



## SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

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Meeting to be held in  
Meeting room 5, 2nd floor, Enterprise House, St Pauls St, Leeds, LS1 2LE on

Wednesday, 16th January, 2019 at 10.00 am

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### MEMBERSHIP

#### DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Richard Noake

#### ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH DIOCESE

Angela Cox

#### GOVERNOR

Jackie Ward

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## **SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD (LEEDS)**

### **PURPOSE OF THE BOARD**

Leeds City Council as the Local Authority has responsibility to make decisions in relation to certain school organisation statutory proposals.

At the request of the Authority the School Organisation Advisory Board, made up of representatives from the area's education community, has been set up in order to consider and make recommendations to the Authority in relation to school organisation proposals:-

- Where objections have been submitted
- As otherwise requested by the Authority

In making recommendations the Board will have regard to relevant statutes. Statutory Regulations and Guidance

# A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p><b>ELECTION OF A CHAIR</b></p> <p>To elect a Chair for the meeting.</p>	
2			<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
3			<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>To note any declarations of interest.</p>	
4			<p><b>OUTCOME OF STATUTORY NOTICE ON PROPOSAL TO INCREASE PLACES AT BENTON PARK SCHOOL</b></p> <p>To consider the report of the Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families Service, on a proposal to expand Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 to 1500 students by increasing the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021. The schools current SEN and 6th Form provision is unaffected by this proposal.</p> <p>The report describes the proposal, brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places and the representations received during the four week formal consultation period 19<sup>th</sup> November to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018.</p> <p>The report seeks consideration of the response to the representations received and a recommendation to the Executive Board to assist in reaching a final decision on the proposal.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p>	1 - 52

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## Report of the School Organisation Advisory Board

**Date: 16th January 2019**

**Subject: Report on Statutory Proposals for the expansion of Benton Park School**

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### **1.0 Purpose of This Report**

To explain to the Board the role of the Board in considering the objections to these proposals and making recommendations to the Executive Board to assist the Executive Board in reaching a decision in relation to the proposals.

### **2.0 Background Information**

#### **Changes to Benton Park School to expand the school**

The proposal by the local authority is to:

Expand Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 to 1500 students by increasing the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021. The schools current SEN and 6th Form provision is unaffected by this proposal.

A public consultation on this proposal took place between 29th June and 27th July 2018. A total of 223 representations were received.

A Statutory Notice was displayed from 19th November until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice and therefore by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

There were 2 responses to the statutory notice which opposed the change.

This proposal is now submitted to the Board to consider the proposal and the objections received and to make recommendations to the Executive Board.

Members of the Board will have the following documents to consider which are attached to this report:

Documents submitted by Children's Services in support of the proposals;  
Copies of the responses received

### **3.0 Recommendations**

The Board is asked to consider the proposals and consider the written objections and any verbal objections made at the meeting of the Board and to make recommendations with reasons for consideration by the Executive Board.

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**Report of Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families Service**

**Report to School Organisation Advisory Board**

**Date: 16 January 2019**

**Subject: Outcome of Statutory Notice on proposal to increase places at Benton Park School**



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**Summary of main issues**

This report contains details of a proposal 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 the proposal is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority (LA).

A public consultation on a proposal to expand Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 to 1500 students by increasing the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021 took place between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (See **Appendix 1**). The schools current SEN and 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision is unaffected by this proposal.

A total of 223 consultation responses were received during this period and of these the majority (75%) expressed support for the proposed expansion and 19% opposed it.

A Statutory Notice was published on 19th November 2018 (See **Appendices 4 and 5**) 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 16th December 2018, anyone could object to or comment on the proposal. There were three representations made during the representation period and one request made for further information about the proposal. Two of the representations received were comments made objecting to the proposal and one comment was received in support of the proposal (See **Appendix 6** for a transcript of the representations received).

**1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report describes the representations made during the representation period in relation to the proposal to expand Benton Park School and asks School

Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider the responses and make a recommendation to Executive Board on a final decision on the proposal.

## 2 Background information

- 2.1 The proposal has been brought forward to ensure that the LA meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
- 2.2 The number of families with children living in the North West area of the city is growing, with projected demand for secondary school places expected to rise significantly over the next 6 years. The latest projections and demographic data indicates a need for 6FE (180) Year 7 places by 2023. Although the need for these places spreads across the whole of the North West, a permanent expansion of Benton Park School supports the strategic planning of places within the wider area.
- 2.3 To manage increased demand for secondary places in 2017 and 2018 it was necessary to provide some additional temporary places at several schools in the North West area. It is likely that it will be necessary to do this again over the coming years ahead of permanent expansions which will need to take place. With limited options available to meet the overall need, failure to act now and agree high quality expansion schemes, such as this, is likely to result in the Local Authority failing in its duty to provide sufficient secondary school places.
- 2.4 Although there is wider movement between other schools both inside and outside the Leeds Local Authority area, an increase of 55 places at Benton Park School will provide a solution towards meeting the increasing level of demand for places across the North West area of Leeds, providing local families with more opportunity to gain a place at their local Ofsted rated 'Good' school. The proposal will also provide additional benefits by addressing long-standing historical building condition issues.
- 2.5 The proposal is to permanently expand secondary provision at Benton Park School from a capacity of 1225 pupils to 1500 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021.
- 2.6 The expansion of Benton Park Secondary School is proposed as it is an Ofsted rated 'Good' school in an area of high need. The schools most recent Ofsted inspection took place in October 2018 with inspectors commenting that *"the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection"*. The school benefits from strong leadership and management and a dedicated staff team who are very positive about the potential permanent expansion. The governing body are also supportive of the proposed expansion and are confident that existing high standards of teaching and learning can be maintained, resulting in improved outcomes for a greater number of local children.
- 2.7 A consultation on the proposal took place from 29 June 2018 to 27 July 2018. During this time a total of 223 consultation responses were received, of which 75% supported the proposal and 19% opposed it.



2.8 At its meeting on 17 October 2018 Leeds City Council's Executive Board considered the outcome of the consultation on this proposal and, with consideration for the high level of support expressed during the consultation period, approved a recommendation 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 (See **Appendix 2**). The Notice was published on 19 November 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 16 December 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 16 February 2018 and Executive Board is the decision maker for this proposal.

2.9 The following bulleted list summarises the main themes from comments submitted by those expressing support for the proposed expansion during the 4 week public consultation period;

- 73% of respondents in support of the proposal stated that additional secondary school places are required in this area and that this proposal will help to address this need.
- Respondents commented that new housing being built in the area will increase demand for school places further in the future.
- 65% of the survey respondents supportive of the proposal stated that the current school would need to be demolished and rebuilt in order to address existing building condition issues and to create the required teaching facilities for a larger intake.
- Some respondents suggested that more places will be available for young people living in the local area, reducing the distance they may otherwise have to travel to attend secondary school.
- Several respondents felt that an increase in student numbers at Benton Park would benefit the school financially and lead to the availability of improved facilities.

### **3 Main issues**

3.1 The representation period, which followed the initial public consultation phase from 19<sup>th</sup> November until 16<sup>th</sup> December, provided another opportunity for all stakeholders to consider further the proposed expansion of secondary provision at this school. This period allows people to raise views/ concerns that had not been raised or addressed during the 4 week public consultation.

3.2 During the four week representation period following publication of the statutory notice, three respondents submitted comments on the proposal (See **Appendix**

6). Two of the respondents objected to the proposal and one commented in support of the proposal. A summary of the responses received in support of and objecting to the proposal is provided below along with a response from Leeds City Council.

### 3.3 **Summary of comment received during the Statutory Notice period offering support to the proposal** (See **Appendix 6** for transcript of comment received)

3.3.1 **Comment:** A respondent provided support for the proposal but did highlight the need for adequate parking and drop off/pick up facilities should the proposal proceed.

