

SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on
Wednesday, 8th September, 2021 at 10.00 am
(A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board at 9.45 a.m.)

Councillors

H Bithell	-	Kirkstall;
E Flint	-	Weetwood;
B Flynn	-	Adel and Wharfedale;
A Forsaith	-	Farnley and Wortley;
C Gruen	-	Bramley and Stanningley;
Z Hussain	-	Roundhay;
J Illingworth	-	Kirkstall;
A Lamb (Chair)	-	Wetherby;
S Lay	-	Otley and Yeadon;
A Marshall-Katung	-	Little London and Woodhouse;
K Renshaw	-	Ardsley and Robin Hood;
J Senior	-	Morley South;
R. Stephenson	-	Harewood;

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Mr E A Britten	-	Church Representative (Catholic)
Mr A Graham	-	Church Representative (Church of England)
Mrs K Blacker	-	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Ms J Ward	-	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Ms C Foote	-	School Staff Representative
Ms H Bellamy	-	School Staff Representative

This meeting will be webcast live via the link below, however, if you would like to attend to observe in person, please email (FacilitiesManagement@leeds.gov.uk) to request a place, clearly stating the name, date and start time of the committee and include your full name and contact details, no later than 24 hours before the meeting begins. Please note that these pre-booked places will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis and once meeting room capacity has been reached there will be no further public admittance to the meeting.

Please Note - Coronavirus is still circulating in Leeds. Therefore, even if you have had the vaccine, if you have Coronavirus symptoms: a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, you should NOT attend the meeting and stay at home, and get a PCR test. For those who are attending the meeting, please bring a face covering, unless you are exempt.

Principal Scrutiny Adviser:
Angela Brogden
Tel: (0113) 37 88661

Produced on Recycled Paper

Note to observers of the meeting: To remotely observe this meeting, please click on the 'View the Meeting Recording' link which will feature on the meeting's webpage (linked below) ahead of the meeting. The webcast will become available at the commencement of the meeting.

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1089&MId=11687>

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A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25* of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(* In accordance with Procedure Rule 25, notice of an appeal must be received in writing by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting).</p>	
2			<p>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report. 2. To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information. 3. If so, to formally pass the following resolution:- <p>RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:</p> <p>No exempt items have been identified.</p>	

3

LATE ITEMS

To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.

(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)

4

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

To disclose or draw attention to any interests in accordance with Leeds City Council's 'Councillor Code of Conduct'.

5

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES

To receive any apologies for absence and notification of substitutes.

6

MINUTES - 3RD MARCH 2021

5 - 10

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

7

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

11 -
14

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services on the appointment of non-voting co-opted members to the Scrutiny Board.

8

OUTCOME OF STATUTORY NOTICE ON A PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY INCREASE LEARNING PLACES AT ST EDWARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2022

15 -
88

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services which presents information from the Director of Children and Families on the outcome of the statutory notice on a proposal to permanently increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022.

TACKLING THE LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - DRAFT INQUIRY REPORT

To receive a report from the Head of Democratic Services which presents the Board's draft report following its inquiry into tackling the long-term impacts of Covid-19 on children and families.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Children and Families Scrutiny Board is holding a remote consultative meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 10 am (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.45 am)

THIRD PARTY RECORDING

Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts on the front of this agenda.

Use of Recordings by Third Parties – code of practice

- a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.
- b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete.

Webcasting

Please note – the publically accessible parts of this meeting will be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the City Council's website. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed.

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SCRUTINY BOARD (CHILDREN AND FAMILIES)

WEDNESDAY, 3RD MARCH, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor A Lamb in the Chair

Councillors P Drinkwater, B Flynn,
A Forsaith, C Gruen, C Howley, A Hussain,
J Illingworth, W Kidger, J Lennox,
A Marshall-Katung, K Renshaw and
R Stephenson

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Mr E A Britten - Church Representative (Catholic)
Mr A Graham - Church Representative (Church of England)
Mrs K Blacker - Parent Governor Representative (Primary)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Ms C Foote - Teacher Representative
Ms H Bellamy - Teacher Representative

70 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

71 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

72 Late Items

There were no late items.

73 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

74 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies were received from Councillor H Bithell, and co-opted members Debbie Reilly, Jackie Ward and Callum Dixon.

75 Minutes - 3rd February 2021

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held 3rd February 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

76 Potential long term impacts of Covid-19 on children in Leeds

The Director of Children and Families submitted a report that presented some of the key areas where the pandemic has had the most significant impact and invited discussion from the Scrutiny Board as to the most appropriate distribution of resources in tackling the long term impacts of Covid-19.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Jonathan Pryor, Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment
- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children, Families and Adult Social Care
- Sal Tariq, Director of Children and Families
- Julie Longworth, Deputy Director of Children and Families
- Tim Pouncey, Chief Officer Strategy and Resources
- Val Waite, Head of Service (Learning Inclusion)
- Dave Clark, Head of Service (Learning Improvement)
- Karen Jessup, Principal Educational Psychologist
- Steven Ruse, Sustainable Schools Consultant
- Erica Hiorns, Senior Secondary Improvement Advisor
- Dr Jane Mischenko, Strategic Lead Commissioner, Children and Maternity, NHS Leeds CCG
- Janice Burberry, Head of Public Health
- Kathryn Ingold, Chief Officer / Consultant in Public Health
- Lyndsey Mortimer, Service Delivery Manager, Families First
- Victoria Fuggles, Youth Offer Lead
- Richard Cracknell, Area Voice and Influence, Coordinator
- Representatives of the Leeds Youth Council (Charlotte; Alannah; Attia; Ciara and Amelie)

The Director of Children and Families briefly introduced the report and particularly highlighted the importance of working collaboratively across the system to respond effectively to the consequential impacts of the pandemic.

The Chair explained that in view of the number of contributors in attendance for this item, the Board's discussions would be structured around 4 particular themes: Education; Health & Well-being; Youth Service; Voice of Young People.

Linked to each theme, the Chair asked key contributors to answer the following questions:

- What they regard to be potential long term impacts of Covid-19 on young people in Leeds from the perspective of their service area(s)?
- How they would prioritise actions to help mitigate such impacts?

A summary of the main issues arising from the Board's discussions is set out below:

Education

Members were advised that young peoples' holistic development has presented a concern as a result of the pandemic, particularly for disadvantaged groups and those who have social and emotional mental health needs. As a result of additional pressure on support services and the increase in referrals for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), targeted work is taking place with the most vulnerable learners and those who traditionally do not engage with support services. Reference was made to the Pupil Wellbeing surveys which aim to support and guide schools (and services) to identify where intervention and support is most required to best establish and support pupils' social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs following their return to school. While survey completion is voluntary, it was noted that such surveys will remain available until July 2021, as they may prove useful for supporting pupils as and when they re-integrate into school following a prolonged period of absence. While it was acknowledged that the current headline data arising from the Pupil Wellbeing survey appears to show that many young people have remained resilient during the pandemic, it was noted that the survey response rate has been relatively low during the latest lockdown period and that further engagement work with young people is therefore still needed.

In regards to lost learning as a result of school closures, Members were advised that schools are individually monitoring attainment and managing revisiting modules, with support also available for pupils from the national tutoring programme. It was also noted that pupils and teachers have identified a number of positive long term aspects of home learning, such as the availability of online material to support revision, and using remote learning for school refusers to encourage to return to education. A number of projects to provide advice and support for parents have also been introduced. Members were also advised that additional catch-up funding will be available to schools in the summer term, with an anticipated focus on education outside of classrooms and a greater emphasis around softer skills and enjoyment.

Health and Wellbeing

Representatives noted that although the direct health impact of COVID-19 on children and young people is low, there are significant indirect impacts on social and emotional mental health, evidenced by rising referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and bereavement services. It was also recognised that the developmental impact of social isolation and parental stress on infants and toddlers is an area that will require attention moving forward, highlighting the importance of providing additional support to Early Years providers. Reference was made to the work of the multi-disciplinary teams within the Early Help Hubs and Members were advised that the 'Think Family' approach in terms of working with whole families to reduce impacts on the child is vital, recognising the additional pressure on parents and potential changes to family dynamics.

Acknowledging that the Scrutiny Board had already focused in depth on “The Future in Mind Strategy: Leeds Strategy Refresh” during its November meeting, reference was made to some of the additional work being undertaken and planned in association with the Strategy.

Youth Service

Members were advised that youth work aims to bring groups of young people together and providing new experiences, however guidance does not allow for this usual approach to be taken presently due to lockdown restrictions. Throughout the pandemic, teams have predominantly engaged in street based youth work to encourage social distancing and reduce offending type behaviour, alongside some programmes which have continued remotely. Some sessions had also taken place at outdoor education centres for vulnerable individuals and their families. However, feedback from young people indicates that online youth work is not preferable, particularly alongside remote school learning, and therefore teams are keen to return to youth-led programmes in the community when safe and appropriate to do so. It was noted that re-engaging with some groups may be a challenge, as restrictions are lifted and young people’s routines change.

Voice of Young People

Representatives from the Leeds Youth Council reported their experiences and those of their peers and classmates. Mental health of young people during periods of school closure and readjustment as schools reopen was identified as a key issue, as stress associated with adapting to new ways of working and reduced social contact with peers have amplified some of the problems young people were already facing. In addition, it was highlighted that young people felt that they had missed out on key experiences and milestones in their adolescence due to school closures, such as school leaver celebrations and work experience, as well as more regular social activities such as after school clubs. However, young people also reported positives as a result of the pandemic on the experiences of children and young people, such as examples of teachers who have consistently provided one-to-one support during periods of difficulty, and the benefit of online resources and recorded lessons for revision, which they hoped would continue.

In recognition of the lack of usual rituals and support during periods of transition and the difficulties this has caused young people moving on to other educational settings, representatives suggested that schools work with previous pupils to rearrange lost events and celebrations. Representatives also welcomed an approach to catch-up funding in the summer term and throughout the holidays to focus on fun activities outdoors and in the community, as opposed to additional lessons in school. In regards to mental health, young people felt that peer group sessions with pupils of a similar age to be facilitated by teachers would be of great benefit, to allow young people to discuss their experiences and concerns in a safe space.

Next steps

Following contributions from representatives of the various sectors and groups, the Director of Children and Families summarised the key issues raised and highlighted common themes to be addressed moving forward.

The Chair proposed that a Statement of the Scrutiny Board be produced on this matter, to be agreed by correspondence with Board Members unless an opportunity arises to bring it to another Board meeting before the end of the municipal year.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.
- b) That a Statement of the Board be produced and agreed by correspondence with Board Members.

77 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that provided an overview of the work that has been undertaken by the Scrutiny Board this municipal year. Also appended to the report was a draft work schedule of planned meeting dates for 2020/21, which included standard items of scrutiny activity linked to performance and budget monitoring and other items of work linked to commitments already made by the Board.

RESOLVED – That the current work schedule be approved and the draft work schedule for 2021/22 be noted.

78 Date and Time of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

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Co-opted Members

Date: 8th September 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The Council's Scrutiny arrangements are one of the key parts of the Council's governance arrangements. For a number of years, the Council's Constitution has made provision for the appointment of co-opted members to individual Scrutiny Boards.
- The Scrutiny Board held a remote consultative meeting on 9th June 2021 and during that meeting, the views of Members were sought in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members. This report therefore sets out the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members, as informed by its discussions in June, for Members' consideration and formal approval.

Recommendations

Members are requested to formally agree the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. In the majority of cases the appointment of co-opted members is optional and is determined by the relevant Scrutiny Board. However, there are also legislative requirements regarding the appointment of specific education representatives onto the Children and Families Scrutiny Board.
2. During the Scrutiny Board's consultative meeting on 9th June 2021, Members acknowledged the following appointments to the Scrutiny Board in accordance with legislative requirements:
 - Church of England diocese representative - Andrew Graham
 - Roman Catholic diocese representative - Tony Britten
 - Parent governor representative (Secondary) - Jacqueline Ward
 - Parent Governor Representative (Primary) - Kate Blacker
3. In addition to the above, the Scrutiny Board also discussed the options available to all Scrutiny Boards in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members.
4. In general terms, Scrutiny Boards can appoint:
 - Up to five non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that does not go beyond the next Annual Meeting of Council ; and/or,
 - Up to two non-voting co-opted members for a term of office that relates to the duration of a particular and specific scrutiny inquiry.
5. This report sets out the Board's position in relation to the appointment of non-voting co-opted members, as informed by its discussions in June, for Members' consideration and formal approval.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

6. The appointment of non-voting teacher representation has been a longstanding approach adopted by the Children and Families Scrutiny Board. Members therefore noted and welcomed that non-voting co-opted Members, Celia Foote and Helen Bellamy, had been nominated again by the School Staff Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) to continue their role on the Scrutiny Board in terms of representing school staff more broadly.
7. During the Board's meeting on 9th June 2021, the Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships also particularly encouraged exploration of options to have the voice of the third sector represented in the work of Scrutiny. Members acknowledged that the Board had previously co-opted a representative from Young Lives Leeds and therefore agreed to invite Young Lives Leeds to nominate a representative to join the Scrutiny Board again this year.
8. It is therefore proposed that Members approve the following non-voting co-opted member appointments to the Children and Families Scrutiny Board for this municipal year:
 - Celia Foote – School Staff Representative
 - Helen Bellamy – School Staff Representative

- Laura Whitaker – Young Lives Leeds Representative (commencing on 15th September 2021)

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

9. This report reflects the views expressed by the Scrutiny Board during its consultative meeting on 9th June 2021.

What are the resource implications?

