

**Report of Director of Children’s Services**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 17 September 2014**

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

**Part A: Outcome of statutory notices on proposals to expand primary provision in Guiseley**

**Part B: Outcome of consultation on proposals to expand primary school provision in Roundhay.**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant Part A: Guiseley & Rawdon Part B: Roundhay and Moortown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

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

**Part A: Expansion proposals for Guiseley – Outcome of Statutory Notices to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald’s Church of England Junior School and establish two primary schools each with an admission number of 60 in reception**

In the case of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Church of England Junior School the schools are the proposers. In the report to its June 2014 meeting, Executive Board were advised that the governing bodies intended to pursue the publication of statutory notices to convert the existing 3 form entry infant and junior schools into two 2 form entry primary schools, and supported in principle the changes being funded as part of the basic need programme.

The notices were published on 25 June and expired on 23 July. A final decision must be made within two months of expiry of the notice, therefore by 23 September 2014. When objections are received, School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) must be convened to consider the objections and provide advice to Executive Board. SOAB met on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to consider the representations received and minutes of their meeting are attached as Appendix 1. Part A of this paper details the representations received and seeks a final decision from Executive Board.

### **Part B: Expansion proposals for Roundhay – Outcome of consultation on proposals to expand Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School**

Executive Board agreed in February 2014 a process whereby a stakeholder consultation event using Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) methodology informs consultation on options for an area, from which a route forward will be determined.

An event was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 to discuss the options for increasing school places in Roundhay. Following the event a two week on line discussion process was carried out. During this phase two options emerged, the expansion of Gledhow Primary school and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School. Consultation on these preferred options was then conducted from 30 June to 25 July 2014.

Part B of this report summarises the outcome of consultation on these proposals and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of Gledhow Primary School for which the Local Authority is the proposer.

### **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve changes to Guiseley Infant and Nursery School by increasing its capacity from 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raising the upper age limit from 7 to 11, therefore creating a primary school with an admission limit of 60 in reception, with effect from September 2015.
- Approve changes to St Oswald's C of E Junior School, increasing its capacity from 360 to 420 and lowering the age limit from 7 to 4, therefore creating a primary school with an admission limit of 60 in reception with effect from September 2015.
- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Gledhow 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.

- To note that the proposal in respect of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School will not be progressed.

Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Lead.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. This report is divided in to two sections. Part A describes the outcome of statutory notices regarding proposals to expand primary school provision in Guiseley by establishing two 2 form entry primary schools from the existing three form entry Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's C of E Junior Schools and seeks a final decision on the proposals. Part B describes proposals to increase places at Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School, summarises the outcome of a consultation and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of Gledhow Primary School.

## **2 Background information**

### **Part A – Expansion proposals for Guiseley – Outcome of Statutory Notices to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Church of England Junior School and establish two 2 primary schools with an admission limit of 60 in reception.**

- 2.1 There have been three consultations on increasing school places in Guiseley since 2012 and there has been much debate, discussion and a variety of views expressed. During this time the schools in the area have formed a trust, and the legislation surrounding school organisation changes has also been amended.
- 2.2 During the most recent consultation Guiseley Infant and Nursery school put forward a counter proposal to establish a primary school from the existing infant school. At its meeting in June 2014 Executive Board acknowledged the intention the governing bodies of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's C of E Junior School to publish statutory notices to convert both schools into primary schools, effectively revisiting the proposals previously put forward by the local authority. In principle this would be funded from the basic need programme if there is a final decision to proceed
- 2.3 The Statutory Notice relating to Guiseley Infant and Nursery (Community) School proposes conversion to a primary school by raising the upper age limit from 7 to 11, by reducing the admission number in reception to 60 with effect from September 2015. This would increase the capacity of the school from 270 pupils to 420 pupils.
- 2.4 The Statutory Notice relating to St Oswald's C of E (VA) Junior School proposes conversion to a primary school by lowering the age limit from 7 to 4 and introducing an admission limit of 60 in reception with effect from September 2015. The admission limit in Year 3 would be reduced to 60 in 2015, and the admission point would be removed from 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. This would increase the capacity of the school from 360 pupils to 420 pupils.
- 2.5 The notices were published on 25 June 2014 and expired on 23 July 2014. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, therefore by 23 September 2014.

