

Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 24 July 2019

Subject: Outcome of consultation and request to approve funding to permanently increase learning places at Horsforth School from September 2022



Are specific electoral wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Horsforth	
Has consultation been carried out?	<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
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- This report contains details of a proposal brought forward by the Trustees of Horsforth School (Academy), working in partnership with Leeds City Council to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under Department for Education advice for academy trusts, Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy (March 2016).
- A consultation on a proposal to expand Horsforth School from a capacity of 1125 to 1425 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 225 to 285 with effect from September 2022 took place between 11 January and 8 February 2019. The academy's current 6th Form provision is unaffected by this proposal.
- A total of 195 consultation responses were received of which 77% either strongly or somewhat supported the proposal. 16% strongly opposed or somewhat opposed the proposal and 6% neither supported nor opposed, or were unsure about the proposal. Further details about the responses and issues identified by stakeholders and respondents during the consultation period are detailed in the main body of this report.

- Following the consultation period the Trustees of Horsforth School met on 26 February 2019 to consider the outcomes and subsequently decided that they wanted the proposals to progress.

2. Best Council Plan Implications

This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council Plan outcome that states ‘we want everyone in Leeds to do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life’.

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 attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes. In turn, by helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, this proposal provides underlying support for the council’s ambition to produce a strong economy and a compassionate city. 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 achievement, attainment and attendance at school.

3. Resource Implications

The funding provided by Central Government for this size of expansion is £4.8m. The cost estimate of the proposed scheme, as identified at feasibility stage, is £5.1m but is subject to further detailed design work. Once the further design work is complete, budgets would then be realigned to reflect a more robust cost certainty. The proposed scheme would be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works and would be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.

This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Grant. However, the precise funding packages would be confirmed at design freeze stage and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR).

Recommendations

- a) Note the outcome of consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Horsforth School from a capacity of 1125 to 1425 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 225 to 285 with effect from September 2022
- b) Note the outcome of initial feasibility work and grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £4.8m to deliver the proposed permanent expansion at Horsforth School
- c) Note that implementation of the proposals is subject to funding being agreed based on the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications as indicated at section 4.4.1 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2022; and
- d) 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 ensure a sufficiency of school places, which supports the achievement of the Best Council priority to improve educational attainment and close achievement gaps. This report describes the outcome of a consultation regarding a proposal to expand secondary school provision at Horsforth School and seeks a decision to fund delivery of a scheme to create the additional learning places required.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The North West (secondary planning) area referred to in this report includes the following secondary schools/academies (Abbey Grange Church of England Academy, Benton Park School, Guiseley School, Horsforth School, Lawnswood School, Prince Henry's Grammar School, Ralph Thoresby School and St Mary's Menston Catholic Voluntary Academy)
- 2.2 The increase in the birth rate over the last decade in Leeds, which prompted the need to embark on a programme of primary provision expansion is now beginning to feed through into the secondary sector, with demand anticipated to grow markedly across most parts of the city until at least 2023-24. Current demographic data suggests that up to an additional 40 forms of entry (FE) of year 7 capacity may be required across the city over future years, with 6 FE of additional year 7 capacity needed across the North West of Leeds.
- 2.3 In response to growing demand for year 7 places, Horsforth School and other secondary providers in the North West of the city have admitted over their Published Admission Numbers (PANs) in recent years. As the number of secondary-aged students living in the North West is anticipated to increase over future years, additional permanent places are required to address the growing need.
- 2.4 In June 2018 an initial stakeholder engagement event was held which involved local secondary schools, ward members and other interested parties. The event was an opportunity to share demographic data and gather views regarding the best approach to be taken to address future secondary demand in the North West. Following the stakeholder event a consultation process took place on a proposal to permanently expand Benton Park School from September 2021. This proposal has subsequently received final approval from Executive Board. Implementation of the current proposal to permanently expand Horsforth School would form another part of a strategic approach towards meeting the identified secondary need in the North West.
- 2.5 The proposal to expand Horsforth School has been developed through discussions between Leeds City Council and the trustees and head teacher of Horsforth School. The proposal was one of the options put forward at the stakeholder event in June 2018.
- 2.6 The trustees and head teacher of Horsforth School engaged with local schools, St Margaret's Church, Horsforth Town Council and Horsforth ward members ahead of the consultation period to raise awareness of the proposals.
- 2.7 The trustee's consultation on the proposal took place between 11 January and 8 February 2019. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including: email; an online survey and several informal drop-in

sessions at Horsforth School (for parents, residents and other interested stakeholders) which offered attendees an opportunity to discuss the proposal with trustees of Horsforth School and Leeds City Council representatives. Leaflets advertising the consultation were delivered to residents in the local area and details of the proposals and the consultation drop-in sessions were also given to parents and carers via information sent out by Horsforth School. Details about the consultation were also sent to primary and secondary schools in the area and to other stakeholders. Posters were displayed at a number of locations in the local area including at early years settings and information was available via the Leeds City Council website and through various social media platforms and accounts.