10. Where applicable, any incidental expenses paid to co-optees will be met within existing resources.

What are the legal implications?

11. Where additional members are co-opted onto a Scrutiny Board, such members must comply with the provisions set out in the Member's Code of Conduct as detailed within the Council's Constitution.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

12. When Scrutiny Boards are considering the appointment of a standing co-opted member for a term of office, they should be mindful of any potential conflicts of interest that may arise during the course of the year in view of the Scrutiny Boards' wide ranging terms of reference.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

13. The terms of reference of the Scrutiny Boards promote a strategic and outward looking Scrutiny function that focuses on the best council objectives and it is widely recognised that co-opted members can significantly aid the work of Scrutiny Boards.

Appendices

14. None.

Background papers

15. None.

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Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to permanently increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022

Date: 8th September 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- In July 2019, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board agreed an approach involving the role of scrutiny in the school organisation proposals and objections procedure.
- In accordance with the agreed approach, the Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board was advised of formal objections received in relation to the proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School to permanently increase the number of places offered at the school in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022.
- After consulting the views of other Board Members, it was agreed that the Children and Families Scrutiny Board would hold an additional meeting on 8th September 2021 to consider the proposal, including the formal objections, in more detail.
- The Executive Board is expected to make a final decision on the proposal during its meeting on 22nd September 2021. The timeliness of today's meeting therefore provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to consider the proposal and identify any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board prior to a final decision being made.

Recommendations

That the Scrutiny Board considers the information presented within this report and identifies any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board during its meeting on 22nd September 2021 in relation to the proposal to increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. Following the dissolution of the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) in 2019, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board considered what role the Scrutiny Board could play as part of the school organisation proposals and objections procedure, which relates to maintained schools, in terms of still allowing an appropriate level of rigour and challenge to continue to exist where formal objections are received following the publication of a Statutory Notice to close a school; open a new school; or make prescribed alterations to a school. An approach was formally agreed by the Scrutiny Board in July 2019. This is summarised in Appendix 1.

St Edward's Catholic Primary School proposal

2. A consultation on a proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School to permanently increase the number of places offered at the school in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022, took place between 15 January and 11 February 2021.
3. The outcome of this consultation was detailed in a report presented to Executive Board at its meeting on 23rd June 2021 ([Link to Executive Board report](#)) and approval was granted to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.
4. The Statutory Notice consultation period ended on 6th August 2021 and it was brought to the attention of Councillor Lamb, in his capacity as Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, that the proposal had received 26 representations during the Statutory Notice period, 17 of which had raised an objection.
5. In accordance with the agreed approach set out in Appendix 1, the Chair met with the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment to discuss the objections relating to the proposal.
6. While acknowledging that the majority of the formal objections related to planning or highways issues that would be addressed separately through the planning process if the proposals were to progress, it was the view of the Chair that a meeting of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board was warranted given the volume of objections that had been received. After consulting the views of other Board Members, it was agreed that the Children and Families Scrutiny Board would hold an additional meeting on 8th September 2021 to consider the proposal, including the formal objections, in more detail.
7. A report has therefore been provided by the Director of Children and Families which summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period as well as setting out responses to the issues raised (see Appendix 2).

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: Wetherby

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

8. Details surrounding the specific impact of the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

9. The Executive Board is expected to make a final decision on the proposal during its meeting on 22nd September 2021. The timeliness of today's meeting provides an opportunity for the Scrutiny Board to consider the proposal and identify any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board prior to a final decision being made.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

10. Details of the consultation surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.
11. Representatives from the Children and Families Directorate will be attending today's meeting to address Members' questions.

What are the resource implications?

12. Details of the resource implications surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

What are the legal implications?

13. Details of the legal implications surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

14. Details of the key risks surrounding the proposal is set out in the appended report from the Director of Children and Families.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

15. Linked to this proposal, the Scrutiny Board is specifically reminded of the Child Friendly City aim of 'improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'.

Appendices

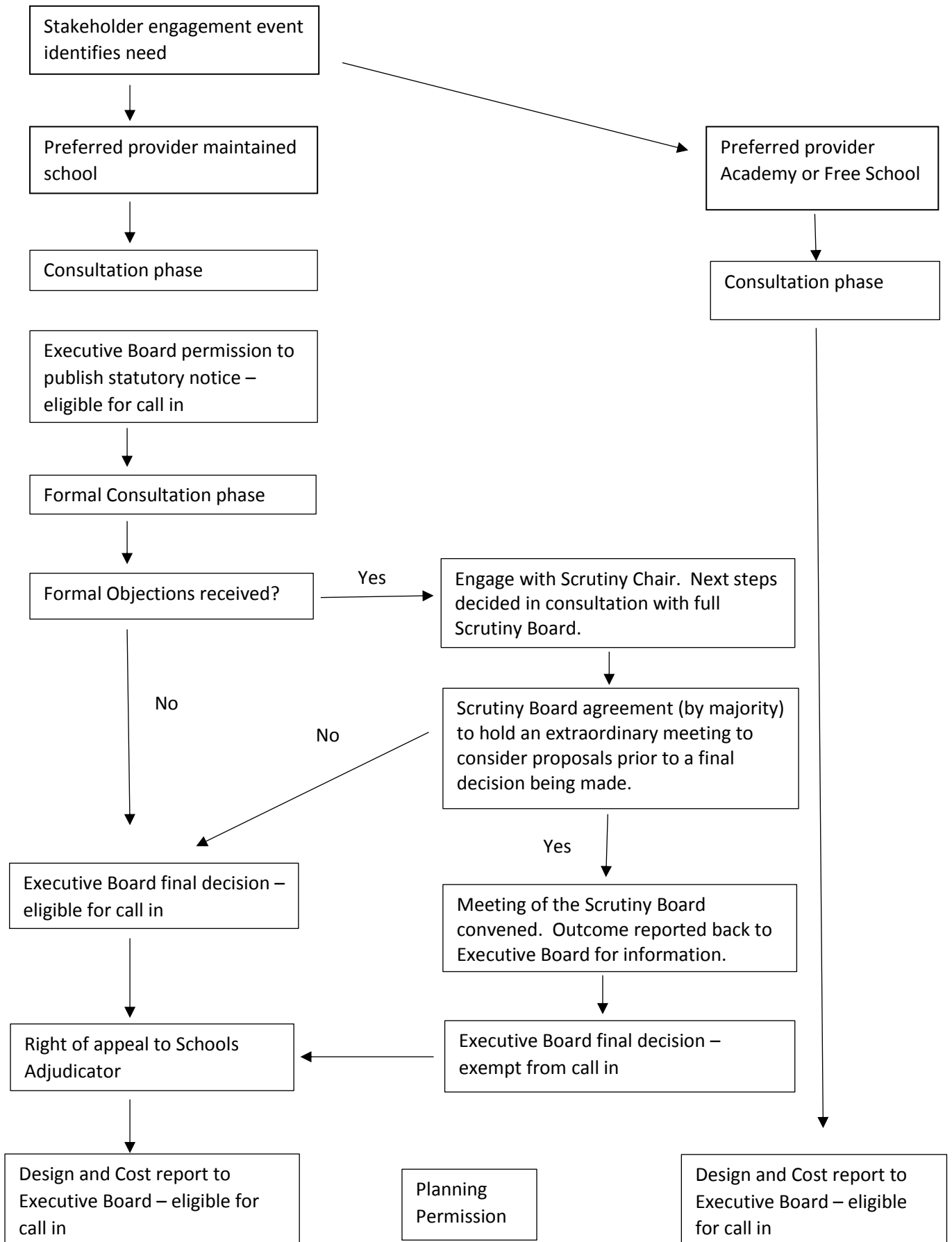
16. Appendix 1 – Agreed approach on the role of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board as part of the school organisation proposals and objections procedure.
17. Appendix 2 – A report from the Director of Children and Families which summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period and sets out responses to the issues raised.

Background papers

18. None.

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School organisation proposals and objections procedure.
 Stages of decision making (where need is identified by the local authority)



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Report author: Viv Buckland

Tel:

Outcome of statutory notice on a proposal to permanently increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022

Date: 8th September 2021

Report of: The Director of Children and Families

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report describes the outcome of a statutory notice published under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 in regard to a proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School to permanently increase the number of places offered at the school in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022.
- A statutory notice was published on 09 July 2021 marking the start of a four week formal consultation, as required by the 'Prescribed Alterations' regulations. During this four week period, which ended on 06 August 2021, anyone could submit comments on or raise objections to the proposal. There were 26 representations received during the statutory notice period of which 4 supported the proposal, 5 did not express support or objection to the proposal and 17 objected to it.
- Following discussion between the Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment and the Chair of Children and Families Scrutiny Board, and after seeking the views of the Board members, a meeting has been called to consider the objections received.
- This report summarises the representations received during the statutory notice period and sets out responses to the issues raised. As the report will be exempt from Call-in due to the statutory requirement that a final decision be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, Scrutiny Board are asked to make their comments and recommendations which will be appended to the Executive Board report.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Board members are asked to have a full and informed discussion around the information and proposals detailed in this report and to provide their views on the proposal to permanently expand the school. Local authority officers will be present at the board meeting to provide appropriate inputs and to respond to questions

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 There is an identified need for additional primary school places in the Boston Spa area to meet anticipated demand in future years.
- 2 The demand for primary school places in the Boston Spa area has grown in recent years. Although the birth rate for the area fluctuates slightly, unlike other areas of the city it is not showing indications of declining. Cohort sizes in this area consistently grow from birth to starting school and there has been an increase in the numbers of children of primary school age arising from new housing developments. There is also some further housing that may also come forward in the near future.
- 3 Additional temporary places have been offered at schools in the area to help meet demand for places in recent years and St Edward's Catholic Primary School, which is popular and consistently over-subscribed, offered an additional 10 places above its PAN for Reception 2020 to ensure sufficient Reception places were available in the local area.
- 4 As the number of primary-aged children living in Boston Spa is expected to increase further over future years, additional permanent places are now required to address the growing need.
- 5 St Edward's Catholic Primary School was rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection in 2008, and an interim visit in 2011 concluded that performance had been sustained, and is popular with families. The head teacher and governing body are confident that if the school were to expand, existing high standards of teaching and learning could be maintained, resulting in improved outcomes for a greater number of local children.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: Wetherby

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 6 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 and young people 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 A good quality school place also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve achievement, attainment, and attendance at school.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 9 The process in respect of the proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 10 An initial public consultation on a proposal to permanently increase the number of places offered at St Edward's Catholic Primary School in Reception from 20 to 30 places from September 2022 took place between 15 January and 11 February 2021. The outcome of this consultation was detailed in a report presented to Executive Board at its meeting on 23 June 2021 who approved the recommendation for the LA as proposer to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposal.
- 11 The statutory notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 09 July 2021 and the full proposal was posted on the Leeds City Council website. All parents/carers at the school received

notification, along with any stakeholder who responded to the first stage of public consultation and provided their contact details. Other local schools were also informed about the proposal along with ward councillors, community groups and other relevant stakeholders. Copies of the notice were posted at entrances to the school and information about the statutory notice was shared on social media platforms.