- 2.6 Brief notices were published in the Yorkshire Evening Post, placed on the school gates and in the community. The full proposals were placed on the school websites and council website. Awareness of the publication of the statutory notice was raised by the schools through letter to parents and the delivery of letters to residents living in the area surrounding the schools. Banners were placed on the school gates/fence. A survey was setup using Leeds City Council's Talking Point to enable stakeholders to make comments about the proposals, stakeholders also had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or by email. A drop in session was arranged at each school to provide an opportunity to look at the plans for the additional accommodation which would be required and to answer questions regarding the proposals.
- 2.7 During the publication of notices to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School a total of 35 representations were received, 16 in support and 19 against. Of the 23 stakeholders who responded to the proposals in relation to Oswald's C of E Junior School 13 wrote in support and 10 objected. SOAB was therefore convened to consider the representations made. They met on 3 September 2014 to consider the representations, and minutes of their meeting are in appendix 1.
- 2.8 Part A of this report details the representations received in response to these notices. Whilst these proposals were published as individual proposals by the respective governing bodies, Executive Board is asked to note the relationship between the two proposals and to make a final decision on both of these proposals.

**Part B - Expansion proposals for Roundhay - outcome of consultation on proposals to expand Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School**

- 2.9 A stakeholder consultation event using Outcomes Based Accountability methodology was held on 3 June 2014 to discuss options for increasing school places in Roundhay. Those invited included local headteachers, ward members, school governors, parent representatives and local authority officers, representatives from the Church of England and Catholic diocesan education boards. Data about birth rates, housing, and parental preferences for schools was shared.
- 2.10 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. A number of different solutions were put forward to create additional school places and these are outlined in the discussion document, which is available on at [www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx)
- 2.11 Following a short period of public discussion hosted on the on-line forum and further data analysis, preferred options emerged to expand Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School, although it was noted that further discussion was needed on the latter option.

2.12 Consultation on these options took place from 30 June 2014 to 25 July 2014. This included further use of the wordpress on line forum and a number of drop-in sessions to discuss the proposals. The drop-in sessions were attended by parents, local residents and other stakeholders. Information was distributed widely, including through the school, early years providers, websites, local churches and playgroups. Meetings were also held with the governors, staff and school council of Gledhow Primary School. A banner was also placed at the school to advertise the consultation.

2.13 Part B of this report details the issues raised in relation to Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School and seeks permission to publish a statutory notice in respect of Gledhow Primary School.

### 3 Main issues

#### **Part A – Expansion proposals for Guiseley – Outcome of Statutory Notices to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald’s Junior School and establish two 2 from entry primary schools.**

3.1 Those respondents in support of the proposals commented that the establishment of two separate primary schools would provide the opportunity to preference a faith or a community school, and that building on the skills and expertise of two existing schools presented a positive way forward which was preferable to the establishment of a new school. They also commented that the proposals provided a solution in the right location of Guiseley, and provided the correct number of additional places for the area. They also commented that the proposals provided a deliverable solution and that the building solutions proposed had been well thought through.

3.2 Some of the concerns raised by respondents were common to both proposals:

3.2.1 **Concern:** That the proposals which had previously been consulted upon were being brought forward again. At the time there was opposition to these proposals, and these concerns have not been fully addressed.

3.2.2 **Response:** The proposals brought forward are those consulted upon in the summer of 2013. At that time the governing body of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School indicated that they did not feel that they could support the proposal. This was a key reason that the proposals did not progress, and work was suspended before some key investigations were concluded. Since then consultation took place on an alternative option and during this time the infant school put forward their counter proposal. The governing bodies of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald’s C of E Junior School believe the establishment of primary schools is a workable solution. This statutory notice has provided the opportunity for the community to reflect on the latest situation, and raise any concerns they have about the proposals in the current context. The main themes raised previously have been raised again during this notice period and are addressed in this report.