- 2.8 Consultation meetings were held with the academy trustees, staff and the pupils of Horsforth School. Trustees also met with local ward members and with Horsforth Town Council in the consultation period.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 There is an identified need for additional secondary places in the North West area of Leeds to meet anticipated demand over future years. Horsforth School is popular and consistently over-subscribed. The school is located in an area of high demographic need and the proposed 60 additional permanent year 7 places would address anticipated future local pressure in Horsforth and contribute towards providing places for the wider area as part of a strategy for creating additional secondary school places across the North West area of Leeds.
- 3.2 Horsforth School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection in May 2018 and is popular with local families. The academy benefits from strong leadership and management and a dedicated staff team who are very positive about the potential benefits of a permanent expansion. The head teacher and governing body are confident that if the academy were to expand, existing high standards of teaching and learning could be maintained, resulting in improved outcomes for a greater number of local children.
- 3.3 During the consultation period there were 195 survey responses received.
- 3.4 In total, 115 out of the 195 respondents (59% of the total) strongly supported the proposal and a further 36 were somewhat in support of it (18% of the total). In comparison there were 20 respondents who strongly opposed the proposal (10% of the total) and a further 12 who somewhat opposed it (6% of the total). 12 respondents stated that they neither supported nor opposed the proposal, or were not sure about it and 22 of the responses received were from current students of Horsforth School.
- 3.5 144 of the 195 respondents stated that they found the consultation process useful.
- 3.6 A copy of the responses received can be requested from the Sufficiency and Participation Team at educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk
- 3.7 In response to the consultation a total of 209 points were received in support for the principle of providing additional year 7 places at Horsforth School to meet growing demand for secondary school provision in the area. Some respondents made more than one point in their written comments and a summary of the main supportive points received is listed below;
- An expansion at Horsforth School is needed to address the demand for secondary places in the area

- Additional secondary places are needed at Horsforth School to meet demand from local building/housing developments
- Additional secondary places are needed at Horsforth School to meet demand resulting from the recent expansion of some local primary schools in the area
- Without extra places at Horsforth School some students living in LS18 would have little chance of being offered a place at their priority school
- More places are needed at Horsforth School to accommodate some children who do not have LS18 postcodes but who live relatively near to the academy
- Horsforth School has a good reputation and more students should be able to benefit from the high standards of education at the academy
- It is important that children are able to attend a local secondary school and without additional places at Horsforth School some students would have to travel too far to access a school place
- An expansion at Horsforth School would result in better facilities
- The proposed expansion would improve parental choice

3.8 The main concerns raised by respondents and responses to those concerns are summarised as follows;

3.8.1 **Concern that without the proposed expansion at Horsforth School there would be insufficient places to meet future secondary demand in the area:** There may be insufficient secondary school places in Horsforth to meet demand from new housing developments in the area and to ensure that local children do not have to travel significant distances to access a school place. The existing admissions policy at Horsforth School includes a priority for children living in LS18 and without additional places available at the academy, it is very difficult for non-LS18 residents to secure a place there.

Response: Current data suggests that the number of secondary-aged children living in some areas, including Horsforth and Cookridge will increase over future years, with new housing having already contributed towards this growth. This proposal has been brought forward in response to anticipated increases in demand for secondary places in Horsforth and across the wider North West Leeds secondary planning area over future years.

Over recent years several primary schools in the Horsforth, Cookridge and surrounding areas have expanded to cope with growing numbers of local children and this increase is now moving into secondary. Additional secondary places are therefore needed to meet the anticipated demand for future years. Horsforth School is situated in an area of significant demographic need for secondary school places and additional places there would contribute towards the strategic approach that has been adopted to meet the identified secondary need across the North West area.

The trustees of Horsforth School are the admission authority for the academy and therefore are responsible for setting and implementing their own admissions policy. Their admissions policy for Horsforth School does not have to follow Leeds City Council's admissions policy but the trustees must ensure that it follows the Admissions Code 2014.

The proposed additional places are likely to offer greater parental choice.

- 3.8.2 Concern that the proposed expansion will not adequately meet anticipated future demand in Horsforth:** In order to meet future demand, the proposed number of additional year 7 places at Horsforth School (2 forms of entry) is inadequate and the proposals should be implemented sooner than 2022.

