

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive board

Date: 16 July 2014

Subject: Outcome of consultation to increase primary school places in Leeds



Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Part A: Armley Parts B and C: Bramley and Stanningley		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This paper summarises the outcomes of consultation in Armley/Wortley and Bramley and seeks permission to publish statutory notices in regards to expansion of provision at two community schools.
2. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The statutory process to make these changes varies according the nature of the change and status of the school, however under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 there is a need to consult on such changes prior to any necessary statutory process. Executive Board agreed in February a process whereby a stakeholder consultation event using OBA (Outcomes Based Accountability) methodology informs consultation on options for an area, from which a route forward will be determined.
3. Such an event was held in March 2014 to discuss the options for increasing school places in Armley/Wortley and Bramley. The initial consultation identified the preferred options as expanding Castleton Primary School and expanding Hollybush Primary School. It also supported the inclusion of 2 year old provision at Castleton Children's Centre which is on the site of Castleton Primary School and 2 year old provision at Hollybush Primary School. In addition it supported the establishment of partnership provision for children with severe learning difficulties at Hollybush. Consultation on these preferred options was then conducted from 6 May to 6 June 2014.

4. Part A of this report summarises the comments made during consultation on the proposal for changes to Castleton Primary School, Part B of this report summarises the comments made during consultation on the proposal for changes to Hollybush Primary School. Since these schools are community schools the Local authority can propose these changes, and the next step would be publication of statutory notices for the elements that require one.

Recommendations

5. Executive Board is asked to give permission to publish statutory notices to:
 - Expand Castleton Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2016.
 - Expand Hollybush Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2016, and also change the lower age limit from 3 to 2 with effect from January 2015.
 - Note the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead is responsible for implementation.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks permission to publish statutory notices for proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school and early years places.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Changes to existing schools which would provide additional school places form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The statutory process to make these changes varies according the nature of the change and status of the school, however under The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 there is a need to consult on such changes prior to any necessary statutory process.
- 2.2 A stakeholder consultation event using Outcomes Based Accountability methodology was held in March 2014. Invitees included the headteacher and a governor from each of the primary and secondary schools in the area and from the West SILC. Parent representatives from each school, ward members and council officers from Planning and Highways were also invited, as were representatives from the Church of England and Catholic diocesan education boards. Data about birth rates, housing, and parental preferences for schools was shared.
- 2.3 The event provided an opportunity to allow for discussion amongst small groups of stakeholders, and for options to be suggested. Although the focus was on primary provision, the event also provided the opportunity to discuss the need for Free Early Education places for eligible 2 and 3-4 year olds as well as specialist places for children with special educational needs.
- 2.4 The participants agreed that additional primary school capacity is required in the area. A number of suggestions were put forward by participants for further discussion. These were the establishment of through schools at Swallow Hill and Leeds West Academy, increasing Castleton, Armley and Bramley Primary Schools to 2FE, increasing St Bartholomew's C of E and Hollybush Primary Schools to 3FE.
- 2.5 A primary SLD (severe learning difficulties) partnership for the West SILC (Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre) for 8 pupils in a primary school or as part of a through school in either Bramley or Armley/ Wortley was also suggested.
- 2.6 Following the event an online forum was established seeking views from any interested parties on all these options. Only three responses were received. Taking into account the feedback received, local demographics, the preference patterns of families, the physical deliverability of build solutions and the location of new housing under construction, support of the schools, and educational outcomes, preferred options emerged as the expansion of Hollybush and Castleton Primary Schools. The option of SLD provision at one of these schools was also identified.

2.7 Consultation on these options was conducted from 6 May to 6 June. This included on line forums and local meetings to discuss the proposals on an informal basis, and to share initial design ideas about how the accommodation could be provided.

2.8 Part A of the report sets out the issues raised in relation to the expansion of Castleton Primary School, Part B sets out the issues raised in relation to Hollybush Primary School including those in relation to the establishment of a partnership provision of the West SILC. .

3 Main issues

3.1 Part A: Expansion proposals in Armley/Wortley

3.2 The data and rationale for the proposal to expand Castleton Primary School is outlined in a consultation document, which is available on at www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx.