3.3.2 **Response:** Planning approval requires officers from Highways to formally comment on all applications. A complete reassessment of traffic management measures would be carried out as part of the proposal, the School Travel Plan would also be updated, and measures identified by Highways colleagues as required for approval would be incorporated into any final scheme. Requirements deemed necessary may include increased parking enforcement, reduced speed limits and other traffic management measures. Additional on-site parking would be required to accommodate an increase in staffing levels should the proposal go ahead

### 3.4 **Summary of objections/concerns to the proposal received during the Statutory Notice period** (See **Appendix 6** for transcript of objections received)

3.4.1 **Objection:** That an increase in pupil numbers would have a negative impact on teaching and learning across the school.

3.4.2 **Response:** The Local Authority has a good track record of enabling the successful expansion of existing secondary schools. Both Roundhay School and Cockburn Academy have expanded in recent years and have retained their previously held high standards of education and levels of popularity with local families. As Benton Park is an Ofsted rated 'Good' school with a strong leadership team there is no reason why they cannot be equally successful in managing expansion while maintaining and improving upon current high standards. The schools most recent Ofsted inspection took place in October 2018 with inspectors commenting that "*the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection*". The report goes on to state that the school have worked well with school improvement partners and benefits from having experienced and skilled staff in key leadership positions.

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team are confident that its dedicated staff team can continue to meet the needs of every pupil who attends the school. If the proposal goes ahead the school will be grow from approximately 8 forms of entry to 10 forms of entry across all year groups and, as the school grows, staffing resources and the number of individual classes will also be increased to ensure class sizes remain appropriate. School facilities, i.e. classrooms, group work spaces, sports equipment etc. will also be increased

to match the needs of the school's higher admission limit. The strength of the school's leadership team and the governing body's supportive focus on the school's improvement priorities, both acknowledged within the school's latest October 2018 Ofsted report, offers assurance that the leadership team's commitment to rigorously monitor the progress of pupils as the school grows will be upheld; ensuring high standards of teaching and learning are consistently delivered as pupils progress through the school.

The Learning Improvement team are also confident that the proposed expansion can be successfully managed by Benton Park's current leadership and staff team, and in their ability to maintain and improve on current educational standards and outcomes for pupils. Learning Improvement colleagues point to the school's recent October 2018 Ofsted inspection as providing the strongest endorsement of the school leadership's capacity to improve, but have also highlighted the following key points as evidence of the school's ability to successfully manage the proposed expansion;

- Strong governance with significant educational and financial expertise
- Senior leadership team now at full capacity
- Improving trend in the quality of teaching and learning particularly at post-16
- An outward facing school which works well in partnership with the Local Authority, but also the Red Kite Alliance and so could draw on support and expertise from them as appropriate
- Benton Park is a highly inclusive school that works well as part of the Aireborough partnership cluster.

3.4.3 **Objection:** A respondent raised concerns that the school's existing facilities would be unable to cope with an increase in pupil numbers.

3.4.4 **Response:** To date the Local Authority has only consulted on the notion of increasing the pupil capacity of Benton Park School. Separate consultation on any build scheme would take place at a later stage in the decision making process when planning permission would be sought. Therefore, at this time it is not possible to state exactly what additional facilities, required to manage the proposed increase in pupil capacity, would be provided. However, it is possible to provide the following assurances in response to the concern raised;

- Sufficient additional classrooms would be provided as part of any build scheme to accommodate all pupils in appropriate class sizes
- Pupils would benefit from modern, improved facilities and resources, such as sporting areas, music rooms and scientific equipment;

- New facilities would be developed to accommodate the proposed increased published admission number, with all new accommodation adhering to Department for Education Building Bulletin Guidelines.
- A similar approach will be taken to the setting out of the external provision (i.e. playgrounds, sports fields, car parking facilities etc.) to ensure the site has the capacity to accommodate the higher pupil and staff numbers.

Early feasibility works carried out by City development colleagues has concluded that the existing Benton Park School site is large enough to accommodate the infrastructure required to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers proposed. However, it was also determined that, in order to manage the proposed increase in pupil numbers and to prevent overcrowding, a build scheme would need to be developed and agreed to provide the required additional teaching accommodation and other school facilities. Further to this, the existing school building has reached the end of its lifespan and, as a result, suffers from significant condition issues. Therefore, to address this issue and provide the additional facilities needed to manage an increase in pupil numbers, a new building is proposed as the most efficient means of providing the additional places needed. The proposed new build would rationalise most of the existing, inefficient 1960's block, which suffers from condition issues, into a larger, but more consolidated new school campus. Unlike the existing site, the new school would not sprawl out across several blocks, thus it would be more logically arranged out without having to navigate in and out of numerous blocks. This would reduce wasted time transitioning between buildings for different lessons and would allow different subjects to be co-located into curriculum areas, e.g. maths, science etc.

- 3.4.5 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 bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools, which could 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 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The process in respect of 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 19 November 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 Leeds City Council website and parents/carers at the school informed, along with any stakeholder who responded to the first stage of informal consultation and provided their contact details. Other local schools were also informed about the proposals along with ward councillors, community groups and other relevant stakeholders.

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

4.1.4 During the consultation ward members gave their support for the proposals provided that highways and parking issues were addressed. Details of the Statutory Notice were subsequently shared with local ward members, and local parish and town councillors. No further comments were received.

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

4.2.1 The EDCI screening form (See **Appendix 3**) for the proposals at Benton Park 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 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 all levels 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 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 attainment 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 attainment.

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 Head teacher, Governing Body and Learning Improvement colleagues are all confident that Benton Park School is capable of expanding while maintaining their current high standards. Therefore, all are fully supportive of the proposal.

4.3.5 Benton Park School continues to be rated 'Good' following its most recent October 2018 short Ofsted inspection with inspectors commenting that "the leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection". The Head teacher has stated that "*our Governors and Senior Leadership Team are keen to support the planned expansion at*

*Benton Park School to enable the Local Authority to provide its statutory basic need requirements for the young people in our locality. Both Governors and the Senior Leadership Team are keen to ensure that the young people in our area are able to be provided with a place in a school that can provide good education for all.”*

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

- 4.4.1 The proposed scheme would be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works. Once the feasibility stage was complete and schemes proceeded to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. Schemes would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.
- 4.4.2 The existing school building has significant condition issues requiring urgent attention, with an estimated cost of £2.4m to address only the highest priority works. As the building has reached the end of its lifespan, it cannot be fully repaired and restored, just maintained year on year. In comparison, a new build, whilst having a significant initial outlay, would radically reduce the expenditure on remedial works, which currently only provide temporary solutions as the building continues to deteriorate rapidly. A new build would provide additional new places to meet the higher level of demand for places in the North West, and would fulfil the local authority statutory duty of providing sufficient school places as well as meeting corporate landlord responsibilities in relation to health and safety. In addition minimising disruption to students, school staff and the wider community by being managed within a shorter timeframe thus reducing the impact on teaching and learning and allowing the school to deliver its curriculum and positive outcomes for its students.
- 4.4.3 The estimated total cost of the proposed scheme is £20-25 million. Funding would come from a combination of the Learning Places and Planned Maintenance Programmes, reflecting the increase in admission numbers whilst addressing existing building condition issues. Funding streams would be primarily through Basic Need Grant, council borrowing, Community Infrastructure Levy and School Condition funding and an approach will be made to Central Government for additional funding support based on our latest survey information. The precise funding packages would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost reports, details of which would be reported back to Executive Board at a future date.