3.2.3 **Concern:** With the planned housing developments listed in the site allocations plan, will the expansion be enough to cope with future demand?

- 3.2.4 **Response:** These proposals address demand from the existing under 5s population currently living within Guiseley, and also provide the places required from housing under construction or housing with planning permission.
- 3.2.5 They do not provide for the potential new housing developments described in the Site Allocations plan of the Core Housing Strategy. Work has been undertaken to identify possible solutions should these developments progress. Establishing new school places before they were required would potentially undermine existing provision and make it harder to secure developer contributions towards new housing.
- 3.2.6 **Concern:** Why not establish larger infant and junior schools?
- 3.2.7 **Response:** Whilst it is possible to establish four form entry infant and junior schools, the preferred option of both schools is to become primary schools. This is because they believe that the benefits of becoming primary schools which removes the risk of transition at the end of Key Stage 1, provide greater opportunities for socialisation and provide greater opportunities for staff and curriculum development outweigh those of becoming expanded infant and junior schools. There are also concerns about cohort sizes of 120 children at both ends of the primary age spectrum.
- 3.2.8 **Concern:** That existing wrap around childcare may not be maintained or may be adversely affected.
- 3.2.9 **Response:** Wrap around will continue to be provided when the schools become primary schools. It is likely that there will be increased demand as the school population increases. The Local Authority's sufficiency duty extends to that of sufficient childcare for working parents and discussions are already underway with providers with a view to increase the level of provision in the area.
- 3.2.10 **Concern:** Transition arrangements have not been thought through and will have a negative impact on the learning of children at both Guiseley Infants and St Oswald's. Children staying on at Guiseley Infants will be the oldest for 4 years and for children starting St Oswald's in reception in 2015, there will not be older children in Key Stage 1.
- 3.2.11 **Response:** There has been much attention to the transition arrangements in order to allow as much flexibility as possible and during transition families will be entitled to stay at Guiseley Infants or preference a place at St Oswald's in year 3. There is no evidence to suggest that children's learning will be negatively impacted during these transition years. The Learning Improvement Team at Leeds City Council would also provide support, guidance and assistance to the schools during this time. The schools would also be able to access support from other schools who have successfully completed similar transitions.
- 3.2.12 **Concern:** Existing traffic and highways issues in the vicinity of the schools will be exacerbated by an expanded school.

- 3.2.13 **Response:** The establishment of two separate primary schools will mean that the existing journey between the two schools which is required each day for families who have children in both the infant and junior school will no longer be required.

It is acknowledged there are traffic issues and inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of the schools can be an issue for local residents and that this is particularly so at the start and end of the school day. The traffic and parking surveys undertaken will determine the solution required for the school, and would be considered as part of the planning application.

- 3.2.14 **Concern:** Children's education will be disrupted due to the amount of building work required

- 3.2.15 **Response:** There is no evidence to suggest that education would be disrupted. Building work will need to take place to create additional accommodation and wherever possible very noisy work would be carried out in school holidays. It is inevitable that some work will have to be carried out during term time, however the schools would function as normal during such building work. The local authority has extensive experience of managing building projects on school sites and would draw on this should the proposals progress to ensure minimal disruption.

- 3.2.16 **Concern:** Local residents were not informed of statutory notice or drop-in sessions

- 3.2.17 **Response:** The notices and drop in sessions were widely advertised. Brief notices were published in the Yorkshire Evening Post and copies were displayed at each entrance to the school. Copies were also placed in the community. The full proposals were placed on the school websites and council website.

Banners were displayed at both schools raising awareness and letters were distributed to parents. Letters were also delivered to residents local to both schools and an email was sent to all persons who had made a response to the previous consultation that had taken place.

### **Guiseley Infant and Nursery School**

- 3.3.1 **Concern:** Guiseley Infant and Nursery School is not large enough to cope with an expansion of this size

- 3.3.2 **Response:** The site is sufficiently large to accommodate a 2 form entry primary school both in terms of class space and hard outdoor hard and soft play. Additional accommodation would be established by building new classrooms and cloak room facilities, creating additional hall space and kitchen space.