3.3 In summary, the expansion of Castleton Primary School is proposed for a number of reasons. It is sited in an area of high demographic need. It is a popular school and has a good Ofsted judgement. More families' preference the school for their children than can be offered a place in reception. It is possible to physically expand the school although it is acknowledged that there are land issues which need to be resolved to create an additional form of entry at the school. Provision of free early education places at the Castleton Children's Centre on the school site could also form an effective part of the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of provision for two year olds.

3.4 There are limited other physical options in the area. Whilst it may be possible to expand Armley Primary School using land adjacent to the school and it may also be possible to create a though school on the Swallow Hill site, these schools are not in the area of greatest immediate demographic need.

3.5 During the consultation phase, 8 written responses were received, 7 in favour, 1 against the primary expansion, and 2 in favour of the early years provision. The governing body of Castleton Primary School support the proposals. The concerns raised are outlined below;

3.6 **Concern:** The proposed site for expansion is green space which is used as play space by local children.

3.7 **Response:** The initial design ideas presented included the use of green space opposite the school which currently has some informal use of the land for play. The land could be to establish a separate foundation stage including children centre, nursery and reception provision, or other elements of school accommodation. The use of the land will need approval by Asset Management Board, and as part of its considerations it will include an assessment of the green space in the area.

3.8 **Concern:** That there is already a significant amount of traffic on Green Lane. The expansion of the school would increase traffic.

3.9 **Response:** Whilst some families do travel to school by car, this is typically under 20 as the majority of families access school on foot or by bus. It is not anticipated

therefore that expansion would have significant impact on traffic in the area. Expansion of the school is proposed because of the increase in the birth rate and in particular the high demographic in the immediate area and therefore it is envisaged that the expansion will meet the needs of local families who can walk to school.

- 3.10 If the proposal progresses to the next phase Highways officers will support the development of a build solution which ensures that any negative traffic impacts are mitigated. In addition a green travel plan would need to be developed by the school to demonstrate how the principles of green travel planning will be managed in the context of an expanded school, focusing on encouraging journeys on foot to school.

3.11 Part B: Expansion proposals in Bramley

- 3.12 The data and rationale for the proposal to expand Hollybush Primary School is outlined in a consultation document, which is available on at www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx.
- 3.13 In summary, the expansion of Hollybush Primary School is proposed because it is an area of demographic need. It is a school with a good Ofsted judgement. It is a school which is oversubscribed and becoming increasingly popular and there is capacity to expand the school on its existing site. The school could also form an effective part of the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of provision for two year olds.
- 3.14 Whilst other local schools, Whitecote and Raynville Primary Schools are also in areas where there is a demographic pressure, it would be significantly more challenging to physically expand these schools. Although a through school at Leeds West Academy would create additional reception places, it is not in area where additional reception places are currently required.
- 3.15 It is possible to expand Bramley Primary School however it would only create a further 20 reception places. There is some new housing adjacent to the school and it is acknowledged that this will create additional pressure for school places in the area. It is likely that further expansion in the area will need to be considered further in the future, and Bramley Primary may form part of any future solutions.
- 3.16 A partnership base for children with severe learning disabilities was also proposed at the stakeholder event in response to the growing demand for specialist provision for pupils of this age group. It was seen that a provision in either the Armley or Bramley area would provide an opportunity for children living in the west of Leeds to access provision in the area in which they live, rather than have to travel across the city to access specialist provision.
- 3.17 Partnership provision would provide an opportunity for children on the roll of the West Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC) to access learning and/or inclusion opportunities alongside their mainstream peers for some or all of the school day. The specialist teaching and learning support would be provided by the SILC. There is already some partnership provision at Hollybush Primary School. An enlarged partnership provision would allow more children on the roll of the West SILC, in this case, children with severe learning difficulties to access this provision.