#### **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 Leeds City Council's Executive Board is the decision maker for proposals relating to school expansions. It has established SOAB to consider proposals where objections are received during the representation period following publication of a Statutory Notice. After hearing any objections and the case for the authority, SOAB then makes any recommendations to Executive Board. If the decision maker does not make a decision on the proposals within two months of the end of the representation period, the matter must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

#### 4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 This proposal has been brought forward in time to allow secondary places to be delivered for 2021. 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 bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which would be more costly in the longer term. The LA'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 places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

### 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 SEN places, for children is one of our top priorities. These proposals have been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate statutory process being followed we now seek to move them 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 Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 Although two objections to the proposed expansion of Benton Park School were received during the representation period, the Children and Families Service believe that the issues raised do not present barriers that cannot be addressed and mitigated. Furthermore, the concerns raised have previously been addressed in the October 2018 Executive Board report 'Outcome of Consultation to Permanently Expand Benton Park School from September 2021' (See **Appendix 2**). The proposal remains strong and address the LA's statutory duty to provide sufficient school/learning places, to provide places close to where children live, allow improved accessibility to local and desirable 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 The Children and Families Service believe that the issues raised during the representation period do not present barriers that cannot be addressed or mitigated. We, therefore, ask School Organisation Advisory Board to consider the issues raised and to recommend to Executive Board that these proposals be approved.

## **7 Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Public consultation booklet.

Appendix 2 - Executive Board report 17 October 2018 - Outcome of consultation to increase learning places at Benton Park School.

Appendix 3 - EDCI screening form.

Appendix 4 - Benton park School Full Proposal.

Appendix 5 - Benton Park School Statutory Notice.

Appendix 6 - Copies of anonymised comments in support and objections/concerns received.





# School Places Public consultation

On a proposal to  
**Permanently expand Benton Park School**  
**From September 2021**

Consultation dates: 29 June 2018 to 27 July 2018

This consultation document tells you the reasons for the consultation and explains the decision making process

**For your views to be taken into account please respond by 27 July 2018**



## **The proposal we are asking you about**

To address the longer term need for additional secondary school places in this area, Leeds City Council is proposing that Benton Park School is permanently expanded from 245 places (approx. 8 forms of entry (FE) to 300 places (10FE) in Year 7 from September 2021. The total number of pupils in the school would increase incrementally year on year until the school reaches its new admission limit across all year groups.

## **Delivery of proposed expansion of Benton Park School**

If the proposal to expand Benton Park progresses, the decision regarding how best to deliver the required accommodation for the expansion would be taken after this initial consultation stage. However, an initial assessment of the existing school has shown that it is possible to increase the size of the school on its existing site. The school and other interested parties would be fully included in decisions about the delivery of any building work that may be needed. If planning permission is required this has its own consultation process and requires all local residents to have formal written notice and the opportunity to comment on any plans.

We are asking that you consider the proposal set out in this booklet and would welcome your attendance at one of the public drop-in sessions that we will be holding to enable you to have your say and find out more.

## **The consultation process**

We are currently in the informal part of the consultation process. This will last until 27 July 2018 and during this time parents and carers, local residents and other interested parties will have the opportunity to share their views about the proposal with the council.

At this stage we are asking for your comments on the principle of Benton Park School increasing its capacity to allow for additional children. We are not yet asking for views about any proposed building design as this phase would form part of a planning and design process. Should the proposal be approved, then there would be an opportunity to comment specifically about the build itself as part of any planning application.

During this stage of consultation we are asking you to tell us:

- Whether you agree or disagree with the proposal to expand the school; and
- What are the reasons for those views

Your views about the proposal will be summarised in a report, along with details of how any issues raised may be mitigated against, and considered by Leeds City Council's Executive Board. Executive Board, as the decision maker, would determine whether or not the proposal could continue to the formal consultation stage, known as the 'representation period', at the start of which a statutory notice would be published. That stage is legally prescribed and has to last four weeks. During that time formal responses to the proposal, known as representations, can be made.

Following the end of the representation period any comments would be reported back to Executive Board who would then make a final decision on whether or not the proposal should be agreed.

If Executive Board agreed with the proposal, a formal planning process would be followed for any new or additional accommodation required. The school and other key stakeholders would be consulted as part of the design process.

## **Background**

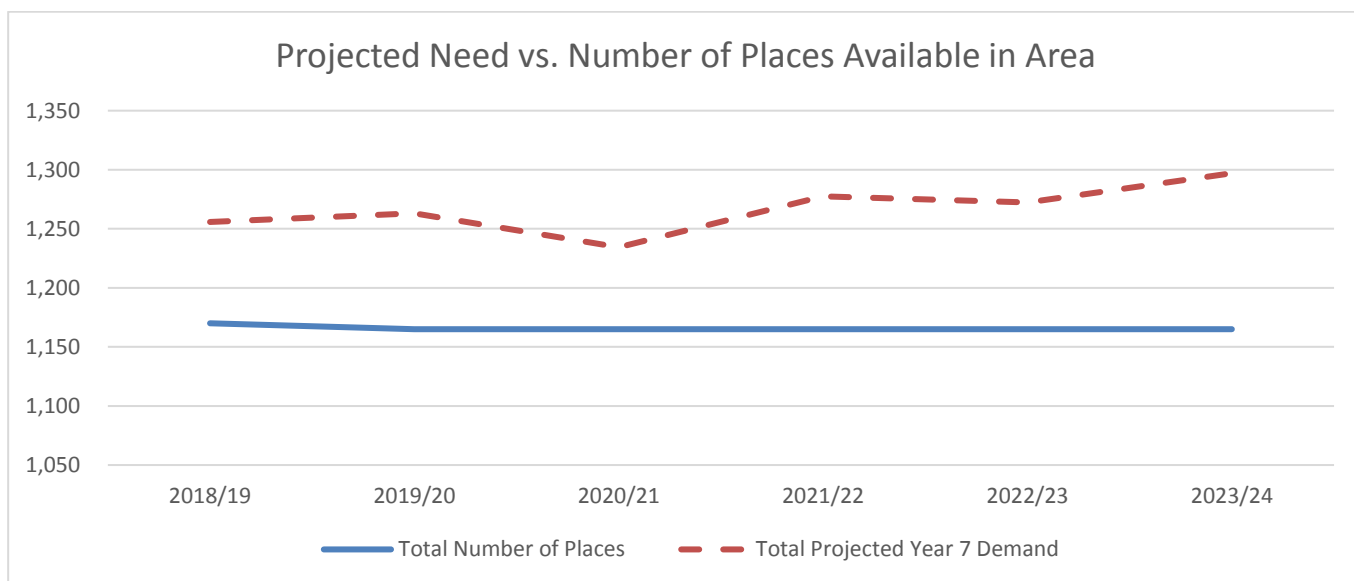
### **Increasing demand in North West Leeds**

A notable increase in the birth rate over the last decade, which prompted the need to embark on a programme of primary provision expansion in Leeds, has so far led to the creation of over 12,000 new primary places across the city. Demand for primary places is expected to continue growing in future years. However, the large increase in existing primary school pupils 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. The North West is no exception with demonstrable growth in the number of families with children living in this area of the city.

## Population Data

Secondary schools tend to draw pupils from a wide area and, therefore, our projections take account of the previous academic year's Year 7 allocations and any changes in population data (growth or reduction) across all areas that pupils actually travel from to attend at a particular school. The table below shows that the scale of projected secondary need across this area is increasing and reinforces the view that additional places are likely to be needed.

In 2017 Benton Park admitted pupils from an area represented in the table below. In addition the school consistently draws in some of its intake from the Bradford Local Authority area and from further afield across the North West and West Leeds areas. Therefore, expanding provision at Benton Park School would not only provide more places for children living near to the school, enabling them to attend at their local Ofsted rated 'Good' school, but it would also provide additional capacity to support increased need in the wider surrounding area.



\* Combined projection and admission limit data for secondary school provision within the Guiseley and Rawdon, Otley and Yeadon, and Horsforth wards.

The table above shows that projected demand for secondary school places is expected to rise significantly over the next 6 years. It also shows that there are currently insufficient places available across schools located within the ward areas included within the table to respond to an increase in demand. Although there is wider movement between other schools, both inside and outside the Leeds Local Authority area, an increase of 55 places at Benton Park School will

provide a solution towards meeting the increasing level of demand for places across the wider North West area.