- 12 Details of the statutory notice were shared with local ward members who are supportive of the proposal proceeding.
- 13 During the four-week representation period, following publication of the statutory notice there were 26 representations received of which 4 supported the proposal, 5 did not express support or objection to the proposal and 17 objected to it.
- 14 A summary of the supportive comments submitted during the statutory notice period is included below (individual respondents may have made more than one of these comments);
 - a) An expansion at St Edwards Catholic Primary School is needed to address the rising demand for primary school places resulting from new housing developments.
 - b) St Edwards is a popular school, has strong leadership, provides an excellent quality of education and is an important part of the local community. If the number of places is increased, then more children will be able to benefit from all that St Edwards has to offer.
 - c) The school is fully inclusive and has good SEND provision.
 - d) The school site has the potential for expansion and the car park has recently been expanded, ensuring off road parking is available for all members of staff and they are using it.
 - e) Expansion would have benefits to the school in terms of curriculum planning and delivery for single age classes.
 - f) The school already has more than 20 pupils in most year groups so the increase in overall numbers at the school will be around 40, not 70, across all year groups by the time the new admission number filters through. It should not be assumed that all additional families will drive to school. Sustainable methods of travel are already, and will continue to be, encouraged by school and the proposed extra 10 places are unlikely to impact significantly on car use.
 - g) The proposed expansion would make the school more viable in the longer term.
- 15 The concerns raised during the statutory notice phase were largely the same as those during the initial consultation phase in respect of traffic issues, faith-based admissions, impact on climate and carbon emissions and whether there is genuinely a need for additional places. In addition, two respondents also raised concerns that the June Executive Board report had not accurately summarised views raised during the consultation.
- 16 Appended to this report are the consultation responses in full, from the initial consultation, and the June Executive Board paper, to enable Scrutiny Board members to consider the accuracy of the summary. Also included are the consultation responses, in full, from the statutory notice phase.
- 17 Summary of the objections received during the statutory notice period (individual respondents may have made more than one of these comments);
 - a) **Concern over the potential increase in traffic on Westwood Way and other nearby residential roads:** 15 respondents highlighted issues on local roads, comments included; that there are three schools on Westwood Way and there are existing issues with congestion and cars parking on pavements / blocking driveways at school drop off and pick up times; cars being parked on the road all day which sometimes causes access issues for larger vehicles (such as emergency services and bin wagons); pedestrian safety issues caused by hazardous/illegal parking and speeding; environmental concerns related to drivers leaving engines running and the volume of traffic; disruption caused to local residents by cars being parked on residential roads for long periods of time by customers and staff of local businesses and schools that are located in the vicinity of Westwood Way.

All of which would be exacerbated by expanding the number of places at the school. Some suggestions were also made around creating a 'drop off' zone for all three schools to use as outlined in the neighbourhood plan; implementing a resident only /permit holder only parking area on nearby residential streets; and considering the relocation of St Edwards school.

Response: This concern was also raised and responded to in the report to executive board on 23 June 2021. A planning application was submitted by the Catholic Diocese and approved in September 2018 for a single storey extension to the school with resurfacing of the playground. The Diocese delivered part of this (one classroom and some parking on site). The planning application advised that there was no intended increase in staff or pupil numbers and as such Transport Development Services did not seek anything from the application toward any off-site works or travel planning improvements. Given pressure for places, in the area as a whole, the school is over its admission number of 20 in most of the year groups. As a consequence of the proposal to increase the number of places a full traffic assessment and Transport Statement has already been commissioned.

The Transport Statement would set out the issues raised by residents and parents and identify any mitigation measures that might be introduced to the area in order to address or reduce the traffic impact brought by the increase in places. Respondents have raised a number of potential improvements that could be considered.

Although the traffic and highways issues fall outside of the Scrutiny process, being subject to the planning process, and conditions that are set out during that stage of delivery, the following comments are provided so that Board members are aware of some of the work to mitigate the effects of any increase in pupil numbers.

Leeds City Council encourages sustainable travel and an updated School Travel Plan would also be commissioned in order to encourage travel by non-car modes by parents/pupils and staff. Leeds City Council's 'Travelwise Team' would support the school and ensure up to date techniques would be incorporated into the Travel Plan to promote sustainable travel modes and reduce reliance on single car occupancy journeys. Realistic targets would be set by the Travel Plan and on-going promotion and survey work would aim to reduce cars at drop-off and pick-up times, off-setting some or all of the impact brought by the proposed expansion.

The school promotes walking, cycling and scooting to school and runs a "Walk on Wednesdays" initiative, with the children who take part each half-term being entered into a prize draw for a £5 reward voucher. Recent census information shows that the majority of children who attend St Edwards Catholic Primary School live within Boston Spa and currently 54 percent of pupils walk or cycle to school. The school is hoping to increase this number by promoting use of the nearby Churchfields car park for those families that do travel by car.

St Edwards has recently had some improvements made which created a number of additional on-site parking spaces. The school feels that the number of parking spaces would be adequate to accommodate all staff, including catering staff and any visitors' cars in the car park were the expansion to go ahead. As part of any expansion process the number of parking spaces available would be reviewed to ensure that there was sufficient for all staff.

The increase in pupil numbers would happen gradually over several years so the full impact of increased numbers of pupils would not take place all at once. Although there would be an increase in the admission limit of 10 places per year group for Reception to year 6 it should be noted that the school already has more than 20 pupils on roll in most year groups and the overall number of children on roll at last census was 169. Increasing

the Admission number to 30 would eventually see this rise to 210 pupils, a net gain of 41 pupils rather than 70.

To expand St Edwards from 20 places to 30 places one additional teaching space would be required, along with a review of the existing number of toilets and ancillary accommodation, therefore making it a value for money solution. If instead the school were to be relocated, the scheme would be likely to be a multi-million pound development. Given the relatively small increase in places that this would provide, it would not offer good value for money and would not be the best use of public money.

- b) **Concern that expanding a school that has faith-based admissions criteria will draw more children in from outside the local area, thereby increasing car usage:** Five comments received expressed concern that extra places at St Edwards would bring in more children from outside the area as Catholic schools have larger catchment areas than community schools. One respondent also objected to the principal of faith base education providers and suggested that only schools with no faith links should be allowed to expand.

Response: This concern was also raised and responded to in the report to executive board on 23 June 2021. 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/carers. Although St Edwards prioritises places based on faith criteria, it is a school that is preferenced by both Catholic and non-Catholic families. The majority of pupils attending St Edwards live within the Boston Spa area. The school offered an additional 10 places in Reception in 2020, offering a total of 30 places. 18 places were offered to Catholic families based on faith criteria and 12 places were offered to non-Catholic families based on distance to school. There are 22 children due to start Reception in September 2021, 18 were allocated a place on faith criteria and 4 were allocated places on non-faith criteria. The additional places at St Edward's, which is popular with both Catholic and non-Catholic families in the area, would be anticipated to continue to serve a local need.

- c) **Concern that the proposal to expand the school is not consistent with other Council priorities:** Two respondents commented that the proposal would present challenges to meeting council priorities around the climate emergency and reducing carbon emissions. One respondent questioned what consideration had been given to the sustainability of construction materials that would be used if the expansion went ahead.

Response: The local authority's existing planning policies seek to address the issue of climate change by ensuring that development proposals incorporate measures to reduce the impact on non-renewable resources. The council's Executive Board has also mandated that the authority should be carbon neutral by 2030. This will result in sustainable/ green infrastructure being required of all future projects. Any build scheme would explore the potential use of renewable energy and energy saving technologies, with the aim of increasing sustainability and minimising energy consumption. In parallel with this, the Energy Unit would support the design team to identify energy saving measures that could help achieve energy savings comparable to a 47% reduction in average energy consumption levels, in line with the 2025 requirements. The proposed energy efficiency standards would be likely to increase the capital costs for any build scheme required. Leeds City Council promotes an 'Invest to Save' strategy that allows access to funding in order to offset the enhanced capital costs. The improved energy efficiency would also reduce the school's overall running costs, as the building would be more economical to run long-term, eventually paying for the measures put in place. Full consideration would

be given to the use of sustainable materials as part of the detailed design discussion to ensure they were in line with LCC's planning policies. A travel plan will also be developed in conjunction with the school detailing sustainable methods of transport and targets for increasing the number of children and staff who walk to school or car share.

- d) **Concern about the consultation process:** two respondents commented that the report on the initial consultation did not fully reflect residents' traffic and highways concerns which gave the impression that a decision has already been made that the proposal should progress. Three respondents suggested that the assessment of highways issues should take place before a decision is taken on the proposed expansion and two questioned why a meeting had not taken place with the residents as indicated at one of the online consultation engagement sessions. One respondent reported that not all local residents had received a copy of the public consultation leaflet.

Response: The initial public consultation, that took place between 15 January and 11 February 2021, was the information gathering stage of the process and was an opportunity for people to share their views regarding the proposal and help inform the next steps. The report to Executive Board on 23 June 2021, whilst did not specifically mention every individual point made within the responses to the initial consultation, provided an accurate summary of the key points made and concerns that were raised at that time. All responses have been provided in full to members of the Scrutiny Board.

Concerns outlined by local residents around traffic and highways during the initial consultation and statutory notice period have been shared with colleagues in Highways and mitigation measures would be explored as part of the design development process. Although a decision has not yet been made as to whether this proposal will progress, Leeds City Council has committed to undertaking a highways assessment as part of the design development process (should LCC Executive Board approve the expansion) to establish how the build scheme would be best delivered.

The public consultation period that took place from 15 Jan to 11 Feb was advertised widely via the school and council websites as well as via additional promotion through social media channels. Over 200 leaflets were delivered to residents and, in light of the pandemic, online consultation engagement sessions were held through Zoom for people to find out more about the proposal. Further details of how the consultation and events were communicated were detailed in the report to Executive Board on 23 June 2021 which summarised the outcome of the consultation.

- e) **Concern that there is no need for additional school places in the area:** four comments received expressed doubt that future demand would exceed the number of Reception places currently available in Boston Spa.

Response: This concern was also raised and responded to in the report to executive board on 23 June 2021. Boston Spa is an area where cohorts tend to grow from birth which has resulted in additional places being offered in the past two years due to the increase in cohort sizes. This trend is expected to continue and with additional housing planned, a decision to not create these additional places creates a risk of local children being unable to secure a local school place and the council failing in its statutory duty to secure sufficient primary school places.

What are the resource implications?

- 18 Based on initial viability, the indicative cost for delivery of a scheme to support an expansion at St Edward's Catholic Primary School is expected to be between £360K and £500K. The Diocese has already undertaken some works to provide an additional classroom and extend car parking facilities at the school and planning permission is in place for a seventh classroom. Viability work is currently underway to confirm if this will meet requirements for the expansion to 1FE and when complete should give a more accurate estimate of the cost of the scheme and whether further planning permission is required.
- 19 The proposed expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Allocations. Along with Basic Need funding there are some Section 106 contributions available arising from local housing development, some of which could be used to part fund the expansion at St Edward's.

What are the legal implications?

- 20 This report contains details of a proposal brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure a 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 for making the proposed changes varies according to the nature of the change and status of the school. The process followed in respect of this proposal is detailed in this report. The LA is the decision maker in this case.
- 21 The report proceeding to Executive Board is proposed to be exempt from the Call-In process, in line with Executive & Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1.3. Executive Board is the decision maker for this proposal and statutory guidance states that a final decision must be made within 2 months of the end of the statutory notice period, therefore by 6 October 2021, or be referred to the Schools Adjudicator. Following the decision at Executive Board on 23 June 2021 to publish a statutory notice, this was done following expiry of the call-in period on 09 July 2021. The representation period ended on 06 August 2021 and as there is no Executive Board meeting in August the earliest a report could go to Executive Board was September. If the decision was then 'called-in' and Scrutiny Board subsequently referred the matter back to Executive Board with a recommendation to reconsider its decision, this could not be done until October Executive Board, which would be outside of the 2 month decision period. The consequence would be that a local decision could no longer be made, and the matter would automatically be referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to decide.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 22 This proposal has been brought forward in time to allow additional primary places to be delivered for 2022. A decision not to proceed at this stage may result in fresh consultations on new proposals, and places may not be delivered in time. It may also result in further bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which would be more costly in the longer term.
- 23 In response to growing demand for Reception places in recent years, some schools in the Boston Spa area have admitted over their PANs. This includes St Edward's Catholic Primary School which offered an additional 10 places in Reception in 2020. As the number of primary pupils living in the Boston Spa area is anticipated to increase further in future years, additional permanent places are required to address the growing need. A decision not to proceed with the expansion of St Edward's Catholic Primary School could result in insufficient school places being available to meet local demand and the Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may be at risk.
- 24 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.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth

Health and Wellbeing

Climate Emergency

- 25 This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council Plan outcome that states 'we want everyone in Leeds to do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life'.
- 26 Providing additional school places in an already established, Ofsted rated 'Outstanding', school in an area where demand for places is increasing will contribute towards the achievement of the Child Friendly City aim of 'improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'. In turn, by helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, this proposal provides underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy and a compassionate city.
- 27 There is an identified need for additional primary school provision in the Boston Spa area due to changes in the birth rate, increases in the numbers of children of primary school age and several new housing developments. This proposal would help meet the current and future increase in demand and help ensure that local families are able to access local places and reduce journey times to and from school. St Edward's Catholic Primary School's close proximity to residential areas which have experienced population growth means that walking to school would be a viable option.
- 28 If the proposal is approved St Edward's Catholic Primary School would need to produce an updated 'Travel Plan' which would contain a package of agreed measures to mitigate the potential impact on the highway as a result of the expansion. Leeds City Council's 'TravelWise team' would support school to identify measures that could be incorporated into the travel plan that ensured safe routes to and from school and promote walking, cycling and scooting.
- 29 Existing planning policies seek to address the issue of climate change by ensuring that development proposals incorporate measures to reduce the impact on non-renewable resources. Any build scheme would explore the potential use of renewable energy and energy saving technologies, with the aim of increasing sustainability and minimising energy consumption. The improved energy efficiency would also reduce the school's overall running costs, as the building would be more economical to run long-term, eventually paying for the measures put in place.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 30 There are five schools in the Boston Spa planning area. Bramham Primary School has already been expanded from 20 to 30 places, Primrose Lane Primary School already has a PAN of 30 and cannot be expanded further due to site constraints, and Lady Elizabeth Hastings C of E Primary School is also on a constrained site that could not support expansion. St Mary's C of E Primary (voluntary controlled) and St Edward's Catholic Primary (voluntary aided) both have a PAN of 20 and there is potential to expand to 30 on these sites. It is possible that we will need to expand both schools to 30 in future years dependent upon general growth and further housing coming forward in the area and at present an additional 10 places is anticipated to be sufficient to meet anticipated demand. St Edward's having already undergone recent changes to add a sixth classroom and additional car parking facilities would be a simpler and more affordable expansion scheme to undertake.