- 3.18 Establishment of the additional provision at Hollybush would be an efficient use of resources as some partnership provision is already available at Hollybush, therefore only an additional class base would be required. A SILC staff team is already in place at Hollybush though additional staff would need to be recruited. The expansion of the partnership would build upon the strengths of the provision already in place.
- 3.19 The extension of the partnership provision would mean an increase in the total number of children on roll at the SILC. This would not necessitate the publication of a statutory notice as this increase alone is not an increase of more than 10% of the total number of roll.
- 3.20 During the consultation phase on the proposed expansion of Hollybush Primary School, 7 written responses were received, all in favour, none against. None were received in regards to the early years provision, three supported the SEN provision.
- 3.21 No concerns were raised about the proposed expansion of primary places, 2 year old places and SEN provision at Hollybush. Those in favour of primary expansion at Hollybush commented that the additional places at this popular school are required to provide local places for local children. Those that supported the SEN provision in the area were in support of such a proposal but did not have a strong view as to the location of such a provision. The governing body of Hollybush expressed their unanimous support the proposals to expand the school from two to three form entry together with developing provision for two year olds. They stated that they were open in principle to expanded partnership provision subject to further discussions regarding site issues in terms of space and access, the need for spaces for the community and their allocation, day to day operation of the partnership, managing the expectations of parents and other agencies.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation in relation to both proposals was managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and local good practice. Consultation included a stakeholder event, a four week period of on-line consultation on the recently established wordpress site on the range of options which emerged from the stakeholder event followed by a five week period of on- line consultation on the preferred options supplemented by drop in sessions for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders at Castelton and Hollybush Primary Schools.
- 4.1.2 The drop-in sessions were information sharing sessions and also provided an opportunity for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders to ask questions. Officers from Highways supported officers from Strategic Development and Investment at these sessions. Drop in sessions were also held in the school play grounds at the beginning and end of the school to better engage parents and carers.
- 4.1.3 Meetings were also held with the school councils, staff and governing bodies of each school. Other local schools were engaged in the stakeholder event and in the on-line consultation. Ward members were fully briefed during the process. No concerns were raised.

- 4.1.4 The notes of consultation meetings and the consultation document can be found at www.leeds.gov.uk or can be requested from the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team at educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI screening forms have been completed and are attached as an Appendix to this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The proposals are being brought forward to meet the council's statutory sufficiency duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all children living in Leeds. Providing places local to where children live improves accessibility, reduces the journey to school and reduces the risk of non-attendance.
- 4.3.2 One of our best council objectives, as described in the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 is to build a child friendly city with a focus on: our 3 partnership obsessions (looked after children, NEET and attendance); raising educational standards and narrowing the gap for vulnerable groups – the expansion of good schools helps meet this target and; ensuring sufficiency of school places.
- 4.3.3 The consultation process undertaken is cognisant of our best council objective to become an efficient and enterprising council, ensuring that 100% of decisions are supported by consultation and due regard to equality.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The total estimated cost of the project at Hollybush Primary School is £3.1 million and Castleton Primary schools is £2.2 million. These figures include the costs of an SLD partnership base in one of the schools. The projects will be progressed through to early design stages at statutory notice phase. Detailed design would commence following the statutory notice phase.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The processes that have been followed are in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 4.5.2 The report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 A detailed risk register would be established and would be maintained for each project if they proceed to statutory notice phase. Whilst it is necessary to progress some initial feasibility design work at risk during this consultation phase, the decision to proceed to detailed design stages will be dependent upon the approval to progress to the next stage of the process, the statutory notice phase.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city new families are attracted to come and live and work in Leeds. The sufficiency of

good quality school places is one of the council's top priorities and also key for families living and moving into the area.

- 5.2 The expansion of good schools in areas of high demographic need is at the heart of the drive to raise standards and to meet the Council's sufficiency duty. Creating more good learning places for children is fundamental to our vision of creating a child friendly city.
- 5.3 The proposals to expand Castleton and Hollybush Primary Schools are supported by the governing bodies, staff and school council representatives of each school. The responses received were supportive with the exception of one objection in respect of the expansion of Castleton Primary School.
- 5.4 The inclusion of provision for 2 year old children in this area is needed to ensure we meet sufficiency targets, and received the support of both schools.
- 5.5 The establishment of SEN partnership provision was supported by respondents. The governing body of Hollybush Primary School were supportive of progressing the proposal, although has some specific concerns about the location of the accommodation and the day to day operation of the partnership which will need to be progressed as the proposal develops to ensure final support. This change does not require a statutory notice.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to give permission to publish statutory notices to:
- 6.2 Expand Castleton Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2016.
- 6.3 Expand Hollybush Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2016, and also change the lower age limit from 3 to 2 with effect from January 2015.
- 6.4 Note the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead is responsible for implementation.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

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