### **What proposals have been considered to permanently address secondary demand?**

Decision making is still at a formative stage and definite requirements have yet to be agreed. However, the proposed expansion of Benton Park School offers an opportunity to create some of the additional pupil places projected to be needed between 2018-19 and 2023-24.

Leeds City Council has already undertaken some initial stakeholder engagement with local schools, ward members and other interested parties in order to gather views regarding the best approach to be taken to address future secondary demand in the North West. Following on from this engagement and some further detailed feasibility work, an agreed approach will be developed to ensure a sufficiency of school places in future years.

### **Temporary measures to address secondary demand**

To manage increasing demand for secondary places in 2017 and 2018 it was necessary to provide some additional temporary places at several schools in the North West area. It is likely that it will be necessary to do this again ahead of permanent expansions taking place over the next few years.

### **Housing**

Over the coming years planned new housing will generate further demand for school places across the North West. Housing currently under construction is already included within the projections shown above and planning applications are regularly monitored to ensure any further new housing development granted approval for construction is also accounted for in our projections.

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **What is Leeds City Council's duty in relation to the availability of school places?**

The Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children living in its area. The local authority (LA) is also required to promote choice

and diversity, and therefore must also ensure that there are a range of options available to parents.

### **How will any disruption caused by building work be minimised?**

Should the proposal to expand the school be approved, suitable measures to mitigate the risk of disruption to teaching and learning would be developed throughout the design stage of any agreed build solution and in consultation with key stakeholders, including the school's senior management team and governing body. Phasing of any works in accordance with school shut-down periods as well as robust site separation arrangements would assist in minimisation of disruption for pupils and staff.

### **Will the proposed expansion impact on the Special Educational Needs Provision?**

Provision for pupils with special educational needs currently at Benton Park School would continue to operate as it does now. Any build solution, which may include the remodelling of existing buildings or new buildings, would replicate the existing provision in the school.

### **How would additional traffic and parking issues be addressed?**

Planning approval requires officers from the Highways Team to formally comment on all applications. Measures identified by the Highways Team as a requirement for approval, would be incorporated in the scheme of works. A full transport assessment would be carried out to identify any off site traffic calming measures that may be needed as well as onsite parking requirements.

### **How will funding be provided, if the proposal goes ahead, to recruit experienced, new staff for a larger school?**

Funding for schools is set by central government on a per pupil basis. However where we expand schools there is additional top up funding available for the first year to ensure the school has the support necessary.

### **How to put your views forward**

We are holding a series of drop-in sessions and a public meeting so that local residents, parents and other interested parties can come along to find out more about the proposals, ask questions and share their views with us. Please come along to one or more of the sessions detailed on the next page.

**All meetings will be held at Benton Park School**

<b>Session Type</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Drop-in session</b> please attend any time between 9 and 10:30am	<b>Thursday</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>9:00am– 10:30am</b>
<b>Drop-in session</b> please attend any time between 3:15 and 5pm	<b>Thursday</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>3:15pm– 5:00pm</b>
<b>Drop-in session</b> please attend any time between 6pm and 7:30pm	<b>Monday</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>6pm– 7:30pm</b>

**Responses can be made in the following ways:**

Use our on-line survey at: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/X3518/>

Complete a consultation response form (provided in this booklet and available at the drop-in sessions) and:

- Hand it in during a drop-in event;
- Leave it with the school office;
- Email it to [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk); or
- Post it to Sufficiency and Participation Team, Leeds City Council, PO Box 837, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor East, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, LEEDS, LS2 8BB

Post a response on the Leeds City Council WordPress site (discussion forum):  
<https://leedssecondaryschoolplaceplanning.wordpress.com/>

This booklet, along with information on the progress of the proposal, is available at:  
<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentschoolsconsultation.aspx>

**All responses to this consultation must be submitted no later than 27 July 2018**

## What are the next steps of this process?

Date	Key event
29 June to 27 July 2018	4 week informal consultation. An opportunity to submit views/responses and attend information drop-in sessions
19 September 2018	The earliest date that a report summarising the informal consultation could be considered by Executive Board for them to decide whether the proposal can proceed
Beginning October 2018	The earliest date that a formal consultation would begin. A Statutory Notice would be published followed by a four week representation period
19 December 2018	The earliest date that a report could be considered by Executive Board for them to make its final decision on the proposal
September 2021	The date when additional secondary places would be available if the proposals were approved

## Glossary

<b>Executive Board</b>	The decision making body of Leeds City Council, formed by the Leader of the Council and nine other executive Members. Representatives of all political parties attend Executive Board
<b>Form of entry (FE)</b>	Schools are usually organised around classes of 30 pupils, although in secondary schools there is no legal restriction on class size and the numbers of children in each class depends on how the curriculum is delivered
<b>Stakeholder</b>	Someone who has an interest in the proposal e.g. parent, member of staff, member of local community group, local resident
<b>Statutory Notice period or representation period</b>	A period of time required by law to inform the public that the local authority is proposing to do or change something. The statutory notice is published with the proposal details, and invites comments. It follows a period of consultation like this one



If you do not speak English and need help in understanding this booklet, you or a friend can telephone **0113 3785945** and ask for this to be arranged. We will then contact an interpreter. We can assist with any language and there is no charge for interpretation. If any of the information is required in large print/braille/ audio tape/CD please contact us.

### Arabic:

إن كنت لا تتحدث باللغة الإنجليزية وتحتاج لمساعدة لفهم هذا المستند؛ الرجاء الاتصال بالهاتف على الرقم أدناه، واذكر اسم لغتك. حينئذ، سوف نطلب منك أن تنتظر على الخط حتى نتصل بمترجم.

### Bengali:

যদি আপনি ইংরেজীতে কথা বলতে না পারেন এবং এই দলিলটি বুঝতে পারার জন্য সাহায্যের দরকার হয়, তাহলে দয়া করে নিচের নম্বরে ফোন করে আপনার ভাষাটির নাম বলুন। আমরা তখন আপনাকে লাইনে থাকতে বলে কোন দোভাষীর (ইন্টারপ্রিটার) সাথে যোগাযোগ করব।

### Cantonese:

如你不懂說英語而需要協助以明白本文件，請致電下列電話號碼並說明你的母語。我們將會請你稍候以聯絡口譯員。

### Farsi:

اگر شما به زبان انگلیسی صحبت نمی کنید و برای فهمیدن این مدرک نیاز به کمک دارید، لطفاً به شماره زیر تلفن کرده و نام زبان خود را ذکر نمایید. ما سپس از شما خواهیم خواست که تلفن را نگهدارید تا با مترجم تماس بگیریم.

### Hindi:

यदि आप इंग्लिश नहीं बोलते हैं और इस दस्तावेज़ को समझने में आपको मदद चाहिए, तो कृपया नीचे दिए गए नंबर पर फ़ोन करें और अपनी भाषा का नाम बोलें। उसके बाद जब तक हम किसी दुभाषिण (इंटरप्रिटर) से संपर्क करेंगे, हम आपको होल्ड पर रखेंगे।

### Punjabi:

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਨਹੀਂ ਬੋਲਦੇ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਨੰਬਰ ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਅਤੇ ਆਪਣੀ ਜ਼ਬਾਨ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਦੱਸੋ। ਫੇਰ ਅਸੀਂ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇੰਤਜ਼ਾਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹਾਂਗੇ ਤਾਂ ਜੋ ਅਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਇੰਟਰਪਰਿਟਰ (ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀ) ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰ ਸਕੀਏ।

### Kurdish:

گەر زمانی ئینگلیزی نازانیت و بیویستت به هاوکاریه له تیگه یشتنی ئەم به لگه نامه یه دا، تکایه ته له فۆن بۆ ژماره که ی خواره وه بکه و زمانی ئاخاوتنی خۆت بلی. ئیمه ش تۆ راده گرین له سه ر ته له فۆنه که تا وه رگێریکی زمانت بۆ دابین ده که یین.