How will success be measured?

- 31 If the proposal is approved the places will be delivered for September 2022 and this will allow local families to access a local school place.

What is the timetable for implementation?

32 This proposal has been brought forward in time to allow additional primary places to be delivered for September 2022.

Appendices

Appendix A Responses received during public consultation 15th January - 11th February

Appendix B Representations received during statutory notice published 9th July - 6th August

Appendix C Response 1 attachment

Appendix D Response 3 attachment

Appendix E Response 8 attachment

Appendix F Summary of concerns and responses from June Executive Board report

Appendix G Map showing school provision on Westwood Way (St Edwards, Primrose Lane and West Oaks)

Background papers

33 None

Appendix A

Responses to public consultation 15 January - 11 February 2021:

Response No	Do you support the proposal to expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School and permanently increase the number of places offered in Reception from 20 to 30 from September 2022?	Please give your comments on the proposal:
1	Strongly support	Allow more pupils to benefit from the schools excellent facilities
2	Somewhat oppose	There are three Schools on Westwood way and increasing St Edwards by a third from 140 to 210 over the next few years will have a negative impact on the parking/congestion on the road, which neighbours regularly complain about at the moment.
3	Strongly oppose	St Edwards is a partially funded school, meaning it is able to offer a catholic focused education curriculum and has very strong core values. I am concerned any forced increase by LCC will compromise this and therefore the ability for St Edwards to continue to deliver its incredibly strong academic results. There is also a logistical problem. The school is bursting at the seams, with classroom size already an issue and compromise. The school raised its own funding to make improvements in this area and it seems like LCC have swooped in on this as an opportunity. LCC would need to back this up with a lot of funding and school improvements if it is intending to increase pupil numbers by over 50%
4	Strongly support	My son went from Y2 a cohort of 22 into a mixed group of Y3 & Y4, which increased the class size by 50%. XXXXXXXXXX I do not wish this to happen again. The school needs an extra classroom & money spent on bringing it to modernise some areas.
5	Strongly support	They need at least one extra classroom
6	Strongly support	It enables the school to grow and serve the needs of the surrounding villages. I also hope it will enable the school to expand and maintain separate class years.
7	Strongly support	It is badly needed and to avoid year group being split between teachers. The additional funding generated by extra places needs to be spent on the current dated facilities and the grounds.
8	Somewhat support	Having children at the school I can see the pros and cons of this proposal. Currently it is a small and friendly school however the last 2 reception intakes have been nearer to 30 than 20. The children need more space. The school needs updating, new facilities and a new classroom/ staff in order to accommodate a larger intake. I can see the advantages of a 30 intake reducing the need for split year classes which currently happens in the later years. With sufficient funding, I feel the increase in pupil numbers would improve things for the current children and the local community in terms of additional school places.
9	Strongly support	The school, an outstanding incredible school where all children thrive and grow, already has classes in excess of 20 children. The expansion is necessary and would merely reflect the current position and future need. Boston Spa is an

		increasingly popular village for families which will no doubt continue. St Edward's requires the appropriate resources to meet the need of the local community, and an expansion to 30 would ensure the school can move forward with the correct number of admissions places.
10	Strongly oppose	One of the many draws of the area are smaller schools where a sense of community can be fostered between the pupils. Those of us who have been living in the area for some time (with one child in the school and 2 planning to attend) with the intention of sending our children to a small local faith school are completely undermined by the plan to expand classes. Rather than sorely stretch an already small school (with limited resources) with an over abundance of children, perhaps Leeds City council should consider building more infrastructure when approving more housing in the area (maybe a new primary school for all these new people, maybe a seconds Dr surgery, maybe better roads). Your short nearsightedness in terms of planning approvals should not be an excuse to dilute the quality of education my children receive, by packing classes to the rafters. For the above reasons I am not only strongly opposed, but find it disappointing Leeds City Council have even considered this an option. I'll leave you with a reiteration of the idea above; if there are more children build MORE schools rather than overburdening the smaller schools people moved here for in the first place!
11	Strongly support	The current limit of 20 children, does not reflect the reality at the school. There are often reception years, in some cases up to 27 entries, which disrupts a smooth transition for some children starting the school as they cannot be officially offered a place and have to go through the appeals process, which is a lot of wasted energy and upset. Also a 30 year class entry would mean that the school would need to provide an additional classroom with the council and the diocese's support, ending the split class system which can have a negative effect on some children.
12	Somewhat support	Need for more primary places due to increased housing in Boston Spa and Thorp Arch
13	Somewhat oppose	St Edwards brings in children from far and wide rather than children that live in the village as the other primary schools in the Boston Spa are do. The admissions policy states you must be catholic but they don't stick to that. Not everyone wants a catholic education.
14	Strongly oppose	Westwood Way has two other schools, one Primrose Lane School and the other West Oaks, all of which have increased capacity over recent times. The traffic on Westwood Way during school drop off and pick up is horrendous and with the building of the new Assisted Living Flats, and for that matter West Oaks School, should anyone require an emergency vehicle to get to them, there is absolutely no chance. Cars park on the pavements, park opposite each other with the consequence of it being a one car width. The very nature West Oaks requires many mini busses each day which cause terrible jams, many with the attitude of 'coming through' at everyone else's cost. We live in a cul de sac off Westwood Way and have to live our lives around school drop off and pick up, cars parking over our drive entrance and being abused if we request people don't park over it. Very dangerous for pedestrians too, no room for pushchairs or wheelchairs on the pavements.

		<p>Obviously the new housing developments with Leeds City Council permission did not take into account the infrastructure required for so many new developments, or the lack of such infrastructure.</p> <p>Traffic has always been a problem on Westwood Way but never seems to be considered when expansions are required. Who on earth thought it a good idea to put three schools on one road had very little thought for the future. Build a new school on a site with better access, or make Westwood Way double yellow lines both sides. Would there be any parking provision on the site for the extra staff required for this expansion or will the new classrooms take up the car park, leaving staff to abandon their cars on Westwood Way or Primrose Lane.</p> <p>I suspect this will not be the only school on Westwood Way requiring further expansion in the future and surely it cannot be sustainable to keep increasing numbers.</p>
15	Somewhat oppose	<p>The road already has 3 schools. Increasing the number of places in reception will ultimately mean that, over, the next 7 years each class will have 10 additional pupils, increasing the overall number of pupils by, not just 10, but 70 in 7 years time. There are already a lot of cars parking along the length of Westwood Way and additional places will only exacerbate this. Also the traffic on the High Street causes problems daily. The council should consider whether additional parking should be made available elsewhere and it's use made compulsory. Alternatively, as many of the pupils are not from the village, school buses could be utilised. This service is already used by the primary school in Thorp Arch. Whilst the school is popular the numbers attending the church on Sundays seems low in comparison although I appreciate that this may not be possible at the moment due to the pandemic. This raises the question of whether there are other schools in the area with spaces available which could be utilised. When the council granted planning permission for the housing estates further consideration should have been given to where the children of the residents would go to school.</p>
16	Strongly oppose	<p>One of the criteria for the decision to expand St Edward's Primary School is that it is rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The school has not been inspected since 2011 so this is not a robust measure of this school as it now operates. If this is to be used as a measure it would make more sense to expand a school which has had a more recent inspection as the judgement would be a fairer reflection on the school. There are three schools on Westwood Way in Boston Spa, including a special needs school which is has planned expansion. When at full capacity, St Edward's School could potentially add a further 70 cars to the local road system during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up times. This is already an extremely busy road. I have concerns that the availability of local places would be heavily weighted towards schools with a religious focus. This does not reflect the local population meaning that parents would not be able to choose a non faith school for their child due to lack of availability.</p>
17	Strongly support	<p>The other local Catholic primary school is already oversubscribed</p>
18	Somewhat support	<p>Hi, I welcome the increase in the number of school places available to residents in the village. This encourages young families to locate here and use facilities in the village. However I am concerned about the effect on traffic and parking at the</p>

		<p>start and end of each day. Ideally families should walk to school but experience shows this doesn't happen. Westwood Way has three schools next to each other: St Edwards, West Oaks and Primrose Lane. Drop Off parking is only available on the road. There needs to be a location where children can be dropped off and picked up safely without the need to park. In the Neighbourhood Plan for the village a drop off area was proposed as part of the new development off Church Street which could also serve Stables Lane Park and St Mary's school. I would like to see this implemented perhaps even with a one way system down Church Street, along Primrose Lane and up Westwood Way</p>
19	Neither support nor oppose	<p>Whilst appreciating the need to extend the school, I am very concerned about the resulting traffic situation. I live in The Orchard which is off Westwood Way and, given that we have THREE primary schools on Westwood Way, one of which is an SEN school, staff and parental traffic is already an issue. Extension to the school is going to exacerbate this problem. Unfortunately a lot of parents feel the need to park as close to the school as possible which results in residents having issues entering and exiting the access to their home plus HGVs and Emergency vehicles have problems getting through. In the last 12 months the refuse collectors have refused to come into The Orchard because they have been unable to access our road due to inconsiderate parking at school times.</p>
20	Strongly support	<p>Offering more places enables local family's to have their children closer to home and in their own community. I recently moved from down south up for work purposes and obviously the area is struggling to give places. St Edwards would be a great place to offer these places</p>
21	Strongly support	<p>The area is in need of school places. The school has the space, intent and commitment to expand. The school is an excellent school and expansion of this, with the necessary funding and infrastructure, will enable fantastic teaching and pastoral support for children and families in the community</p>
22	Strongly support	<p>Boston Spa population is growing and so the community will need more school places, this will also enable the majority of parents to walk their children to school rather than drive</p>
23	Somewhat oppose	<p>Space within the school is already very limited with the current volume of pupils. A significant rise in pupil numbers will be to the detriment of the teaching environment. The school is very well regarded by the local community and by official appraisal via Ofsted and I doubt the quality of teaching/results can be maintained with a significant increase in pupil numbers.</p>
24	Strongly support	<p>Additional children will mean more funding for support staff and this would be extremely beneficial to the children. The school would benefit from an additional classroom also due to the school already having to take more than the 20 children in reception. This causes large classes further up the school when the year groups are combined.</p>
25	Strongly support	<p>There are frequent years when the school takes over 20 children and so to have a formal increase in numbers to 30 with appropriate support for a new classroom and teacher would be much better for all children in the school</p>
26	Somewhat support	<p>Providing priority remains to be given to baptised Catholic children, I would support this proposal.</p>
27	Strongly oppose	<p>Good morning, Concerning the proposed expansion to St Edward's Primary School I would like to say that I am all in favour of children's education. However, this should not be at the expense of the environment or road safety. The problem</p>