A drop in session was held to share initial design work for the new accommodation which had been developed in conjunction with the Headteacher and governors and the plans were well received by stakeholders. The design work takes account of concerns raised during the consultation conducted in 2013.

### **St Oswald's C of E Junior School**



- 3.4.1 **Concern:** The proposals reduce choice as St Oswald's could establish a admission's policy which prioritises faith.
- 3.4.2 **Response:** The proposals provide a different choice that which currently exists. It is possible that St Oswald's establish a faith only policy however as they have been able to do in the past as they are a voluntary aided schools. The governing body of St Oswald's have however stated throughout this and the previous consultation that they would ensure that the admissions policy was aligned very closely with the local authority admissions policy and that they would seek to provide local places for local children. This will require separate consultation for 2016, and their current policy will stand for 2015. The governors acknowledge the need for additional school places in the Guiseley area.
- 3.4.3 **Concern:** No nursery provision is to be established at St Oswald's as part of expansion which will put pressure on the nursery at Guiseley Infants.
- 3.4.4 **Response:** As part of any proposed school expansion, additional nursery and SEN provision is considered to ensure a holistic approach to planning provision. A recent review in this area indicated that there was sufficient provision, and therefore no expansion of places at either school is proposed. Guiseley has a mixture of private nurseries, child minders and pre-schools as well as the school nursery at Guiseley Infants. All these types of setting offer free early education for 3 and 4 year olds.

Additional housing can put pressure on nursery places and the need for more free early education places will be kept under review.

### **Part B - Expansion proposals for Roundhay - Outcome of consultation on proposals to expand Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Primary School**

- 3.5 The data and rationale for the proposal to expand Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Primary School is outlined in a consultation document, which is available on at [www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Consultations-and-reviews.aspx)

#### **Gledhow Primary School**

- 3.6 In summary the expansion of Gledhow Primary School is proposed as it is an outstanding school, with land available as part of the school site, and which sits in an area of demographic need. The land to the rear has potential to offer both school expansion and potentially some shared community sports use as part of a joined up plan. There are no major concerns about planning issues at this site, although a detailed plan would be developed for the school. Whilst an accommodation solution has not yet been determined, initial work suggests that a number of accommodation solutions are possible. The school support consultation on the proposal in order to meet the needs of their local community.
- 3.7 The existing specialist provision for children with speech and language difficulties will continue to operate in the school whether or not the expansion proceeds. There are no current plans to expand the existing specialist provision.

- 3.8 During the consultation period, 16 written responses were received, 8 in favour, 8 against the primary expansion. A summary of the issues raised follows. 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). The Governing Body of Gledhow Primary School supports the proposal subject to it meeting the needs of the community.
- 3.9 The concerns raised during consultation are outlined below.
- 3.9.1 **Concern:** There will be a negative impact on the children as the friendly close atmosphere will be altered. 3FE is too big and it would be hard to integrate a year group of 90
- 3.9.2 **Response:** The headteacher and governing body are very keen to retain the ethos of the school and are confident that they would manage any changes successfully without losing the close personal relationship with all pupils. Support would also be provided by the Learning Improvement Team at Leeds City Council to assist them in managing the process.
- 3.9.3 They would also be able to draw upon the experience of other schools who have expanded from 2 to 3 form entry to consider how to retain a suitable atmosphere. They have already made contact with the leadership team of Westerton Primary School which has expanded from 2 to 3 entry and is an outstanding school.
- 3.9.4 Research indicates that size is not the determining factor as regards to those schools which are successful but that the quality of teaching and learning and the quality of leadership and management are the key drivers for success. Gledhow Primary School benefits from both of these.
- 3.9.5 **Concern:** There would be health and safety concerns and disruption to the children and staff during any building work.
- 3.9.6 **Response:** It is not always possible to do all building work during school holidays, although as far as possible any works that are likely to be very noisy or disruptive would be carried out whilst pupils and staff are away. Any building work carried out while the school is open would be completely segregated from the pupils and staff to ensure safety, and disruption to teaching and learning would be minimised. All building projects would be carefully managed to ensure the health and safety of children at all times.
- 3.9.7 **Concern:** There will be a loss of community space as local residents will not be able to access the field to the rear of the school. (i.e. dog walkers, children playing and having picnics)
- 3.9.8 **Response:** The space in question is land which is part of the school site and is maintained by the school but not fenced in as part of the school site at present. The land is currently used by members of the community and therefore it cannot be safely used by the school.