**Tigrinya:**

እንግልሽ ዘይትዛረብ/ብ, እንተኸንካ/ኪ, እሞ ነዚ ደኩመንትብ/ሰነድብ, ንምርዳእ ሓገዝ ምስ ዘድልዩካ/ኪ ቋንቋኻ/ኸ, ብምሕባር ኣብ'ዚ ኣብ ታሕቲ ተገሊጹ ዘሎ ቁጽሪ ተሌፎን ደውለልና/ደውልልና፡፡ ብድሕሪኡ ንሕና ኣስተርጓሚ ክሳብ ንረክብ ኣብ መስመር ክነጸብዩካ/ኪ ኣ.ና፡፡

**Urdu:**

اگر آپ انگریزی نہیں بولتے ہیں اور اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے کیلئے آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ مہربانی نیچے دیئے گئے نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں اور اپنی زبان کا نام بتائیں۔ اس کے بعد ہم آپ سے انتظار کرنے کا کہہ کر آپ کیلئے کسی ترجمان سے رابطہ کریں گے۔

**Czech:**

Jestliže nemluvíte anglicky a potřebujete, aby vám někdo pomohl vysvětlit tento dokument, prosím zavolejte na níže uvedené číslo a uveďte svůj jazyk. Potom vás požádáme, abyste nepokládal(-a) telefon a mezitím zkontaktujeme tlumočnicka.

**French:**

Si vous ne parlez pas anglais et que vous avez besoin d'aide pour comprendre ce document, veuillez téléphoner au numéro ci-dessous et indiquez votre langue. Nous vous demanderons d'attendre pendant que nous contactons un(e) interprète.

**Polish:**

Jeżeli nie mówią Państwo po angielsku i potrzebują pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu, prosimy zadzwonić pod poniższy numer telefonu. Po podaniu nazwy swojego ojczystego języka prosimy poczekać – w tym czasie będziemy kontaktować się z tłumaczem.

**Slovak:**

Ak nehovoríte anglicky a potrebujete, aby vám niekto pomohol vysvetliť tento dokument, prosím zavolajte na nižšie uvedené číslo a uveďte svoj jazyk. Potom vás požiadame, aby ste nepokladali telefón a medzitým skontaktujeme tlmočnicka.

**Somali:**

Haddii aadan af Ingiriiska ku hadlin una baahan tahay in fahamka dukumentigan lagugu caawino, fadlan soo wac lambarka teleefoonka hoose oo magaca sheeg luqaddaada. Ka dib baan kugu oran doonaa sug inta aan turjumaan la xiriireyno.

**Romanian:**

Dacă nu vorbiți limba engleză și aveți nevoie de ajutor în înțelegerea acestei broșuri, puteți suna la 0113 3785945 și cereți ca această broșură să fie tradusă în limba dvs. de către un interpret.

Putem oferi asistență în orice limbă și traducerea este gratuită. Dacă oricare dintre informații este solicitată în format mare de imprimare / alfabetul braille / banda audio / CD, vă rugăm să ne contactați.

## **Consultation Response Form**

A proposal to permanently expand Benton Park School from 245 places (approx. 8 forms of entry) to 300 places (10 forms of entry) in Year 7 from September 2021

### **Survey Questions:**

**Q1 Do you support or oppose the proposal to permanently expand Benton Park School from 245 places (approx. 8 forms of entry) to 300 places (10 forms of entry) in Year 7 from September 2021?**

- Strongly Support    Somewhat Support    Neither Support nor Oppose/ Not Sure  
 Somewhat Oppose    Strongly Oppose

Please tell us about the reason(s) why you support the proposal (you may continue on a separate sheet if required):

Please tell us about why you oppose the proposal or are concerned about it (you may continue on a separate sheet if required):

Please provide comments here if you neither support nor oppose the proposal or are unsure (you may continue on a separate sheet if required):

**Q2 How useful was the information we provided to you in this public consultation?**

- Very useful    Quite useful    Slightly useful    Not useful at all  
 Not sure / not applicable

Comments about your experience of taking part in this public consultation:

**About you**

We would like to know a little more about you. This is so we can be sure we are hearing from a wide range of people from different backgrounds and better understand what you tell us. Answering these questions will also help us consider how our policies affect people from different backgrounds; we have a legal duty to do this under the Equality Act 2010.

**Please tell us who you are:**

- Parent/carer of a pupil currently attending Benton Park School  
 Parent/carer of a pupil currently attending primary school  
 Pupil at Benton Park School  
 School Governor at Benton Park School  
 Member of staff at Benton Park School  
 Member of staff at another school  
 Local resident  
 Councillor (Elected Member)  
 Other (please state): \_\_\_\_\_

**How old are you?**

- 0-15    16-24    25-34    35-44    45-54    55-64    65-74    75-84    85+  
 Prefer not to say

**What best describes your gender?**

- Male    Female    Prefer to self-describe

**What is your ethnic group?**

**White**

- English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British    Irish  
 Gypsy or Irish Traveller    Any other White background

**Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups**

- White and Black Caribbean    White and Black African    White and Asian  
 Any other Mixed / Multiple ethnic background

**Asian / Asian British**

- Indian     Pakistani     Bangladeshi     Kashmiri     Chinese  
 Any other Asian background

**Black / African / Caribbean / Black British**

- African     Caribbean     Any other Black / African / Caribbean background

**Other ethnic group**

- Arab     Any other ethnic group

If you selected an 'any other' option then please describe your ethnic group:

**Thinking about sexual orientation, which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?**

- Heterosexual or Straight     Gay or Lesbian     Bisexual     Other

**Which of the following best describes your disability or disabilities?**

- No disability  
 Physical impairment (such as using a wheelchair to get around and / or difficulty using your arms)  
 Visual impairment (such as being blind or partially sighted)  
 Hearing impairment (such as being deaf or hard of hearing)  
 Mental health condition (such as depression or schizophrenia)  
 Learning disability (such as Downs syndrome or dyslexia) or cognitive impairment (such as autism or head-injury)  
 Long-standing illness or health condition (such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy)  
 Other (please describe):

**What is your religion?**

- No religion     Christian (including Church of England, Catholic, Protestant and all other Christian denominations)     Buddhist     Hindu  
 Jewish     Muslim     Sikh     Any other religion (please describe):

**Do you consider yourself to be a carer?**

A 'carer' is someone who looks after or gives help or support to family members, friends, neighbours or others on an unpaid basis because of either: long-term physical or mental ill health/disability, problems related to old age, substance misuse/dependency.

- Yes     No

## Contact details

We will use your contact details to send you updates about this consultation unless you choose to opt out. If you wish to opt out please select the option below.

I wish to opt out of receiving updates about this consultation

Name:

Email address:

Postcode:

## When you have completed your form you can:

Hand it in during one of our Drop-In events – details available via <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentschoolsconsultation.aspx>

Leave it with Benton Park School office on or before 27 July 2018

Email to: [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)

Post it to: Sufficiency and Participation Team, Leeds City Council, PO Box 837, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor East, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, LEEDS, LS2 8BB

## Data Protection Act 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following.

Leeds City Council is seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

**Report of Director of Children and Families**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

**Subject: Outcome of consultation to permanently increase learning places at Benton Park Secondary School from September 2021.**



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Guiseley & Rawdon	<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 a proposal 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 the proposal is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority (LA).

A consultation on a proposal to expand Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 to 1500 students by increasing the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021 took place between 29<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The schools current SEN and 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision is unaffected by this proposal.