Response: If implemented, the proposed expansion at Horsforth School would form part of a part of a wider solution for meeting anticipated secondary demand for an additional 6FE of year 7 places across the North West of Leeds over future years. Based on current data, the proposed additional 60 year 7 places at Horsforth School would address anticipated need in the local area and would contribute towards meeting demand in the wider area. Although the proposals relate to the creation of an additional 60 year 7 places with effect from 2022, the academy trustees have demonstrated a willingness to work with Leeds City Council to potentially adopt a phased approach to delivering the additional places to ensure that additional places at Horsforth School would not negatively impact other local secondary providers in the area.

Further proposals may be brought forward in the future as part of a strategy to provide sufficient secondary places across the North West, with 55 additional permanent year 7 places due to be created at Benton Park from 2021. Sufficiency officers will continue to work with secondary providers across the North West to ensure that there are enough places to meet future demand.

- 3.8.3 Concern about whether other options have been considered:** Due consideration has not been given to alternative solutions including establishing new secondary provision or expanding existing provision elsewhere

Response: When planning school places a number of options are considered before proposals are developed. Options include short term bulges or temporary increases where the need may not be sustained, permanent expansion of one or more schools where the need is projected to continue and increase, or the creation of a new school to manage the whole need. As the demand for secondary places in Horsforth and the wider North West area is projected to rise, an options appraisal was carried out to determine which school sites had capacity to expand and although some sites were deemed too small to allow for expansion, Horsforth School had the site capacity to expand in line with the demand projected in the area. In addition to this proposal, additional places are projected to be needed at other schools in the wider North West area, ensuring the places are apportioned.

The creation of a new free school would firstly require a large enough site but would also create too much provision in one area, potentially negatively impacting on some local schools and not evenly distributing provision across the North West of the city. This approach would not be effective in delivering the required places across the wider area.

- 3.8.4 Concern about potential negative impact on teaching and learning:** Were the academy to expand, the standards of education and teaching might be compromised due to the academy increasing in size from 1125 to 1425 places in total across years 7 to 11. Staffing levels may not be adequate and class sizes may increase.

Response: Were the academy to expand, additional teaching and support staff would be required over the five year period that it would take for all year groups (years 7 to 11) to increase in size to 285 places. The head teacher and governing

body are committed to maintaining the current high standards and feel that due to the positive reputation of the academy they would be able to continue to attract high quality staff. The head teacher and senior leadership team are confident that the proposed expansion would not have a negative impact on students and anticipate that with an increase in pupil numbers they would be able to enhance their curriculum offer, providing more choice for students and be more effective at meeting students' needs.

The head teacher has confirmed that there are no plans to increase class size as a result of the proposed expansion.

- 3.8.5 Concern about potential negative impact on the welfare and personal development of pupils:** Pupil welfare might be negatively impacted as a result of expansion; this may include inadequate pastoral support and support for helping pupils to transition between primary school and secondary school. The expansion might lead to overcrowding within the school buildings which could have a detrimental impact on the wellbeing of some pupils.

Response: The leadership of Horsforth School would be responsible for ensuring that adequate staffing and support for pupils' welfare and wellbeing was in place, were the academy to expand. This includes managing the transition of pupils from primary schools. The school was rated Good at its last Ofsted inspection (May 2018) and the head teacher is confident that he and the senior leadership team can continue to maintain current high standards in all areas of pupils' experience at the academy.

Historic concerns about congestion within the existing building have been acknowledged and as a result protocols have been developed to manage pupil movement such as one-way systems. Senior leadership at the academy has indicated that the success of such initiatives would be adopted within any new accommodation. Added to this, the proposed design would seek to incorporate external walkways around the perimeter of the existing building to support alternative routes for pupils as they move between lessons / buildings. Were the academy to expand, any new development would be designed to support and improve, where possible, the movement of staff and pupils around the school site.

- 3.8.6 Concern about potential limitations of new accommodation:** Uncertainties about the feasibility of potential build options, how the site may be utilised to provide the necessary additional accommodation and associated facilities and whether or not the required funding could be secured to provide adequate build solutions undermine the proposals.

Response: Following consultation a feasibility report has been produced which demonstrates the options available for the development of the site, including the potential use of the land formally used by the Adult Training Centre (ATC). The ATC site is in council ownership and is currently reserved for education use, which may be a barrier to considering its use for other purposes.

The academy has expressed a willingness to fully engage with any negotiations in terms of delivering the necessary accommodation / sporting facilities for the school and balancing the needs of the local community when considering additional public car parking.