Should the proposal progress the intention is that the fence line would be extended so that this became a safe and secure part of the school site. The land

lends itself to sports usage by the school and it would provide additional green space for school use. There is interest in a local sports club in the establishment of sports provision which could be used by the community subject to a lettings agreement. Discussions are at a very early stage to explore the establishment of such provision, and could be mutually compatible with the school expansion.

- 3.9.9 **Concern:** There will be a loss of outdoor space, and it will not be age appropriate.
- 3.9.10 **Response:** Some outdoor hard play area would be lost due the construction of additional school accommodation, however, the site is sufficiently large to accommodate the additional buildings and there is sufficient play space for a 3FE school (in line with DfE guidelines). Any play space used to accommodate new buildings would be re-provided elsewhere on the site. The school have been keen to ensure the plans include sufficient and appropriate play space for the children.
- 3.9.11 **Concern:** There is not a demographic need in the Gledhow area, the need is around Talbot Primary School.
- 3.9.12 **Response:** Although it is acknowledged that greatest demographic pressure is located near to Talbot Primary School, there are significant planning barriers to expansion at that location. The establishment of an expanded provision at Gledhow Primary School would address the need for additional places in the area.
- 3.9.13 **Concern:** Why can't you use the Fir Tree site?
- 3.9.14 **Response:** The Fir Tree site is in the Alwoodley area and would not address the central Roundhay demographic pressure. In addition, the Education Funding Agency (EFA) have indicated their intention to acquire the site for a free school.
- 3.9.15 **Concern:** How will you ensure that the current educational and sporting standards remain high?
- 3.9.16 **Response:** Additional pupils would generate increased pupil funding to purchase additional resources, including staff, and classes would continue to be based class sizes of 30 pupils. The school leadership team would determine when additional staff were required to support learning as pupil numbers increased. The governing body and Senior Leadership Team have indicated that they are totally committed to ensuring the expansion would not have a detrimental effect on standards and attainment.
- 3.9.17 **Concern:** The school management team and governors need to be involved in any future design process to ensure the school can be managed effectively.
- 3.9.18 **Response:** The governors, staff and children are key stakeholders in any building design and would be consulted at different stages of the planning and design process. In this case, the headteacher and governors have already been involved in the initial design work and their feedback has been taken into account in the work undertaken to date.

- 3.9.19 **Concern:** There is already a significant amount of traffic around the school. The expansion of the school would increase traffic.
- 3.9.20 **Response:** It is acknowledged that there is traffic in the vicinity of the school and particularly at peak times e.g. the beginning and end of the school day, and that expansion would potentially increase traffic to the school.

If the proposal progresses any building work would be subject to the normal planning permission process, and the Highways Department is a statutory consultee on all Planning Applications. Planning approval requires officers from Highways to formally comment on all applications. Measures identified by the highways department as a requirement for approval will be incorporated in the scheme of works. In addition a green travel plan would need to be developed by the school focusing on encouraging journeys on foot to school.

- 3.9.21 **Concern:** Why can't you build a new school?
- 3.9.22 **Response:** To do so the council would need to first identify a suitable site and then seek an academy sponsor to run the school, or a VA school could be opened. Where the site is not in council ownership it carries land acquisition costs in addition to the cost of the new build. No suitable sites or funding have been identified. There can be less risk in building upon the excellent standards and management of existing schools.

