and on lampposts in the area near to the school. The full proposals were posted on the school website and on the Leeds City Council website and parents at the

school were informed, along with any stakeholder who responded to the original consultation and the previous consultation to establish a through-school where contact details were provided. Other local schools and the Dioceses were also informed about the proposals along with ward councillors and community groups.

4.1.3 Stakeholders had the opportunity to comment or object to the proposals either in writing or by email.

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

4.2.1 The EDCI screening form for the proposal is attached as an appendix to this report.

## 4.3 **Council policies and Best Council Plan**

4.3.1 This proposal supports 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.

4.3.2 This proposal is being brought forward to meet the LA's statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all the children in Leeds. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, is an efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of non-attendance.

4.3.3 This proposal contributes to 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 pupil places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a child friendly city. By creating good quality local school places we can support the priority aim of improving educational achievement and closing achievement gaps. In turn, by providing young people with the skills they need for life, this proposal provides underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy by compassionate means. A good quality school place also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve behaviour, attendance and achievement.

4.3.4 It is important when bringing any proposals forward that there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on teaching and learning. The Headteacher and Governing Body are confident that they can manage the expansion of the school whilst continuing to demonstrate improvements in relation to the school's learning improvement journey as indicated in the report to Executive Board in June 2018.

## 4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 Pre-feasibility budgets, based on high-level calculations, are estimated at £4.2m for the proposed expansion of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School. This figure is reflective of progress to date and continued development of a number of complex elements of the proposed project which do not yet have firm costings available. A feasibility study has been commissioned to determine options and ensure we proceed with the most effective solution, financially and educationally. Any

scheme would be subject to relevant consultation at the appropriate juncture as informed by the key stakeholders and local ward members and any design/proposals would be drawn up in full consultation with the school based on area schedules provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Planning permission would be required prior to the commencement of any construction.

4.4.2 This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme primarily through Basic Need Allocations. The precise funding packages would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost reports.

#### 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 increase primary provision in the Moortown area has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2019. Bulge places have been offered to ensure a sufficiency of places in 2018 and a decision not to proceed with regard to this proposal may result in a fresh consultation on new proposals, and there is a high risk that places will not be delivered in time. The LA's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short and longer term may be at risk. There is also a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

4.6.2 As indicated in the report to Executive Board in June 2018, as a consequence of the requirement to plan additional places within this area it has been necessary for the Authority to work at risk to develop the expansion proposals based on an increase to 3FE. The Authority has been working closely with the school management team, Highways, Planning, Urban Design, local community groups, ward members and other key stakeholders to ensure these proposals are in keeping with, and respond to feedback provided during the consultation. The critical path programme dates for the design and construction of any new accommodation overlap with the statutory process and if treated sequentially delivery of any permanent solution for September 2019 is not possible. In order to meet statutory obligations for pupil places within the area in September 2019, and provide the essential accommodation, it may be necessary to submit the planning application for the proposed expansion prior to Executive Board's final determination on the statutory process. A planning consultation session will be held early September 2018 with a view to submitting the planning application itself mid-September 2018. This will not circumvent the statutory process as approval to proceed with the construction of any new permanent accommodation at Moor Allerton Hall PS will not be granted by Executive Board unless both

planning permission and statutory approval have been granted. Submission, and potential approval, of planning permission in no way presupposes any final decision on the proposal to expand the school.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that there are enough school places for children is one of the council's priorities. This proposal has been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate consultation and publication of the Statutory Notice a final decision is now sought from Executive Board. If agreed, this proposal will ensure that children in Leeds have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver the vision of Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 The details of Statutory Notice and how anyone could respond to it were sent to over 500 stakeholders, the school shared the detail with parents and the Statutory Notice was displayed on lampposts locally as well as being available on both the council and school websites. 19 responses were received of which 8 were objections which in comparison to the number of stakeholders who were informed, is a very low response rate.
- 5.3 As objections were received School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) was convened to consider the matter and make a recommendation to Executive Board. SOAB met on 15 August 2018 and the notes of their meeting are attached as an appendix to this report. Although SOAB recognised the need for additional school places in the area, its recommendation to Executive Board was to reject the proposal for the following reasons; that the school was continually undersubscribed and required improvement, that any expansion would place an unwelcome burden on the school's leadership team to deliver improvement, that the proposal would not aid parental preference and there were also significant highway issues that required addressing. These points were previously addressed in the report to Executive Board in June 2018 ahead of the publication of a Statutory Notice.
- 5.4 The Children and Families Service believe that the issues raised as concerns or formal objections do not present insurmountable barriers and that these can be addressed. The proposal remains strong and addresses the LA's statutory duty to provide sufficient school places, to provide places close to where children live, allow improved accessibility to local school places, manage resources effectively and to support good levels of attendance. It is our recommendation that the proposals are approved.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to:
- Approve the proposal to permanently expand primary provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019.

- Note that implementation of the decision is subject to feasibility and planning permission as indicated at 3.9.15 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2019.
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

## 7 **Background documents**<sup>1</sup>

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> 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.