		<p>with traffic in the Westward Way/Primrose Lane area is bad enough now during term time, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day. The roads are choked with cars and minivans ferrying children back and forth. In summer they leave their engines running to use the air conditioning and in winter to use the heating. Parents use Rosedale Rise for parking and are rude to residents who ask them to park sensibly so that access to their properties can be maintained. I am therefore opposed to this expansion unless it is mandated that all parents walk their children to school, thereby improving the environment and their health.</p>
28	Strongly oppose	<p>As a resident of Westwood Way, Boston Spa, I object to the proposed permanent increase in provision at St Edward's Catholic School. Over the last five years the number of parents bringing their children to the school by car has increased substantially. This has resulted in the parents parking across and on our drives constantly. We are regularly unable to leave our homes or access them. I have spoken to the drivers several times. On one occasion I was unable to leave my house for an hour and a half to care for my ninety two year old mother. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Unfortunately the driver was not listening when the message was read out and I was delayed in attending to my dementia ridden mother. Later that day I went to the school but the Headteacher was not there and did not follow up with me about the incident. More recently when I stopped someone parking I was told to "Fuck off", I am told the residents of Whitham Close are subjected to abusive language regularly.</p> <p>As there are two other schools in close proximity to St Edward's at the start and end of the day Westwood Way is often dangerously congested. Recently provision for the elderly has been expanded at Box Tree Court, also on Westwood Way. There are times when access for emergency vehicles is impossible and such traffic jams take several minutes to clear. Additional parking problems are caused by the customers at the vets on the junction of Westwood Way and the High Street, instead of using the client car park they park illegally on Westwood Way. With the current volume of traffic Westwood Way is not safe.</p> <p>To improve the lives of Westwood Way residents I would like to see residents only parking as on Lee Orchards and Church Street.</p>
29	Somewhat oppose	<p>Where any other schools in the village given consideration for expansion? At Ed's take kids from out of area. I understand the S106 money that is being used to fund the expansion should be used to help people in the area. How can a child who travels into a catholic school from outside the area benefit from funding that a child in the village won't benefit from.</p>
30	Strongly oppose	<p>Because we shouldn't be making more places available at selective religious schools. Focus should be on those schools of no faith</p>
31	Strongly oppose	<p>Boston spa is out of control with the numbers of people living here and lack of facilities like doctors etc. Developments are aimed at people moving into the area, and not priced or thought of for local people wanting to get on the property ladder. St Edwards used to have 50 pupils in the whole school</p>

		when I attended. By increasing the numbers, education is going to suffer.
32	Strongly support	St Edwards is an excellent school, which gives the children of the local area an excellent education.
33	Somewhat support	I feel that the size of school currently is one of its charms. It has a great atmosphere and all the children know each other in different year groups. However, it does not have enough money to provide enough support to the children and has had to make redundancies. If this helps secure funding then that would help.
34	Strongly support	Boston Spa is a growing village, with a high number of new residents requiring school places. St Edward's is the only Catholic primary school within the village and such an important part of the community. The nearest other Catholic primary schools are in Wetherby (3.6 miles from St Edward's school) and then Tadcaster (4.5 miles away). Both of these schools would require transport, should there not be enough places at the Catholic school in Boston Spa. By increasing the capacity at St Edwards, local children will then have a greater chance of receiving their education in their local community.
35	Strongly support	I have two children at St Edward's - my youngest is currently in reception. If the expansion was approved it would mean single classes going forward which would benefit the children greatly
36	Strongly oppose	St Mary's CofE Primary School in Boston Spa had to embark on a redundancy programme 2 years ago due to budgetary pressure. The initial hope of the governing body had been to expand entry to a full form of 30 to relieve budget deficits and expand provision at the school. At the time Leeds City Council could not confirm that an expansion of St Mary's was likely to happen due to their projections not revealing a big enough shortage of primary school places locally. The Leeds City Council Schools Finance Officer also advised governors that the budget deficit should not be sustained and that the council would require the school take action to reduce it through a managed staff reduction process. It is thus saddening to see Leeds City Council conducting a consultation into expansion of places at a neighbouring school.
37	Somewhat oppose	My child's school St Mary's Primary school applied to expand 2 years ago to a response that schools were needed. This seems opposite to this decision. ST Mary's would benefit from expansion. The village has expanded greatly and the primary provision could do with expansion. However I feel St Mary's which is less lead by the church and feeds into local High schools rather than the Harrogate Catholic schools would be a better option to expand.
38	Strongly oppose	Taking children from other primaries in the area
39	Strongly oppose	2 years ago St Mary's asked for this expansion and it was rejected. There are already more spaces at St Edwards and Primrose Lane, which are close to each other and already cater for that end of the village. St Edwards is a single form entry school and a strong catholic school, not an ideal candidate for this expansion in Boston Spa. St Mary's have shared year groups currently and not enough funding due to intake which means intake has to be low due to not enough funding. It's a catch 22 for them and really sad for all the teachers and parents. St Mary's have a wonderfully high standard of teachers, something they won't be able to

		<p>keep without additional funding.</p> <p>They should get the expansion and funding so they can offer a better service for their current pupils and for their future pupils. They asked for it first, it would benefit the village more than an expansion of St Edwards, it would support a smaller school, and it's the right thing to do.</p> <p>I suggest that a council rep visits all schools in the area and speaks to local parents to make an educated decision on this matter and to really understand the wants and needs of parents in Boston spa.</p>
40	Strongly oppose	<p>There are already more spaces available at primrose lane and at st Edward's in comparison to st Mary's. These two schools are next door to each other so already cater for many houses in that area. Declining to help st Mary's Boston spa primary school two years ago was upsetting for both the staff and parents. Hearing that you are now helping another school in the area to expand its intake and not ours is now very confusing. Added to this, you received a substantial amount of money from the church field's housing development and to not see any of this money being shared with the schools (as the intention of this money was for) is a concern- where has this money gone? The most obvious place for this money to go to would be to fund the smaller schools, to enable them to expand. Funding a catholic school to expand, who prioritise a child with a catholic background before a child who lives locally is not going to help to provide school places for those children being homed by the Church Field's development. Please support St Mary's Boston Spa Primary School, as originally requested.</p>
41	Strongly oppose	<p>I strongly believe that there is other primary schools in close distance which would benefit from an increase in place. My daughters have attended St'Marys primary school for over 6 years and I still have a child due to start 2022, they were refused to increase 2 years ago which resulted in staff being cut and year groups joined.</p> <p>I'm sure you would agree mix year groups can be difficult to teach and not every child benefits from this, as it's split on age not academic performance.</p> <p>More houses have been built in the area and an increase in school place would be a benefit to accommodate for the families in the village but St'Edwards is a catholic school and it's not necessarily where we need school place. A prime example to look at would be Bramham primary school going back 26 years it joined with Clifford primary when that forced closure. Bramham had a very low intake which meant funding was tight and classes were taught together. Looking back on the last 8 years it increased its intake which has let the school thrive and now has all year groups close to full. St'Marys should be given the first thought when looking to expand in the area having applied first. It would benefit the current students and future students.</p>
42	Somewhat oppose	<p>We lost a teacher at St Marys school 2 years ago allegedly because of a decline in numbers of children</p> <p>Seems very odd now in such a short time there is a such a large change in demographics.</p>
43	Strongly oppose	<p>Only 2 years ago St Mary's c of e primary school asked for this/a similar expansion and it was rejected. There are more spaces at both St Edwards and Primrose Lane, which are close to each other and already cater for that end of the</p>

		<p>village. Whilst there is a local need for addition school space due to recent housing developments in the village as surrounding areas I feel if additional funding is available it should go to a school with a broader intake. St Edwards is a single form entry school with a strong catholic ethos and not an ideal candidate for expansion in Boston Spa given the villages growing diversity. If funding is available it is my firm belief that a full review of the village schools should be undertaken. St Mary's should form part of that review as it is a strong candidate for expansion and additional funding as they can, for example, offer a better quality education than some local schools as well as a being a more diverse school which is a huge benefit to the community and both their current and future pupils. They asked for this first and by giving the funding to a more diverse school the long term benefit to the village would be greater. I suggest that a council representative visits all schools in the area, once it is safe to do so, and speaks to local parents to make an informed decision.</p>
44	Strongly oppose	<p>Because St Mary's primary in Boston Spa was denied approval for expansion 3 years ago leading to redundancy and loss of amazing teachers.</p>
45	Strongly oppose	<p>I feel it is grossly unfair that another school in Boston Spa - St Mary's Church of England Primary School - was refused its application to expand 2 years ago. As a result it had to make a teacher redundant. The reasons given for St Edward's application to expand were valid 2 years ago at the time of St Mary's application - new housing developments (which were present 2 years ago) and increased numbers of school applicants. St Mary's intake was 24 pupils 2 years ago (normal intake 20), clearly demonstrating increased demand then. If the decision has now been made that there is now a need for increased provision for primary school places in Boston Spa, surely this should be offered to a school which had requested expansion before St Edward's. I am in agreement with increasing the provision of primary school places in Boston Spa due to the increased number of families now in the village. However, I am concerned that St Edward's is a Catholic school, with strict selection criteria. Unless they were to change their selection criteria and make it more accessible to those not of the Catholic faith, this expansion will only benefit Catholic families in the village. In their selection criteria, St Edward's place Catholic children NOT living in Boston Spa, above "other children" living in Boston Spa. Their expansion therefore, will not benefit all families in Boston and therefore not address the need for increased primary school places in the village. Additional places need to be provided to children in Boston Spa irrespective of faith.</p>
46	Strongly oppose	<p>2 years ago St Mary's c of e primary school asked to expand class sizes to assist with a budget deficit and were told there wasn't a shortage of school spaces within Boston spa so had to resort to redundancies. Seems very unfair to change goalposts when it's a different neighbouring school applying to increase class sizes</p>
47	Strongly oppose	<p>I am very unhappy to hear that LCC are supporting the proposed expansion of St. Edwards Primary School when not less than two years ago they did not support the same proposal in my childrens' school, St Marys Church of England Primary School. The actions of the council resulted in the school having no choice but to follow their advice and reduce</p>

		<p>their budget deficit through a managed redundancy process. In that process, the school lost an excellent teacher and have had to reshuffle their cohorts to accommodate reduced teaching resource. I am somewhat bemused as to why this option was not offered to St Marys as a suitable route for balancing their books? Should this alternative be available to the school in the future, I truly believe it will provide the school with invaluable resource to enhance and enrich not only the children of the school at present but those in the local area lucky enough to become part of a wonderful, nurturing and supportive school environment.</p>
48	Strongly oppose	<p>St Edward's is a voluntary aided catholic primary school predominantly accepting catholic pupils. There are 2 other voluntary controlled primary school in Boston spa who accept pupils from all faiths. These schools should be given the opportunity to expand rather than St Edward's. Are these schools full to capacity? St Marys Cof E school (Voluntary controlled) school is desperately in need of investment to extend. Perhaps this school could take extra pupils. In addition St Edward's feeds directly into St. John fisher (Catholic) secondary school in Harrogate and NOT the local school of Boston Academy or Tadcaster Grammar School. Parking along Westwood Way is already horrendous at drop of and pick up time due to its proximity to Primrose Lane and West Oaks. This needs to be addressed.</p>
49	Strongly support	<p>As a local resident, I moved here with the aim of staying in the village when I start a family. Whilst I know the school allows all children. Having access to an outstanding catholic school really is a pull factor for the area. The need for more places will also mean children and families don't miss out and it may actually encourage more non-catholics to benefit from the education here. Furthermore, given the reputation this school has for happy, well-behaved children who achieve excellent results in all areas this really should be something we as a village really get behind.</p>
50	Strongly oppose	<p>I believe that it is unfair to extend a school when another local school has had to make cuts and reduce classrooms and mix ages</p>
51	Strongly oppose	<p>I think while there is another primary school in the area that has had to make cuts and mix classes of different years in order to function, it cannot be justified to then give another primary school in the same area additional funding to expand. You cannot say there is no budget for a school to function but then say there is budget to then expand another. The first needs sorting before additional funding can be made available</p>
52	Strongly support	<p>I am a local resident with two you g children - the eldest of which will be starting school in September. We would love him to attend St Edwards and have put it as our first choice, but as non catholics we are aware that we may not be allocated a place. An increase in admissions places may help our children go to this lovely school.</p>
53	Strongly oppose	<p>1- St Edwards Primary School predominantly feeds into St John Fishers Harrogate as a Secondary School. This is not useful when Boston Spa has its own Secondary Academy. 2- St Edwards admissions policy states you have to be a Catholic and priority will be given to Catholics. The catchment area for this school goes to Collingham, Thorner. This will not solve the problem of children needing school places in Boston Spa. 2 - St Mary's Primary School, Boston Spa took a reduction in one permanent teacher due to lack of funds last</p>