A total of 223 consultation responses were received of which 75% either strongly or somewhat supported the proposal. 19% 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.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand secondary provision at Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 pupils to 1500 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021;
- Note that implementation of the decision is subject to feasibility and planning permission as indicated at 4.4.1 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021; and
- 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 LA's duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places, which supports the achievement of the Best Council priority to improve educational achievement and close achievement gaps. This report describes the outcome of a consultation regarding a proposal to expand secondary school provision at Benton Park Secondary School and seeks a decision to publish a statutory notice under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 in respect of this proposal.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 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, has so far led to the creation of over 12,000 new primary places across the city. The large increase in existing primary school pupils 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. The available demographic data has identified that additional secondary school places are required across the North West of the city to meet demand from families.
- 2.2 In June 2018 an initial stakeholder engagement event was undertaken which involved local secondary schools, ward members and other interested parties in order to share demographic data and gather views regarding the best approach to be taken to address future secondary demand in the North West. The proposal to expand Benton Park School formed one of the options put forward at the event and this consultation closely followed.
- 2.3 Consultation on this proposal took place between 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including: email; an online survey; several informal drop-in sessions (for parents, residents and other interested stakeholders to attend), held at the school, offering an opportunity to discuss the proposal with Leeds City Council representatives and providing the opportunity to complete a consultation response form. As well as distributing letters to 700 residents in the local area, details of the proposals and the consultation activity were also advertised to parents and carers; local residents and other interested parties; via letters sent out to parents by Benton Park School; posters and consultation booklets displayed and available from Early Years providers in the local area; via the Leeds City Council website; through various social media platforms and accounts; and by local community groups and organisations active in the Guiseley and Rawdon ward.
- 2.4 Consultation meetings were held with the school's governing body, staff and the pupils of Benton Park School. A banner was also placed at the school site to advertise the consultation and consultation response forms were available for collection and drop off at the school's reception throughout the consultation period.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The expansion of Benston Park Secondary School is proposed as it is an Ofsted rated 'Good' school in an area of high need and is popular with local families. The school benefits from strong leadership and management and a dedicated staff team who are very positive about the potential permanent expansion. They are confident that existing high standards of teaching and learning can be maintained, resulting in improved outcomes for a greater number of local children.
- 3.2 During the consultation period there were 112 written survey responses received and 111 responses submitted via the online survey; a total of 223 respondents.
- 3.3 In total, 104 of the 223 respondents (47% of the total) strongly support the proposal and a further 64 are somewhat in support of it. In comparison there were 27 respondents strongly opposed to the expansion proposal (12% of the total) and a further 14 who somewhat opposed the proposal. 13 respondents stated that they neither support nor oppose, or were not sure about the expansion proposal.
- 3.4 A large number of those who support the proposal do so on the proviso it involves a new school building or a rebuild of the existing building.
- 3.5 168 of the 223 respondents stated that they found the consultation process was useful.
- 3.6 Of the total number of responses received, 57 were from students of Benton Park School. 26 strongly supported the proposal, 28 somewhat supported the proposal, 3 somewhat opposed and 2 were not sure whether they supported the proposal.
- 3.7 Comments are summarised below. A copy of the responses received can be requested from the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team at [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)
- 3.8 A summary of the main themes from comments submitted by those who strongly or who somewhat supported the proposal is bulleted below;
- 122 respondents voiced support for the notion that additional secondary school places are required in this area and that this proposal will help to address this need.
  - Respondents commented that new housing being built in the area will increase demand for school places further in the future.
  - 109 of the survey respondents stated that the current school would need to be demolished and rebuilt in order to address existing building condition issues and to create the required teaching facilities for a larger intake.
  - 19 respondents suggested that more places will be available for young people living in the local area, reducing the distance they may otherwise have to travel to attend secondary school.
  - 11 respondents felt that an increase in student numbers at Benton Park would benefit the school financially and lead to the availability of improved facilities.

3.9 The main concerns raised by respondents and a response to those concerns are summarised as follows;

3.9.1 **Concerns raised about location and the sufficiency of school places:** Concern that additional places are not actually required in this area and that any expansion would lead to a widening of the school's current catchment area rather than serving the local area.

**Response:** Secondary schools do tend to draw pupils from a wider area than primary schools and, therefore, projections take account of the previous academic year's Year 7 allocations and any population growth across all the areas that pupils actually travel from to attend at a particular school. Expanding provision at Benton Park School would not only provide more places for children living near to the school, but would also provide additional capacity to support increased need in the wider surrounding area from which it traditionally draws its intake.

3.9.2 **Concerns raised regarding the existing school site:** Concern that the existing site is not large enough to accommodate the proposed increase in pupils. Some respondents also raised concerns that the school is in too poor a condition to cope with increases in the number of pupils and that there may be a negative impact on SILC students due to overcrowding,

**Response:** Early feasibility works carried out by City development colleagues has concluded that the Benton Park School site is large enough to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers. However, to manage the proposed increase in pupil numbers, and to prevent overcrowding, a build scheme would need to be developed and agreed to provide the required additional teaching accommodation and other school facilities needed.

3.9.3 **Concerns raised regarding school operational issues:** Concern that the school will be too big leading to issues with bullying, a decline in behavioural and educational standards and a reduction in educational and pastoral support for pupils requiring additional assistance. Similarly, some commented that there may be a lack of resources available to manage an increase in pupil numbers (i.e. teaching staff) and others held concerns that the proposed expansion would be disruptive for existing pupils. Respondents also raised concerns that the Hub may close as a result of expansion and that staff retention rates may be negatively affected.

**Response:** The Head teacher and Governing Body are confident that the school can manage an expansion whilst maintaining current good educational standards. The Learning Improvement team within Leeds City Council have been fully consulted on the proposed expansion and will continue to offer support the leadership and staff to achieve good outcomes as the school grows.

Funding for schools is set by central government on a per pupil basis. However, where we expand schools there is additional top up funding available for the first

year to ensure the school has the financial support necessary to recruit additional teaching and support staff.

Should the proposal to expand the school be approved, suitable measures to mitigate the risk of disruption to teaching and learning would be developed throughout the design stage of any agreed build solution and in consultation with key stakeholders, including the school's senior management team and governing body. Phasing of any works in accordance with school shut-down periods as well as robust site separation arrangements would assist in minimisation of disruption for pupils and staff. There are no plans to reduce or close down any of the schools current facilities or services offered.

- 3.9.4 **Concerns raised in regard to highways and the environment:** Several respondents raised concerns about an increase in road traffic at school drop-off and pick-up times. Others expressed concerns about an increase in on road parking around the school site and an inability of the roads around the school to cope with more traffic. Some respondents also raised a general concern that road safety would be reduced as a result of the proposed expansion. Other respondents were worried about increased levels of air pollution, that an increase in pupil numbers would lead to more littering and anti-social behaviour within the vicinity of the school and that the expansion of Benton Park may have a negative impact on other nearby secondary schools.

**Response:** Planning approval requires officers from Highways to formally comment on all applications. A complete reassessment of traffic management measures would be carried out as part of the proposal, the School Travel Plan would also be updated, and measures identified by highways colleagues as required for approval would be incorporated into any final scheme. Requirements deemed necessary may include increased parking enforcement, reduced speed limits and other traffic management measures. Additional on-site parking would be required to accommodate an increase in staffing levels should the proposal go ahead.

The school's leadership team 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.

Demand for secondary school places is projected to rise significantly over the next 6 years. Current forecasts show that there will be insufficient places available across schools located in the outer North West unless more places are created. Therefore, the proposed expansion is unlikely to have a negative impact on any nearby schools.

- 3.10 The proposed scheme for Benton Park School is to rebuild the school. The school has significant condition issues and along with providing the additional places needed, a rebuild would ensure that the school could continue to operate without the need to continually inject significant condition funding over a period of several years. As the building has reached the end of its lifespan, it can never be repaired, just maintained year on year. A new build would also ensure that disruption to students, school staff and the wider community was managed within a shorter timeframe and that the impact on teaching and learning was minimised

to allow the school to deliver its curriculum and ensure positive outcomes for its students. The cost of the proposed scheme is anticipated to be circa £20m, funded from a combination of the Learning Places and Planned Maintenance Programmes, reflecting the increase in admission numbers whilst addressing existing building condition issues. Funding streams would be primarily through Basic Need Grant, council borrowing, Community Infrastructure Levy and School Condition funding. An approach will be made to Central Government for additional funding support based on our latest survey information.