### **Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School**

- 3.10 There is a need for more Catholic places in the north Leeds area to meet increasing baptism rates. At the stakeholder event it was suggested that St Paul's Catholic Primary may offer a good solution for catholic places, in part as the site may be easier to develop than other local catholic schools but could impact on places in Roundhay. Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School is however situated closer to the area of central Roundhay where we face consistent demographic pressure and draws pupils from across this area. In discussion with the diocese it was therefore agreed to explore further the option of expansion of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School.
- 3.11 However, following discussion with the Headteacher and governors it quickly emerged that the school leadership team did not support expansion of the school. They did not wish to become a 3FE school, and felt that the expansion of other local smaller catholic schools presented better options and could provide the opportunity to create additional catholic places in more than one school.
- 3.12 For this reason drop in sessions with parents/carers, local residents and other stakeholders were not put in place and the initial design work to explore options for creating additional school accommodation was not progressed. Meetings with the full governing body, school staff and the school council were not arranged and therefore wider discussion and engagement did not take place.
- 3.13 During the consultation period, 193 written responses were received, 3 in favour, 190 against expansion. In summary those who responded expressed concern regarding the establishment of a three from entry primary school and how this

would affect the 'feel of the school and the impact upon the delivery of collective workshop. Concern was also expressed regarding the size of the site and the impact of an expanded school upon existing traffic and highways issues. The view was also expressed that as the school will be undergoing a period of change as the current Headteacher will be retiring, expansion at this time was not appropriate.

- 3.14 Whilst it is possible to address the concerns raised during the consultation and to put to mechanisms in place to address these concerns, it is key that all partners, in this case the school, the diocese and the Local Authority feel that the it is the best time to progress a particular proposal. In some cases proposals need to be reconsidered and other options explored in order to find the right solution for an area and in this case to manage the need for catholic places

## **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 Brief notices in respect of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's C of E Junior School were published in a newspaper, the Yorkshire Evening Post, notices were placed on all the school entrances and other conspicuous places on the school premises and in the community. Information was also placed on the Leeds City Council website, Talking Point, WordPress and both school websites. Banners were also placed on the school site during the statutory notice phase. A drop in session was arranged at each school to provide an opportunity to view the plans for the additional accommodation and to answer questions regarding the proposals and the transition process.
- 4.1.3 Consultation in relation to the proposals relating to Gledhow Primary School and Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School included a stakeholder event, a two 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 four week period of on- line consultation on the preferred options supplemented by drop in sessions for parents/carers, residents and other stakeholders at Geldhow Primary School.
- 4.1.4 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. A drop in sessions was held in the school play grounds at sports days and at the beginning of the day in the play ground to talk to parents before and after they dropped off their children. A drop in session was also held in the evening.
- 4.1.5 Meetings were also held with the school council, staff and governing body of Gledhow Primary School. Other local schools were engaged in the stakeholder event and in the on-line consultation.

4.1.6 Ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage, both individually to ensure awareness of all proposals city wide and improved understanding of the impact of proposals in neighbouring areas. No concerns were raised.

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

4.2.1 The EDCI form for Gledhow Primary School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report.

4.2.2 The screening forms for the proposals to increase places in Guiseley were previously published when the authority brought forward those proposals. Given the change in circumstances in the area the forms have been revisited, and it was concluded that there are no further implications. They are attached for information.

## **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council'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, and thus reduces the risk of non-attendance.

4.3.2 A key objective within the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 is to build a child friendly city with a priority, 'Ensure sufficiency of school places'. The delivery of pupil places through Basic Need is one of the most baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City. A good quality school place contributes to the achievement of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to 'improve behaviour, attendance and achievement'. It is therefore important that when bringing any proposal forward, there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on the teaching and learning. Gledhow Primary School was rated 'Outstanding' at its most recent inspection and both Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Junior School were rated 'Good' by Ofsted at their most recent inspection.