		<p>year. St Mary's are oversubscribed and have the capacity to add in another teacher to the school without having to spend any money on building! This school mainly feeds into Boston Spa academy and does not have a 'selective' admissions policy. 3 - John McDonald is the Chair of Governors at St Edwards, Boston Spa - This is the same individual who is trying to get approval for his new housing development which has been refused twice. My concern here is that one of the reasons is lack of school places/infrastructure in the area. I think this is a huge conflict of interest and I will be making some FOI enquiries about this.</p>
54	Strongly oppose	<p>The level of additional traffic to a heavily populated street with two other schools to contend with. An additional 10 places will ultimately mean an additional 70 families coming into the congested street daily in the next 7 years. At school times - drop off and collection - It is hazardous. As a homeowner on Westwood Way my drive is regularly blocked by families driving in and out for school. The road is double parked and dangerous to access. There are special mini vans driving up and down for West Oaks School next to St Edwards and this is difficult to manoeuvre given double parking, families walking around the schools and street (mostly to cars). It makes driving to my home stressful, time consuming and dangerous during school rush times. There are no parking facilities. No park zones have been marked in the street already near Primrose Lane Primary School and this has moved the parking problem to the top and bottom of Westwood Way, Woodlea and Primrose Lane. This area cannot cope with a further 70 cars on a daily basis. There is no room to park.</p>
55	Somewhat oppose	<p>My concern with the proposal relates to the current lack of on site parking facilities for staff and significant traffic congestion / inconsiderate parking on Westwood Way at drop off and pick up times. There are 3 schools located on Westwood Way and whilst St Edwards have recently extended their staff car park, the 3 schools in total have insufficient parking for staff - therefore staff park on Westwood Way. This in turn leads to traffic congestion / inconsiderate parking (across driveways + mounting and crossing pavements) and safety concerns at drop off and pick up times. As part of any proposal to expand St Edwards, consideration needs to be given to the number of on site staff parking spaces at the 3 schools, together with a strengthening of parking restrictions along the length of Westwood Way</p>
56	Strongly support	<p>St Edwards is a outstanding school which can support the growing community of Boston Spa. Expanding entry numbers not only allows more children to experience a faith based education but also secures the excellent teachers already in the school.</p>
57	Strongly oppose	<p>We have a child at st. Mary's and the request to expand intake numbers and therefore funding was declined 2 years ago, leading to redundancies and upset for the children, alongside financial struggle and reduced support. It is unclear as to why the st Edward's would be prioritised over a school which had already been in line for and able to accept more children, particularly if the funding is available to do so.</p>
58	Somewhat oppose	<p>We have a home on Westwood Way and the parking of parents at school times is already chaotic. There have been many occasions when drives have been blocked. I would not have a problem if there were yellow lines or parking</p>

		restrictions. We also have a Vets opposite so the road is already busy.
59	Strongly oppose	I live close to St Edwards, my children attend other schools in Boston Spa, including West Oaks special school next door to St Edwards. We walk to school, and already the volume of traffic on the road the school is on is very high, people park illegally, and the transport buses into West Oaks regularly have to navigate narrow roads with many children walking around the vehicles. Extending St Edwards (whose admission criteria stipulates a need to be Catholic) will mean people travelling into Boston Spa who don't live here, thus increasing the volume of car traffic.
60	Strongly oppose	-
61	Strongly oppose	St. MARYS C OF E PRIMARY ASKED TO EXPAND AND WAS TOLD THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH CHILDREN TO WARRANT THE EXPANSION, SO HOW CAN ST EDWARDS NOW BE ABLE TO EXPAND? ALSO ST EDS FEEDS THE HARROGATE SCHOOLS AND IT IS ALSO A CATHOLIC ONLY INTAKE SO I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE APPLICATION. AT LEAST IF ST MARYS EXPANDED THEN IT FEEDS THE LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOL PRIMARILY. ALSO THE WESTWOOD WAY ROAD IS VERY BUSY ALREADY AR SCHOOL PICK UP DROP OFF DUE TO THE OTHER SCHOOLS ON THAT ROAD ALSO. MY OTHER CONCERN IS THAT THE SCHOOL GOVERNOR IS ALSO THE DIRECTOR OF A BUSINESS THAT HAS JUST HAD A PLANNING APPLICATION DECLINED TO BUILD MORE HOUSES IN THE VICINITY AND NOW IS LEADING AN APPLICATION TO EXPAND THE SCHOOL....THEREFORE HELPING HIS POSSIBLE APPEAL TO THE DECLINED PLANNING.
62	Strongly oppose	St Edwards only take practicing Catholics, not multi / no faith children like St Mary's. Additional places should be available to all from the locality. I understand that a governor at the school has recently had a planning application rejected during to not enough primary school provision in the area? Is this a conflict of interest that should be taken into account? Parking is already an issue on Westwood Way. Currently St. Mary's are able to use 3 different entrances on Stables Lane, Lonsdale Meadows and Clifford Road and therefore is more accessible and appropriate for additional headcount. St Edwards feeds into Harrogate high schools rather than local schools.
63	Strongly oppose	Firstly there is a conflict of interest as the chair of governors for the school (Mr J McDonell) is the director of the company (Illuminating Residential) that recently had a planning application for housing development in Boston Spa rejected, and one of the reasons for this rejection was due to a lack of school places. He also currently states on his school governor profile that he has ' no relevant business interests to declare', but this is clearly not the case as this application would directly impact on any future appeal/proposal for his companies housing development in the local area. Secondly if there is a need for more school places then these should be given to existing non-faith primary schools in the area which do not require their pupils to be Catholic to apply. Existing primary schools in the area have recently embarked on forced redundancies to teaching staff due to the reduction in projected student intake from Leeds City Council, so have reduced their total pupil capacity, so these schools already

		would have scope to increase their staffing to take on more pupils if there is a need for this, without excluding non-catholic pupils. Due to St.Edwards being a catholic school, expansion of school places would therefor likely increase the number of pupils travelling in from outside of the local area contributing to the traffic and congestion, which is already a significant issue, especially as this is directly next to West Oaks specialist provision which has numerous transport mini-busses to transport vulnerable children in from across Leeds.
64	Strongly oppose	<p>St Edwards school is in an area where the access to the school is already a serious issue for pedestrians. Not only is there a safety concern but also a pollution concern. This is a particular concern in light of the fact that typically Catholic schools offer places to Catholics ahead out of the area ahead of local pupils.</p> <p>I feel that there are other solutions to resolving the shortage of school places (if indeed there is an issue with shortage of places in the village)</p>
65	Somewhat oppose	I feel like this offer should be given to all small primary's in the village. St Edwards is a well thought of school and I am aware it is over subscribed every year but there are other schools with the village who should be given the opportunity for additional students.
66	Strongly oppose	I am concerned about an increase in traffic of up to 60 cars in the morning and 60 cars in the afternoon. The admission policy for St Edwards is based on faith, with faith-based considerations trumping locality. Therefore it is unlikely that the extra ten spaces per year will go to children who live within walking distance of the school. The extra car journeys will be bad for environment and probably bad for road safety as well.
67	Strongly support	-
68	Strongly oppose	<p>I feel that this is an unfair proposal, given that St Mary's C of E primary school are a neighbouring school to St Edwards, who also currently only take 20 new admissions each September but have not been offered the same opportunity to expand. St Mary's have, in the past 2 years, been keen on expanding to 30 new admissions each year, but were refused by LCC on the grounds that there was not a shortage of primary school places in Boston Spa. St Mary's are really keen to expand, and I know for sure that there is the demand for this in the area, as I for one was a parent whose child was on the waiting list for a Reception place last September as our son was not successful in gaining one of the 20 places available. We appealed the decision and in the end were offered a place, but I do know there were other children that missed out. St Mary's is a fantastic community school, with an excellent reputation in the local area and I think that this school should be offered the chance to expand to 30 children per year rather than St Edwards.</p> <p>In addition, St Mary's currently have a before and after school club (run by Twinkles) that operates from their school hall. There are a number of St Edwards children that attend this before and after school club, and I worry that increasing the admission number for St Edwards would mean that there are less places at this out of school club for St Mary's children, even though it is on their school site.</p> <p>As a parent of a child in Reception at St Mary's, I am so pleased with the teaching and learning that goes on there, and I know that this would only get even better if they were able to expand. I feel that more children in the area should get the</p>

		benefit of the outstanding provision St Mary's provides, rather than increasing the places at St Edwards. St Edwards being a selective catholic school also seems unfair for them to be offered the expansion, if they are still being selective over which children are offered the places.
69	Strongly support	-
70	Somewhat oppose	I feel that the increase in places will increase traffic in Westwood Way because there are two other schools. I also feel strongly that the proposal is totally unfair to St Mary's C of E School who applied 2 years ago to increase their admission limit from 20 to 30 and were refused by the Council saying there was not sufficient demand. As a result they had to instigate a MSR process and lose some good staff. How come there is suddenly a demand for places. If a school of one faith is allowed to increase its admission limit, surely it is only fair to offer the same option to another faith school.
71	Strongly support	The local area urgently needs primary places at an outstanding education setting and St Edwards would provide these.
72	Strongly support	As a governor at the school, I am clear that an expansion of the school will benefit those new pupils and pupils already in school as well as providing much needed places in this area.
73	Strongly support	-
74	Strongly support	-
75	Strongly support	More funding for the school.
76	Strongly support	The demand is there and the schools resources both in terms of size and staff are insufficient to meet the needs for now and the future. This change would future proof it.
77	Strongly support	There is a increase in demand for places at the school due to new housing in the surrounding areas and I feel it's important to give every catholic child a place at a local school. I also feel that the mixed class situation currently in the school is detrimental to the pupils in those classes that are split from both a learning and a social perspective.
78	Strongly oppose	I am writing in response to your consultation on a proposal to permanently expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Boston Spa. If I understand your proposal correctly it effectively increases the size of St Edwards over a six year period by 50% in terms of pupil numbers and support staff. I would point out there are two other schools (Primrose Lane and West Oaks) adjacent to St Edward's. I live in Boston Spa and can assure you that in normal times (ie no Covid) the term time traffic to the three schools combined produces complete chaos twice a day, and has a significant effect on nearby residents throughout the day. The schools themselves have shown somewhere between little, and no interest in their effect on the immediate community. In my view this expansion should not go ahead until and unless the existing problems with traffic and parking have been clearly resolved to the satisfaction of the nearby residents, who I think could fairly be described as "long suffering".
79	Strongly support	Boston Spa is continually growing and current school set up with mixed classes does not support growth of numbers.
80	Strongly support	We have children in the school currently and due to the building schemes in Boston Spa and the surrounding area the class sizes have had to increase with no further support in

		place, our school desperately needs the permanent capacity for these larger size classes to enable consistent and funded places and therefore allowing the classes to expand to this size on a permanent basis not adhoc.
81	Strongly oppose	<p>Given St Edwards admission policy is to admit children of Catholic faith always before local children, it is unlikely to provide many school places for local children. It will encourage Catholic families to transport children from outside Boston Spa into the village. In a Climate Emergency this should not be encouraged. It will increase traffic congestion, already heavy on Westwood Road at school drop off and pick up times and increase air pollution on a street with three schools and many children and adults walking; which will have knock on effects on health; particularly as many parents and carers sit with their cars "idling". In addition, it will reduce the safety of children and adults walking and cycling to school, which Leeds City Council is trying to encourage with their Active Travel policy.</p> <p>Finally, given that the number of school age children in Boston Spa is not predicted to increase significantly and there will be sufficient places already provided by the 5 local primary school, with 120 places (2021 - 91, 2022 - 106, 2023 - 80), there is no need or justification for this expansion. See this document: LCC document: 19_00664_FU_CHILDRENS_SERVICES_EDUCATION_3270 103.</p>
82	Strongly support	I have a son who will be due to start reception in September 2022 and in view of the growing demand for school places I am very worried about the prospect of him not being able to attend the same school as his older sister.
83	Strongly oppose	The admissions policy of the school favours roman catholics over and above children of no faith or other faiths who live within walking distance of the school. The expansion will therefore inevitably increase traffic noise and traffic pollution and congestion in a location which is already congested . This is because parents of children at this school who live in Thorner and Thorp Arch and Scarcroft and East Keswick etc will inevitably drive their children to this school instead of walking or cycling to a local primary school. Air quality in the locality will worsen. Carbon emissions will increase. Health outcomes for the local population will worsen as particulates have been proven to affect respiratory health . In addition the expansion of this school, with its admissions policy, is not in keeping with Leeds City Council's public sector equality duty as it is providing additional places , in practice, to children who are roman catholics. There are few BAME catholics in Leeds but Leeds is a city with a significant BAME population.
84	Strongly support	More provision is needed for children and families in the area. This school provides an outstanding education. It will also benefit existing children in the school through resourcing and not having to be taught in split and mixed age classes. The road is busy at school drop off and pick up times but you can always get up/down it (I've never got stuck or had to wait) and there have been no accidents on the road so it's also safe.
85	Strongly oppose	There is insufficient access for more pupils to attend the school. Westwood Way is extremely busy with traffic at both ends of the school day. Parents park in a dangerous fashion often n the pavement making this unsafe for pedestrians. The volume of traffic produces noxious fumes particularly when engines are left running. Access for clients to parking at