The head teacher and trustees have expressed a preference to re-route the public right of way that currently borders the ATC site. They acknowledge that a separate process would be required to make changes to an existing right of way and that members of the public would have an opportunity to comment on these proposals if they were brought forward.

If approved, funding for the provision of additional accommodation and associated facilities to support the permanent expansion of Horsforth School to create additional secondary places in the area would be provided from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Grant. However, the precise funding packages would be confirmed at design freeze stage and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR).

The academy has also indicated a willingness to fund some improvements to the existing buildings if the proposed expansion was to go ahead. These improvements may include the remodelling of some existing corridors and the addition of external walkways

- 3.8.7 Concern about potential disruption caused by construction work:** Building work on the school site would negatively impact on the pupils of the academy.

Response: The head teacher and trustees of Horsforth School would seek to ensure any disruption, as a result of the proposed development, be kept to a minimum with confidence remaining high that the academy would continue to operate normally during any construction work. The head teacher has prior experience of a full school rebuild and is therefore aware of issues that may arise. As with all construction work on educational land, it is anticipated the programme would take account of the schools daily operation, with the most disruptive work taking place within the school holidays where possible.

- 3.8.8 Concern about potential negative impact on traffic and highways:** The expansion would have a potentially negative impact on traffic and car parking. Car parking associated with the academy in neighbouring streets, particularly at the start and end of the school day, could become more of an inconvenience for local residents and pose a potential safety hazard for pedestrians, particularly if a proportion of the additional students were travelling from other areas to attend the academy. There is also the potential for increased disruption to local residents caused by additional students walking to and from the academy.

Response: The planning approval process requires officers from Highways to formally respond to any expansion proposal at Horsforth School. As part of the application, assessments of the current highway will be made and if required additional traffic management measures would be enforced.

The trustees are committed to addressing on-site parking and movement of vehicles to mitigate against the potential impact of the proposed expansion on traffic and parking in neighbouring streets. Subject to approval, it is the trustees' preference to establish a one-way system for vehicles and the formation of a pick-up/drop-off area within the school site.

The current Green Travel Plan for Horsforth School identifies that a high proportion of students (81%) travel to the academy on foot. It is anticipated that if the proposed expansion went ahead a similar proportion of the additional students would also walk to school. The head teacher has stated that he would seek to take

advantage of additional opportunities to promote and support sustainable methods of transport with the students as part of the expansion proposals.

The increase in pupil numbers would happen gradually over a 5 year period so the full impact of increased numbers of pupils walking to and from school would not take place suddenly. The feasibility study and subsequent detailed design will continue to seek opportunities in order to establish additional access points to the site for pedestrians, potentially reducing the impact of increased numbers of pupils on current walking routes.

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 consultation was carried out over a four week period and included use of an on-line survey. A number of drop-in sessions were held at Horsforth School supported by officers from Highways, Sufficiency and Participation, and City Development teams. The drop-ins provided opportunities for parents, carers, school staff, and local residents to ask questions and find out more about the proposals. Information about the consultation was distributed widely, including the parents of students attending the academy, other local schools and academies (primary and secondary), via local early years providers, on the Leeds City Council website, the Family Information Service website, Twitter and Facebook. Meetings were held with the trustees, staff and student council of Horsforth School. Leaflets highlighting the consultation, and the timings of the consultation drop-in meetings were distributed to local residents and displayed at a number of prominent locations in the area. Trustees and Leeds City Council officers also attending a meeting of Horsforth Town Council within the consultation period to raise awareness of the proposals.
- 4.1.3 Local ward members were consulted on the proposals. They have expressed support for the expansion of Horsforth School provided that highways and parking concerns are adequately addressed.
- 4.1.4 The Academy trustees will continue to work with the local community to address any issues that may arise as a result of the proposed expansion, should it be approved.