4.3.3 In addition, "Narrowing the Gap" and "Going up a League" agenda and is fundamental to the Leeds Education Challenge. A key area of monitoring in primary schools is the key stage 1 to 2 value added scores. The scores relevant to the schools contained in this report are below:

- St Oswald's C of E Junior, value added score: 99.9 (middle 20% nationally)
- Gledhow Primary, value added score: 100.6 (Top 40% nationally)
- Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary, value added score: 100.5 (Top 40%)

4.3.4 Further objectives of the Best Council Plan 2013-2017 are 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty and 'Become a more efficient and enterprising council. Choice and diversity for parents and families is promoted by responding to the needs of communities, by delivering additional school places in the areas

where families need them. Meeting these expectations while demonstrating the five values underpinning all we do is key to the basic need programme.

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

4.4.1 The total estimated cost of the project at St Oswald's C of E Junior School is £1.9m based on the latest RIBA Stage D Budget Estimate. Both the Guiseley Infant & Nursery School and Gledhow Primary School projects are at an early feasibility stage, with initial indicative budget estimates for both schemes being £2.7m and £2.65m respectively.

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

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

4.5.2 This report is subject to call in.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There is a statutory time limit for a final decision on the proposals regarding Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Junior School of 23 September 2014.

4.6.2 The proposals to increase primary provision in Roundhay have been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2016.

4.6.3 A decision not to proceed at this stage would mean fresh consultation on new proposals, and would mean places may not be delivered in time. The authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may also be at risk.

### **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 places for the children is one of our top priorities. These proposals have been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate consultation we now seek to move them to the next stage. They would ensure that children in Leeds would have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a child friendly city.

5.2 There have been three consultations on increasing school places in Guiseley since 2012 and there has been much debate, discussion and a variety of views expressed. During this time the schools in the area have formed a trust, and the legislation surrounding school organisation changes has also been amended. This means that the local authority can now only propose the expansion of Tranmere Park. Any other proposals must be put forward by the schools themselves as Trust and VA schools.

- 5.3 Working together, the schools have come to a joint conclusion of supporting the proposal consulted upon in 2013 to convert Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's C of E Junior School into primary schools. This proposal offers a sensible route forward, ensuring sufficiency of school places but allowing scope for other proposals in future should further capacity be needed.
- 5.4 During the publication of notices to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School a total of 35 representations were received, 16 in support and 19 against. Of the 23 stakeholders who responded to the proposals in relation to Oswald's Church of England Junior School, 13 wrote in support, 10 objected. The issues raised during the statutory notice period were however very similar to the concerns raised during the public consultation held last year. No new issues were raised. These concerns were addressed in Executive Board report of September 2013 and have been addressed in this report also. The School Organisation Advisory Board met to consider each of the proposals relating to Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Junior School and the representations made by stakeholders. The minutes of their meeting are in appendix 1.
- 5.5 The proposals to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery and St Oswald's C of E Junior Schools remain strong ones and are a workable solution for area.
- 5.4 The issues raised during consultation regarding the expansion of Gledhow Primary School have been considered, and on balance, the proposal remains strong. It addresses the need for school places in the area.
- 5.5 The proposal has been supported during the public consultation, and although some concerns were raised, the report demonstrates how these may be addressed.
- 5.6 The proposal in relation to Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School was not supported and it is proposed that further consultation and engagement be undertaken prior to progressing with any further proposals in the Roundhay area.
- 5.7 The additional places are required to ensure the authority meets its legal requirement to ensure sufficiency of primary provision for September 2015 and 2016. There is evidence of local need for places, and they would offer choice and diversity of provision, and it is therefore recommended that the proposals be approved.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve changes to Guiseley Infant and Nursery School by increasing its capacity from 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raising the upper age limit from 7 to 11, therefore creating a primary school with an admission limit of 60 in reception, with effect from September 2015.
- Approve changes to St Oswald's C of E Junior School, increasing its capacity from 360 to 420 and lowering the age limit from 7 to 4, therefore creating a



primary school with an admission limit of 60 in reception with effect from September 2015.

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice to expand Gledhow 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.
- To note that the proposal in respect of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Primary School will not be progressed.

## **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.