		Westwood Veterinary Practice can be difficult and clients find it hard to pull away safely from the car park due to parked cars. If the proposed expansion was to go ahead I would ask that the council provide public transport for some children and other could meet in the Churchfields carpark and walk down as a crocodile in a supervised and safe manner. It is only a matter of time before a child or adult gets injured on the road due to insufficient crossing places, lack of visibility and poor driving/parking habits
86	Strongly oppose	The parking around St Edwards is already horrendous. Parents double park on the road the mini buses going to west oaks school struggle to get past. No responsible parking at all from any of the parents.
87	Strongly oppose	Information from Leeds City Council in May 2020 was that there were sufficient places for primary school children in Boston Spa. Specifically the admission limit was 120 with cohort data suggesting that number of children starting school was 91 in 2021, 106 in 2022 and just 80 in 2023. These figures are consistent with birth rate data across Leeds showing a progressive fall in births from 10,250 in 2016 down to 9272 in 2019. This suggests to me that school expansion plans are NOT about providing places for local children. A brief look at admission policy for the school would confirm that view. Leeds City Council has declared a Climate Emergency and so I would support having the appropriate number of school places provided locally for children so that they could walk (or cycle) to school. It seems to me that we should have a village (or locality) approach to this important matter.
88	Strongly oppose	It will impact on the safe drop off and pick up of disabled children at the West Oaks school. The roads will become even more congested, forcing some parents to park further away with children that may have mobility issues. Also the area will become much busier which can also impact on the wellbeing of vulnerable children with sensory issues such as autism.
89	Strongly oppose	The Learning Places Sufficiency Assessment Report (19_00664_FU-CHILDRENS_SERVICES_EDUCATION-3270103) produced by Leeds Council in May 2020 looked at the availability and demand for school places in Boston Spa. The report gave the current admission limit for the primary schools in Boston Spa to be 120 per year and projected admissions to be 91 in 2021, 106 in 2022 and 80 in 2023 - all well below the current admission limit. Therefore, there is no requirement for the proposed expansion of St Edward's Primary School thus saving on tight council funds. Any expansion would result in additional children coming from outside Boston Spa increasing the amount of traffic coming into the village resulting in increased air pollution and its knock on effect on health and, parking in Westwood Way which already experiences congestion during school drop off and collection from the concentration of 3 schools all within close proximity. In a Climate Emergency we should be trying to reduce our carbon emissions so it does not make sense to be unnecessarily increasing motor transportation. In addition, we understand that the school's admission policy is to accept Catholic children before local children which is hardly fair or equitable. Finally, St Mary's Primary School in Boston Spa was forced to embark on a redundancy programme a couple of years ago because of the Council's budget deficit with the Council advising the school that its projections did not show a

		shortage of primary school places in the village. So why consider expanding one school when another school has had to undertake a cost cutting exercise?
90	Strongly support	The school has an excellent reputation and results. There is an identified need in the local area and by expanding the school it will be better able to apply increased resources in delivering high standards of education to a wider group of pupils.
91	Strongly support	St. Edward's Catholic Primary School is a high achieving school situated within the centre of Boston Spa community. The school ethos is based upon respect for others and provides inclusive, quality learning. The staff are dedicated and caring professionals and during her time at this school daughter received a balanced, well rounded education. There is capacity to develop the school to cater for more local children and believe there would still be enough outside open space for exercise and play. I fully support the current proposal which I consider to be a proportionate and balanced response to the problem of increased demand, with low impact on the local community.
92	Strongly oppose	The road is incredibly busy as it is. It cannot cope with a further increase in traffic. There are two mainstream schools and a special school on this road (with a large amount of transport buses going into West Oaks). Parking is already virtually impossible as it is on this road. Driving down this road after pick up is incredible dangerous, with cars abandoned & parked everywhere, it is dangerous for the children walking and for those driving. The council needs to be present when schools are not in lockdown and witness the level of traffic, the lack of parking and how dangerous it is. My child attends West oaks, parking is incredibly limited as it is, and children that attend west oaks need to be able to access the parking and school easily. This is going to make things incredibly difficult for parents at west oaks and for the school to manage with such an increase in parking. It is already very difficult for parents with disabled children at the school to park easily. I doubt that consideration has been given to how this will impact on the disabled children & young people at west oaks, and their parents who already have difficulties in parking. Full consultation is needed as to the impact this will have on those with disabilities attending West Oaks School.
93	Strongly support	There is clearly an anticipated demand within the local area to increase provision within our existing local primary schools. The local council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient places for every child of school age and the current proposal to expand St. Edward's Catholic Primary School appears to be a balanced and proportionate response to the problem. St. Edward's is an outstanding school situated within the heart of the local community. The school has a positive ethos, strong school leadership and offers quality teaching in a caring environment. St. Edward's is very popular with parents living within the local community. There is capacity to expand, good site suitability and future expansion would provide opportunity to secure a long-term future for the school as an excellent environment for our local children to grow and learn. Included in the arguments against expansion are concerns over increased traffic bringing with it associated congestion problems and parking issues.

		<p>St. Edward's has recently extended the staff carpark to ensure off road parking for all members of staff and the school actively encourages parents and children to take part in 'Walk on Wednesday'.</p> <p>There are numerous examples of other successful schemes available to reduce school run traffic congestion.</p> <p>I fully support this proposal.</p>
94	Strongly oppose	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about, and object to the proposed increase in the number of pupils at St Edwards Primary School, Westwood Way, Boston Spa, and the construction of additional accommodation at the school. It is great news for Boston Spa that the village has more children. I do not remember seeing any mention of expanding any of the schools in Boston Spa in the Village/Neighbourhood Plan. The announcement of the plan for St Edwards by Leeds City Council seems to be at odds with several of the Councils other strategies related to reducing carbon emissions, diversity, community safety and having a joined up approach to service provision. It is only a couple of years since West Oaks School on Westwood Way was expanded without any real consultation with the local residents or community. Now residents of Westwood Way have been asked about the expansion of St Edwards Roman Catholic Primary School. The question this raises is when will a similar plan be announced for Primrose Lane Primary School the third and oldest of the schools on Westwood Way. The Council should present a proposal for the growth of all the primary schools in Boston Spa including St Mary's Church of England School on Clifford Road. I was for many years a governor at Boston Spa School which became Boston Spa Academy. [REDACTED]. During that time I had many conversations in official meetings and privately with senior officials from Leeds City Council Education Department in which they explained that no one would put three schools on the same residential road nowadays. I am surprised that Leeds City Council are not investigating how they can remedy the problem of three schools in such close proximity and looking for an alternative location for St Edwards. The decision to build the three schools on the same small road was made at a time when children walked to school. Nowadays children likely to be delivered to school by car or other vehicle as part of their parents or guardians commute to work. It is this change in the way that pupils get to and from school that makes the expansion of the schools on Westwood Way problematic for residents of Westwood Way, like myself. My family have lived on Westwood Way since the houses were constructed by Costain in 1971. At that time Westwood Way was a cul-de-sac with a road sign at the junction with the High Street that identified it as such. As a cul-de-sac it simply was not designed to take the amount of traffic that now use it. As a boy, I can remember watching both St Edwards and West Oaks schools being built, and the hedge that separated the residential area of Westwood Way from the schools area being dug up to link the two pieces of road. I was always told that the linking of the two roads was to facilitate access for the emergency services like fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles. The volume of traffic that now uses Westwood Way and the number of cars that are parked on Westwood Way for all of the day have at times made it difficult for large vehicles</p>

like fire engines and ambulances to get through. An extra ten pupils a year at St Edwards would mean an extra sixty pupils after the first additional intake had finished their primary school education. Given the way that pupils get to and from school nowadays and the additional staff there could be as many as sixty extra vehicles using Westwood Way each school run period the equivalent of an additional 120 movements each school run. A couple of years ago another resident who had lived on Westwood Way since 1971 the late Graham Robinson, who was a governor at West Oaks School counted an average of 450 vehicle movements at every school run period. Since then along with the increase in pupil numbers above their published admissions strategy means that the number of vehicle movements can only have increased. The school run period also coincides with the drop off and collection times for patients at Westwood Vets. The vets is located at the junction of Westwood Way and the High Street. They do have a car park, but clients are likely to park on Westwood Way rather than have the hassle of manoeuvring a vehicle in a small car park. There are also a number of High Street residents who collectively have more cars than either their off-street parking facilities, that they do not use and the street space on the High Street can accommodate. Instead they park their cars in the area of Westwood Way that runs from the High Street along the side of the vets car park and the front garden of number one. This means that cars belonging to High Street residents can be parked from the High Street to number 14 Westwood Way on many days. Several of the cars belonging to High Street residents stay in the same position without moving for several weeks. All of these users of Westwood Way, clients of the vets, the High Street residents, and the parents delivering children to the primary schools as well as residents have a legitimate reason for doing so, but when combined at the same time Westwood Way becomes log-jammed. Every school run vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, on the pavement, blocking driveways and in some cases on driveways without the residents permission. Cars have also been seen to drive along the pavement towards pedestrians rather than wait for a car to move out of the way. Leaving or returning to your home during the school run by vehicle becomes an impossibility for Westwood Way residents. Ask a school run parent not to park in a way that blocks your drive and the response is likely to be an F word filled tirade of abusive language delivered in front of their child. Ask a parent to stop their child from vandalising a front garden and the response will be similar and include being told that the child is only eight so you can't say no to them. Report the incident to the school and despite the schools like St Edwards claiming to value their community and respect their neighbours the response will always be the same. You will be told that events outside the school gate are nothing to do with them. The parents assemblies that St Edwards has result in Westwood Way being completely blocked by parent cars. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I tried to get all three schools, Leeds City Council, the local Parish Council and the Police to work together to create a solution for improving the situation. Although Primrose Lane and St Edwards participated West Oaks refused. The two primary schools did commit to provide residents with a list of events

being held at the school that might result in increased traffic. Residents asked for this so that they could plan their own visitors. But unfortunately none of the schools have provided this information. The two primary schools also committed to investigate how walking buses might be organised. But at other meetings that I attended they dismissed the commitment, and no action has been taken. Most residents believe that the volume and disorganised nature of the traffic combined with the number of pedestrians creates an unacceptable health and safety risk that could result in a road traffic accident outside their front door which could include a serious injury to a child. In the meeting on 8th February we heard from a parent how their car had been hit by a car driven by a member of staff from West Oaks school, The parent described the school staff member as not being bothered about the damage they had caused. In another incident an employee of one of the schools hit a car parked on Westwood Way. The car belonged to a High Street resident. The school employee told the resident that they just had not seen the large saloon car. The point is that it is not just the volume of traffic that creates the hazard, but the style of driving of many drivers. If the traffic congestion only lasted for the school run period the situation might be manageable. But the problem continues throughout the day. Staff from the three schools are regularly parking cars for the whole length of the residential area of Westwood Way. These cars are often parked on the pavement. The non-residential area of Westwood Way is usually full of parked vehicles belonging to school staff, as is the length of Primrose Lane from Westwood Way to Church Street. This makes both Primrose Lane and Westwood Way single track roads. I have seen school buses used for school trips trapped by vehicles parked on both sides of the road creating a bottle neck that they cannot get the bus through. Staff frantically but fruitlessly knocking on residents' front doors trying to find the owner of the parked cars. The owner is most likely to be school staff or a client of the vets. Although prohibited by their contract with Leeds City Council from doing so the taxi drivers contracted to carry pupils to and from West Oaks regularly park in the residential area of Westwood Way, often on the pavement, valeting their cars with loud radios, and using abusive and threatening language to residents who ask them not to do so. West Oaks deny any responsibility for managing this behaviour and requesting assistance from Leeds City Council has only been met with the response that it is someone else's job. The junction of Westwood Way and the High Street is not, in my opinion as someone who uses it daily, really suitable for the volume of traffic that uses it during the school run. Traffic leaving Westwood Way cannot see traffic heading west out of the village because their visibility is blocked by the vehicles that are parked on the south side of the High Street. Vehicles belonging to High Street residents and clients of the vets parked on the east side of Westwood Way and the vehicles of parents parked on both sides of Westwood Way turn Westwood Way into a single track road that makes exiting the High Street on to Westwood Way difficult when traffic also wants to leave Westwood Way. This causes congestion on the High Street. Multiple vehicles jostling for position and weaving between parked cars often driving on the wrong side of the road coupled with excited children on scooters on a road that was not built to

accommodate that amount of traffic or people is likely to be a road accident hazard. When I raised these concerns in the meeting on 8th February I got the impression that Leeds City Council has made its decision. St Edwards already admits more pupils than it is supposed to so the consultation could be perceived as an attempt to close the door after the horse has bolted. Almost a retrospective planning application. Leeds City Council have explained in their proposal that the local birth rate has and is increasing because of the new housing developments in the village. Many people objected to these developments on the basis that the infrastructure required to support the families that would be living in the new houses did not exist in the village. Now the Council wants to provide the infrastructure. But as St Edwards is a Roman Catholic primary school its admissions policy favours Roman Catholic children regardless of where they live over local non Roman Catholic children. Is expanding St Edwards the best solution to meeting the needs of the local community? The undoubted need to increase the number of primary school places in Boston Spa is good news for the village, especially for those non Roman Catholic parents who have to send their children to Bramham, or Thorp Arch or even further afield, but this must not happen without due regard being given to the residents who will be affected by that increase, and the wider strategies of Leeds City Council. How long will it be before a similar proposal to expand Primrose Lane School is made? Leeds City Council seems to be taking a sticky plaster approach to resolving what is a major strategic issue for the village. I would suggest that expansion of the primary education in the village needs to think more holistically. One solution would be to swap St Edwards with the local facilities that exist at Deepdale, or build a new school on the site of the now closed High Trees private primary school. Or as was mentioned in the meeting on the 8th February do a land swap with the developer of the land in Church Street who has recently had a planning application refused? Another development like the one at the end of Whitham Avenue would enhance Westwood Way and a new school on Church Street would mean that St Edwards was on the same road as the Roman Catholic church in Clifford and close to the Stables Lane facilities and those at St Mary's school on Clifford Road. The value of the development on Westwood Way could potentially help to fund the new school. Leeds has a policy of becoming a carbon neutral city so perhaps: Primary schools in the village that prioritise local children who can walk to school rather than being delivered by vehicle should be given priority for expansion over primary schools that recruit pupils from outside the local village. This would reduce the amount of school run traffic in the village, and associated carbon emissions. Primary schools that feed into the Boston Spa and Wetherby secondary schools should be expanded before schools that feed primarily into secondary schools in Harrogate and Leeds. Again this would reduce the amount of traffic in the village and the associated carbon emissions. All of the schools on Westwood Way should: have a strategy that encourages staff to share transport or travel by public transport; provide on-site parking for every member of staff who wants to travel to work by car or motorbike; have facilities for the storage of bicycles for staff and pupils; have an updated pupil drop off and collection area that recognises the way in which some pupils now get to and from school.