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 the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council Plan outcome that states 'we want everyone in Leeds to do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life'.
- 4.3.2 This proposal is being brought forward to meet the local authority'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 aspiration for Leeds City Council to be the best council and for Leeds to be the best city in which to grow up in, 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 aims of improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes. In turn, by helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, this proposal provides underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy and a compassionate city. 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 achievement, attainment and attendance at school.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 Due to anticipated increases in the demand for secondary places in Horsforth and the surrounding area, the provision of 60 additional year 7 places at Horsforth School has been proposed as part of a strategy to address secondary need in the North West over future years. This proposal would support more local families to access local places thereby potentially reducing journey times to and from school.
- 4.3.5 Current information suggests that 81% of students attending Horsforth School currently walk to school and the academy has indicated a commitment to supporting and promoting sustainable travel. The head teacher is positive about the opportunities the expansion may present in terms of increasing students' use of sustainable methods of travel.
- 4.3.6 As part of any planning application, the school's 'Travel Plan' would be considered and a package of measures would be identified in order to mitigate against the potential negative impact on the highway as a result of the development. Leeds City Council's 'Influencing Travel Behaviour Team' would support these measures and seek to ensure safe routes to and from school by promoting walking, cycling and other sustainable methods of transport. Progress on these matters would be monitored and support offered where appropriate.
- 4.3.7 The responsibility for the design and ensuring the proposed development meets the demands of current building strategies and social responsibility, such as the use of renewable energy and energy saving technologies, will be that of the Academy and their appointed architectural practice. The proposed expansion provides an opportunity for the Academy to explore energy efficiency standards and environmentally sensitive procurement practices which the senior leadership of the Academy continually strive to promote during the day to day operation of the school.
- 4.3.8 The build scheme offers the potential for environmental improvements to the external areas of the school site and there may be opportunities for students to engage in some aspects of this development, for example by increasing biodiversity through planting trees and plants and installing bird feeders within the school grounds.

- 4.3.9 Over recent years the academy has added solar panels, installed recycling bins and phased out the use of plastic cutlery. Moving forward, the student parliament will include a council focussed on sustainable action and climate change.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The funding provided by Central Government for this size of expansion is £4.8m. The cost estimate of the proposed scheme, as identified at feasibility stage, is £5.1m but is subject to further detailed design work. Once the further design work is complete, budgets would then be realigned to reflect a more robust cost certainty. The proposed scheme would be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works and would be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.
- 4.4.2 This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Grant. However, the precise funding packages would be confirmed at design freeze stage and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR). The academy has also indicated a willingness to fund some improvements to the existing buildings if the proposed expansion was to go ahead. These improvements may include the remodelling of some existing corridors and the addition of external walkways.
- 4.4.3 School Places Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Children and Families, provides strong cross council and corporate involvement to ensure that appropriate governance is applied to learning places schemes and it specifically approves individual scheme DCRs, along with any necessary Capital Risk Fund applications. Executive Board approved the establishment of a Capital Risk Fund to provide a mechanism which enables timely and proportionate responses to variations which are required to individual project budgets. Decisions by the Director of Children and Families to access the fund must be made with the prior approval of the Director of City Development and the Director of Resources & Housing, both of whom are Board members, and be in consultation with the appropriate Executive Members.
- 4.4.4 Executive Board is asked to approve 'provisional' Authority to Spend of £4.8m for this scheme. Once design freeze has been reached, School Places Programme Board will be asked to approve Authority to Spend for the scheme along with any necessary risk fund application, in line with the governance arrangements set out above.

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 statutory framework and departmental advice set out in: Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy and Closure by Mutual Agreement (October 2018).
- 4.5.2 This report is subject to call in

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 These proposals have been brought forward in time to allow additional secondary places to be delivered for 2022. A decision not to proceed at this stage may result in fresh consultations on new proposals, and places may not be delivered in time. It may also result in further bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which would be more costly in the longer term. The Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may be at risk.

- 4.6.2 There is also a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school/learning places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.
- 4.6.3 The proposed scheme for Horsforth School is to add a new accommodation block and provide additional outside sports facilities and on-site car parking. 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 head teacher and trustees of Horsforth School are confident that they can manage the proposed expansion.
- 4.6.4 The trustees of Horsforth School are intending to self-deliver the scheme with design and delivery being managed via an architectural practice commissioned directly by the Academy. A Grant agreement will be in place prior to any works that identifies the level of financial support from the authority.

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 we have enough school/learning places, including SEND places, is one of our top priorities. These proposals have been brought forward to support learners in Leeds to benefit from being able to access a local secondary place and so delivering our vision of Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 The majority of the respondents support the expansion of Horsforth School. Concerns raised during consultation have been considered, and on balance, the proposal remains strong and addresses the need for school places in the area.
- 5.3 The additional places are required to ensure the authority meets its legal requirement to ensure sufficiency of secondary provision for September 2022. There is evidence that an additional 6FE of year 7 places are required across the North West area over future years and if implemented, this proposal would contribute towards addressing that need. It is therefore recommended that the proposal to permanently expand Horsforth School be approved.

6. Recommendations

- Note the outcome of consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Horsforth School from a capacity of 1125 to 1425 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 225 to 285 with effect from September 2022
- Note the outcome of initial feasibility work and grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £4.8m to deliver the proposed permanent expansion at Horsforth School
- Note that implementation of the proposals is subject to funding being agreed based on the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications as indicated at section 4.4.1 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2022; and

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

7. Background documents¹

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.