- 3.11 There are two other Leeds Secondary Schools which have similar conditional issues. The Council is committed to seeking a resolution to this as a priority. We are exploring options to deliver the necessary improvements and separate discussions will be held concerning this.

## **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 four week period and included use of an on-line forum and an on-line survey. A number of drop-in sessions were held at the school supported by officers from Highways, Sufficiency and Participation, and the City Development Teams, to discuss the proposals. These were attended by parents, carers, school staff, and local residents. Information was distributed widely, including via the school, to other local schools (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 governors, staff and student parliament of Benton Park Secondary School. Banners were placed at the entrance to the school to advertise the consultation and leaflets highlighting the consultation, and the timings of the consultation drop-in meetings were distributed to approximately 700 local residents.

- 4.1.3 Local ward members were consulted and are supportive of the proposals provided that highways and parking concerns are adequately addressed.

### **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 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.

- 4.3.2 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.

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

4.4.1 The proposed schemes would be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works. Once the feasibility stage was complete and schemes proceeded to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. Schemes would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.

4.5 The cost of the proposed scheme is anticipated to be circa £20m, funded from a combination of the Learning Places and Planned Maintenance Programmes, reflecting the increase in admission numbers whilst addressing existing building condition issues as noted at 3.10. Funding streams would be primarily through Basic Need Grant, council borrowing, Community Infrastructure Levy and School Condition funding and an approach will be made to Central Government for additional funding support based on our latest survey information. The precise funding packages would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost reports.

#### 4.6 **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.6.1 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.

4.6.2 This report is subject to call in.

#### 4.7 **Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 These proposals have been brought forward in time to allow secondary places to be delivered for 2021. 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 LA'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.

## **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 SEN places, for children is one of our top priorities. These proposals have been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate statutory process being followed we now seek to move them 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 Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 The majority of the respondents support the expansion of Benton Park Secondary School. However a large proportion of respondents stated that they would only support the expansion if it involved a rebuild of the existing 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 2021. There is evidence of local need for places in the area and it is therefore recommended that the proposal be approved.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to:
- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand secondary provision at Benton Park Secondary School from a capacity of 1225 pupils to 1500 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021;
  - Note that implementation of the decision is subject to feasibility and planning permission as indicated at 4.4.1 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021; and
  - 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.



As a public authority we need to ensure that all our strategies, policies, service and functions, both current and proposed have given proper consideration to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

A **screening** process can help judge relevance and provides a record of both the **process** and **decision**. Screening should be a short, sharp exercise that determines relevance for all new and revised strategies, policies, services and functions. Completed at the earliest opportunity it will help to determine:

- the relevance of proposals and decisions to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.
- whether or not equality, diversity, cohesion and integration is being/has already been considered, and
- whether or not it is necessary to carry out an impact assessment.

<b>Directorate:</b> Children and Families	<b>Service area:</b> Sufficiency and Participation
<b>Lead person:</b> Darren Crawley	<b>Contact number:</b> 0113 3787227

**Title:** Assessing the consultation process on a proposal to permanently expand Benton Park Secondary School from September 2021

Is this a:

**Strategy / Policy**
                 
  **Service / Function**
                 
  **Other**

**If other, please specify**

The proposal seeks to ensure a sufficiency of school places in the area.

**2. Please provide a brief description of what you are screening**

The Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children living in its area. The local authority (LA) is also required to promote choice and diversity, and therefore must also ensure that there are a range of options available to parents.

The proposal is to permanently expand Benton Park School on its existing site from a capacity of 1225 pupils to 1500 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021.

This screening form looks at the equality considerations that have taken place in order to ensure that the consultation and stakeholder engagement process that is required for this proposal is fair and addresses equality, diversity, cohesion and integration from the outset and throughout.

### 3. Relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

All the council's strategies and policies, service and functions affect service users, employees or the wider community – city wide or more local. These will also have a greater or lesser relevance to equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

The following questions will help you to identify how relevant your proposals are.

When considering these questions think about age, carers, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Also those areas that impact on or relate to equality: tackling poverty and improving health and well-being.

Questions	Yes	No
Is there an existing or likely differential impact for the different equality characteristics?		x
Have there been or likely to be any public concerns about the policy or proposal?	x	
Could the proposal affect how our services, commissioning or procurement activities are organised, provided, located and by whom?	x	
Could the proposal affect our workforce or employment practices?		x
Does the proposal involve or will it have an impact on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminating unlawful discrimination, victimisation and harassment</li> <li>• Advancing equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Fostering good relations</li> </ul>	x	

If you have answered **no** to the questions above please complete **sections 6 and 7**

If you have answered **yes** to any of the above and;

- Believe you have already considered the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 4**.
- Are not already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration within your proposal please go to **section 5**.

### 4. Considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration

If you can demonstrate you have considered how your proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you have carried out an impact assessment. Please provide specific details for all three areas below (use the prompts for guidance).

• **How have you considered equality, diversity, cohesion and integration?** (think about the scope of the proposal, who is likely to be affected, equality related information, gaps in information and plans to address, consultation and engagement activities (taken place or planned) with those likely to be affected)

The proposal is to permanently expand Benton park School on its existing site from a capacity of 1225 pupils to 1500 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 245 to 300 with effect from September 2021. The demographics of the Outer North West

Secondary Planning Area were considered in developing the proposal, along with parental preference trends and projections, and it was concluded that additional capacity is required.

We consulted with stakeholders through the informal/pre-consultation, which took place from 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018 to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This was to ensure maximum engagement. During this period we consulted with various stakeholders, including; parents and carers of pupils, pupils at the school, governors and staff at the school, nearby schools, the Diocese, children's centres, the MP and local Councillors, and local residents including local community groups.

To ensure maximum engagement with families we asked the schools to promote the consultation on the proposals through their usual methods of communication such as the school website, texts and any newsletters. In order to engage the wider community in the consultation, we promoted it through posters in the local area; letters posted to 700 local residents; and posters and consultation documents being shared with local early years providers. Emails were also sent out with information about the consultation to local organisations and community groups as well as to the North West SILC who deliver inclusive SEN provision in partnership with the school. There were also a number of digital promotions including via Leeds City Council Social media and the Leeds City Council website.

Stakeholders were able to give their views on the proposals by completing a consultation response form available from the school office, online or at the drop in sessions, via email, or via an online survey. The length of consultation and the variety of methods in which people could respond to the consultation were intended to make the consultation open to all and was in line with DfE guidance.

- **Key findings**

**(think about** any potential positive and negative impact on different equality characteristics, potential to promote strong and positive relationships between groups, potential to bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other, perception that the proposal could benefit one group at the expense of another)

From the equality impact screening the sufficiency and participation team found that these proposals would have a positive effect on some of the 6 categories listed below;

- Age
- Gender
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- Disability
- Sexual orientation

These additional learning places would create more opportunities for more pupils to be supported in a way that meets their individual needs, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation, in an inclusive school setting. This proposal supports that aim and would not have an adverse impact on any child or young person who attends the school included in this proposal.

The school existing ethos and any new accommodation provided would both help to ensure that all children and young people who attend can take a full part in the school curriculum in an environment that supports and protects their own individual equality characteristics. Expansion of the existing school will ensure that it continues to support the needs of its community by providing more places for local children.

Any new accommodation would meet the Equality Act 2010 and would therefore be accessible for all.

- **Actions**

**(think about** how you will promote positive impact and remove/ reduce negative impact)

If the proposals are taken forward, the extra secondary places will be made available in Year 7 from September 2021.

During the consultation process, all views and responses were considered equally. If the proposal is approved, during the design process for new school accommodation, the plans would be shared with stakeholders and consulted on. Through the design process, any new accommodation to facilitate the expansion of the school would be compliant with the Equality Act 2010. This would ensure that the building is accessible to all users; students, staff and visitors.

**5. If you are **not** already considering the impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration you **will need to carry out an impact assessment.****

Date to scope and plan your impact assessment:	
Date to complete your impact assessment	
Lead person for your impact assessment (Include name and job title)	

**6. Governance, ownership and approval**

Please state here who has approved the actions and outcomes of the screening

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>	<b>Date</b>
Richard Amos	Sufficiency and Participation Manager	3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018
<b>Date screening completed</b>		3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2018

**7. Publishing**

Though **all** key decisions are required to give due regard to equality the council **only** publishes those related to **Executive Board, Full Council, Key Delegated Decisions** or a **Significant Operational Decision.**

A copy of this equality screening should be attached as an appendix to the decision making report:

- Governance Services will publish those relating to Executive Board and Full Council.
- The appropriate directorate will publish those relating to Delegated Decisions and Significant Operational Decisions.
- A copy of all other equality screenings that are not to be published should be sent to [equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk) for record.

Complete the appropriate section below with the date the report and attached screening was sent:

For Executive Board or Full Council – sent to <b>Governance Services</b>	Date sent:
For Delegated Decisions or Significant Operational Decisions – sent to appropriate <b>Directorate</b>	Date sent:
All other decisions – sent to <a href="mailto:equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk">equalityteam@leeds.gov.uk</a>	Date sent:

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## **Statutory proposals for a prescribed alteration**

### **School and Local Authority details:**

**School:** Benton Park School, Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6LX

**Local Authority:** Leeds City Council, The Director of Children and Families, PO Box 837, Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families, Leeds, LS1 9PZ

### **Description of alteration:**

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Benton Park School (secondary school) from 1225 to 1500 pupils with effect from September 2021. The current admission number for the school is 245 into Year 7 each year and the proposed admission number for Year 7 each year is 300. This permanent increase would apply to Year 7 classes from September 2021 and it would, therefore, take several years for the school to reach its full capacity.

The proposed scheme for Benton Park School is to demolish and rebuild part or all of the school on the existing school site. The rebuilt school would be larger to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers. Funding streams for the proposed scheme would be primarily through Basic Need Grant, council borrowing, Community Infrastructure Levy and School Condition funding. An approach will be made to Central Government for additional funding support based on our latest survey information.

The proposed scheme would be subject to planning permission, which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works. The scheme would also be subject to and guided by relevant stakeholder consultation.

### **Evidence of demand:**

In 2017 and 2018 it was necessary to provide some additional temporary secondary places at several schools in North West Leeds due to increasing need. Projected growth in demand for secondary school places continues to rise significantly over the next 6 years, however, there are currently insufficient places available across schools located within the Guiseley and

Rawdon, Otley and Yeadon, and Horsforth ward areas to absorb any increase. Although there is wider movement between other schools, both inside and outside the Leeds Local Authority area, an increase of 55 places at Benton Park School will contribute towards meeting the increasing level of demand for places across the wider North West area.

**Effect on other schools:**

Creating 55 additional permanent places each year at Benton Park School will provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing increase in demand for places. Based on the expected growth in demand for school places within the North West Leeds area, Leeds City Council would anticipate that an increase in places at this school will not have a negative impact on other local schools.

**Objectives:**

The council has a duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice. The council also has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places. To this end, 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. Creating 55 additional permanent places each year at Benton Park School will also provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing increase in demand for places.

Benton park school's Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team are keen to support the planned expansion at Benton Park School and to help ensure young people are able to be provided with a place in a good school in their local area.

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,



these proposals provide 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. It is important when bringing any proposal forward that there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on teaching and learning. The Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team are confident that they can manage the expansion of the school whilst maintaining current good standards.

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:**

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Benton Park School, a local authority maintained secondary school, from 1225 to 1500 pupils with effect from 1 September 2021. The current admission number for the school is 245 into Year 7 each year (aged from eleven) and the proposed admission number for Year 7 each year is 300 (aged from eleven).

The proposed scheme for Benton Park School is to demolish some or all of the existing school building and rebuild a new larger school on the cleared site. Any retained buildings would also require some refurbishment and remodelling as part of the overall programme of works. Building work would be phased in agreement with the school to minimise disruption for pupils and staff and would be subject to the normal planning permission process.

**Project costs:**

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 cost of the proposed scheme is anticipated to be circa £20m, funded from a combination of the Learning Places and Planned Maintenance Programmes, reflecting the increase in admission numbers whilst addressing existing building condition issues. Funding streams would be primarily through Basic Need Grant, council borrowing, Community Infrastructure Levy and School Condition funding. An approach will be made to Central Government for additional funding support based on our latest survey information. The proposed schemes would be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works. Once the feasibility stage was complete and schemes proceeded to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. Schemes would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.

The proposal to increase secondary provision in North West Leeds has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2021. Bulge places are likely to be required ahead of this to ensure a sufficiency of places in 2019 and 2020. A decision not to proceed with this proposal could result in a fresh consultation on new proposals, with the risk that places could not be delivered in time to meet the need. The LA's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short and longer term would 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.

**Support, objections and comments:**

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 4pm on 16 December 2018 any person may submit comments, support or objections on the proposal to PO Box 837, Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families, Leeds, LS1 9PZ or email [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)

**PROPOSAL TO EXPAND BENTON PARK  
SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2021**



Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Leeds City Council intends to make the following prescribed alteration;

A proposal to permanently expand Benton Park School, Harrogate Road, Rawdon, Leeds, LS19 6LX to create an additional 275 secondary school places with effect from 1 September 2021.

This notice is an extract from the complete proposal which can be obtained from the Sufficiency and Participation Team using the contact details below or by visiting the Leeds City Council website:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-place-planning/statutory-notice>

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 4pm on 16 December 2018, any person may submit comments or objections to; PO Box 837, Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families, Leeds, LS1 9PZ or email [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Walker'.

Steve Walker

Director of Children and Families

Publication Date: 19 November 2018

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**Comment received in support of proposal**

**Received: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam

I have no objection to you providing extra places at Benton Park School, but I would like to insist that you provide adequate parking within the school for all staff and students, and that you arrange for parents to be able to pick up their children from within the school gates, so that the roads around are kept free of parked cars.

I live on Quakers Lane and there are already far too many cars, and far too much congestion around the area when the children come out of school.

Trust you will be able to include this aspect in your forward planning.

**Objection/ Concerns (1)**

**Received: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018**

Dear Sir or Madam.

Please could i take this opportunity to object to the proposed increase in pupil numbers at this school, as it stands there are insufficient facility's, and it will increase the influx of pupils from areas where teaching and standards differ from Benton Park.

## **Objection/ Concerns (2)**

**Received: 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

To whole it may concern

I write in regards to the plans to increase numbers at Benton Park.

As a parent I feel that the capacity of pupils already on roll at the school is extremely high and feel that this has a detrimental effect on pupils due to the wide range of pupils who attend.

It was of somewhat an eye opener as a parent of a pupil in Year 7 to the goings on with in the school and the way that issues are dealt with and also feel that there is a lot of goings on un-seen again due to the capacity. Expansions will only add to the already existing problems at the school although this plan if it was to go ahead would not impact on my child currently attending it would make me reconsider my younger child attending.

To add to this the way that events such as parents evening something that is extremely important is already somewhat stretched and again is something that would to a contribution due to expansion as Well as the safety of parking for parents in the area. The school buses again is something that can become over subscribed which in turn has a knock on effect.

With the contributing factors Benton Park would spiral in my opinion in the wrong direction.

It would not be a choice of school for us and think already it's a large enough school that needs to focus more on the teacher structure due to the amount of supply teachers in place and also the way that they deal and speak to students. There is a need for a more focused approach to issues that go on within the school before expansion is considered. Make something solid before building on weak blocks.

Thank you for taking the time to read my views.

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