This could involve a school run one-way system in which vehicles entered Westwood Way from the High Street and leave it by turning right into Primrose Lane and re-joining the High Street at the Clarendon Road junction which has much better visibility than the Westwood Way junction with the High Street. Reduce congestion on Westwood Way: Some of the land at Primrose Lane school could be used to create a properly organised and safe drop off and pick up area. That might involve closing Westwood Way to through traffic during school run periods; Westwood Way, Whitham Avenue, Woodlea and The Orchard, should become a permanent residents only parking area. No school event day time or evening parking in the residential area of Westwood Way. Parking in the non-residential area of Westwood Way should be used for vehicles that transport pupils to and from West Oaks School. No construction related traffic should be allowed to enter Westwood Way from the High Street during the building of the new accommodation. Construction workers should not be allowed to park vehicles in the residential area of Westwood Way. The behaviour of parents from all of the schools and the taxi driver from West Oaks demonstrates that no matter what measures are introduced they will not be voluntarily adhered to, so enforcement will be necessary. Leeds City Council must: Commit to communicating the school run rules to parents; Providing the resources to enforce compliance with the rules; Enforce the 20mph speed limit, especially when school staff are travelling to work. Schools must accept responsibility for pupil behaviour in Westwood Way, and include this in citizenship lessons. It is no exaggeration to say that Westwood Way residents feel disrespected by the schools, the taxi drivers and the parents who send their children to the schools. But worse is the belief that they also feel abandoned by Leeds City Council. Although it was a commitment that was not easily gained I am very pleased that Leeds City Council have agreed to include myself and other Westwood Way residents in the traffic and highways review of the situation on Westwood Way. I hope that this will include site visits. I know that the enquiry is about St Edwards, but to the residents the problems in Westwood Way are not the result of one school but the presence of the traffic that three schools creates. Their major concern is not inconvenience that is caused to them, although there are some serious incidents. The prime concern of the residents is safety. No one wants a road traffic accident outside their home that might involve an injury to a child. From the comments made by parents in the meeting on 8th February it seems that this is a desire shared by parents. Residents all recognise that the problem that all users of Westwood Way are dealing with today is the result of a very a poor planning decision made over fifty years ago. The overwhelming desire amongst residents is that everyone should work together to create a great Westwood Way that is a great place for children to walk to school along and a great place for people to live. As an interim and immediate action I hope that Leeds City Council can encourage all three schools to be more proactive in demonstrating how they value their local community and respect local residents. Simple and immediate actions would include: School staff observing the 20MPH speed limit; Staff from West Oaks not using Westwood Way as a staff room and smoking area and discarding cigarette ends and food

		packaging in the road; Creating a residents newsletter with information about traffic and events and what to do if a parent or taxi driver breaks the rules or a child is misbehaving. I am looking forward to meeting representatives from the Education and Highways departments from Leeds City Council in Westwood Way.
95	Strongly oppose	<p>I am a teacher at St Marys C of E Primary School. Two years ago it was suggested that a consultation would take place before any school was allocated more places. This does not seem to have happened. We were assured at the time that schools did not yet need to expand. As a result, we went through a very long, traumatic and painful redundancy process which left us a teacher down. We now have mixed age classes across the school which are considerably more difficult to manage. The teacher who was made redundant; a talented and dedicated teacher, has since left teaching as he felt totally undervalued and emotionally drained by the whole process which was badly managed from the start.</p> <p>To now hear that there was a need for expansion and that it has been offered to a neighbouring school is horrendous!!! All this PLUS the fact that Leeds blundered our admissions in 2015 for our current year 5 after telling parents that we were full when, in actual fact, it was an entirely different St. Mary's! This is unacceptable, incredibly unfair and very, very short sighted.</p> <p>The staff and governors at St Mary's are disgusted that this should even be a consideration and I remain aghast at the lack of thought for our school community.</p>
96	Strongly oppose	<p>My personal view as a member of staff at St. Mary's C of E Primary School in Boston Spa is that I am astounded that the proposal for increased places has not been offered to St. Mary's. In 2019, we were forced to make a teacher redundant and reduce our number of classes from 6 to 5 as we were told that the local school numbers were not predicted to rise so we could not justify our extra teacher. It was a painful and emotional process that has now left us with mixed-age classes across the whole school., never an ideas scenario in educational terms. What has changed so dramatically in 3 years and why has my school not been offered the expansion?</p>
97	Strongly oppose	<p>I am a member of staff at another Primary School in Boston Spa, St Marys Church of England. I and others are confused by the decision to expand St Edwards, apparently without any further conversation with St Marys. I was under the impression that several years ago there was a discussion with Governors about which of the 2 Primary Schools would be a better option for expansion and as far as I am aware that was where we were at....no decision had been made.</p> <p>Our school is in desperate need of investment and very popular, the only negative feedback I am aware of is the fact that we have mixed classes with a maximum of around 20 children per year group and that puts some parents off. From a budget position the smaller classes then have a negative knock on effect on our finances. Classes of 30 would, eventually, help the situation.</p> <p>We have the space to expand and the building certainly need some investment....I hope the decision hasn't already been made and that St Mary's voice will be heard.</p>
98	Strongly oppose	<p>Because other schools in the area need expanding more than st Edward's</p>

99	Strongly oppose	I would question why it has been decided to grant this opportunity to St. Edward's School and not another in the village e.g. St. Mary's. As I understand it, there's an obligation for Roman Catholic schools to offer places to Roman Catholic children first. This is not the case elsewhere. Has there been a sudden influx of people requiring a RC school or would it be better for a school that does not stipulate religion prior to entry to offer this provision in future?
100	Strongly support	I believe that this proposal would not only support the local council's requirement for more school places in the Boston Spa area, but also benefit the school as well. The school seems to be well placed to take on a further 10 pupils on a rolling basis, particularly with the planning permission which has previously been approved for by the school. Whilst I understand the issues around traffic, I have to say that I think that the school has tried to mitigate these risks by increasing parking for staff and visitors on site. Furthermore, in absolute terms, the increase to vehicles will not be 10 extra cars, as many of the children joining the school will likely have siblings at the school already. Certainly since my children have been at the school I don't believe there has ever been any incident involving a single child.
101	Strongly support	<p>As a teacher, governor and resident I truly believe this it's the right decision to move the school forward and be a beacon for education in Boston spa. As the only outstanding primary school in the area, the school has so much to offer on both an academic and a whole child level opening up more spaces in the school will not only encourage more people to choose our school as a first choice - as it can seem slightly easier to get in with more numbers allowed, but will also allow for a greater mix of children to join the school from both Catholics and non-Catholics. Saint Edward's children have a reputation in the village and beyond of being polite, well-behaved and well-mannered and, as a school, our catholic ethos aims to ensure that every child that enters our school reflects the Catholic Values and live virtuously. Whilst I am aware that neighbours to the school may be concerned about traffic on the road and parking, I have never heard any child or parent from our school raise concerns about the safety of the road. On school trips, which return at the end of the school day where many cars are parked on Westwood way, coaches never have a problem of getting between these - the problem some parents find is actually finding a space on the road but a walking bus would easily overcome this. Moreover the 20 mile an hour speed limit encourages everybody to be more aware of their surroundings and to take it slow.</p> <p>Further to this, many parents live locally and choose to walk to school some also opting to park in the car park next to Saint Mary's Church beside the new builds and walk down Westwood way which is only been enhanced by the new zebra crossing in place. As a school we promote Walk on Wednesday and our Eco-Warrior pupil committee are very interested in supporting the Leeds Green campaign which will only seek to encourage less cars on the road from our school. By offering more spaces at Saint Edwards, this will allow the school to increase staffing as pupil numbers will support the school financially. Whilst some may be concerned that this may cause larger class sizes, this will actually reduce class sizes -particularly in the older classes which can see 30 to 34 children per class due to mixing of year groups. Moreover,</p>

		<p>whilst mix year groups has always been the standard at Saint Edwards an issue which is particularly highlighted due to the recent lockdown means that when children are spilt it can socially be isolating for children in different classes and it can mean that children in key stage two do not reunite with their year group for two years i.e split class Year 4 and Year 5 - reunite in Year 6.Finally, in recent years we have had to turn down in-year transfers of Catholic children looking for a school place due to numbers in mixed classes - despite room in their year group - the class size which comprises of two year groups is over capacity - a full intake of 30 could overcome this. I am in full support of this expansion in order to benefit the children and local community. We pride ourselves on being a small school but this can cause financial difficulties - as seen in the recent redundancies - more numbers will lessen this barrier and ensure a better education for all.</p>
102	Strongly oppose	<p>Impact on the area- in particular Church Street and Primrose Lane as this will lead to a significant increase in traffic. It is unlawful for an LEA or a school to restrict entry to any particular school by proximity to the school. Therefore it is inevitable that the school will generate a substantial increase in the number of cars and pollution in these roads to the detriment of local residents without providing any positive economic benefit to the village in return. Parents who drive their children to school do no then go on to shop and work nearby. This has implications for road safety for local residents not to mention a lack of parking space and the narrow width of the roads in the immediate locality. I am not convinced that there is a local need for more school places as my understanding is that the local primary schools have spare capacity to take more children already It is important not to set a precedent as a 50% increase in pupil numbers for one primary school will inevitably lead to demands by the other schools in the immediate vicinity for equal treatment. Increases in housing within Boston Spa may have led to an increase in the number of primary school age children. However there is no good evidence I am aware of that means that the parents of those children would want to send their children to a faith school as opposed to mainstream local authority maintained schools in the area if indeed they would want to send them to any schools in Boston Spa at all.</p>
103	Somewhat oppose	<p>Whilst recognising there is a need for sufficient schooling provision to be made available to people living in the area I am concerned about the impact that an expanded school would have on traffic levels. Any plan to expand the school needs to be accompanied by a plan to resolve the already chaotic traffic conditions in the vicinity of the school at the start and end of each school day. As well as living just off Westwood Way, I have 2 children who have always walked to school along Westwood Way so have seen the chaos get worse over the past 15 years. There are 3 schools on Westwood Way. None of the school have sufficient off road parking for all of their staff so by 8.30 most of the parking available on Westwood Way is occupied by cars of teaching staff. When the school drop off traffic comes this invariably leads to inconsiderate parking and congestion due to parking on both sides of the road. Whilst there are various parking restrictions in place on Westwood Way, these are often ignored by parents dropping off. As well as causing traffic issues, it creates a very unsafe environment for any pupils</p>

		walking to the schools on Westwood Way or using Westwood Way en route to the academy. Crossing points are blocked, inconsiderate parking blocks sight lines whilst crossing the road and pavements are blocked by parked cars causing problems for parents with pushchairs. Schemes in the past for traffic calming and one way systems have come to nothing. Off road parking provision needs to be found for staff and a suitable solution found to the dangerous environment for pedestrians and residents that the parking chaos causes.
104	Strongly oppose	St Edwards is a purely selective school based on being baptised into the Catholic faith. I am not opposed to this selection, however expanding this school is providing an exclusive expansion and unless it is only Catholics that are moving into Boston Spa and surrounding villages this is a very secular view. If the demand for primary school places is increasing surely it would be more suitable to increase the capacity of other schools in the area - whether these are faith schools (St Mary's C of E in Boston Spa or Lady Hastings in Thorp Arch) - or not (Primrose Lane) these 3 schools encourage children from all backgrounds with and without a chosen faith. This is something that the village really needs - additional places for ANY child, not a secular approach. There also needs to be huge consideration for the traffic an increase to this school would create. Westwood Way is overly busy with the existing provision (there are 3 schools all accessed from that road) and to increase this potential is irresponsible and not considerate to either residents, or the families that attend these schools. Perhaps if carpark for ALL school use could be included in the Church Street/Borolla House development (corner of Church Street/Lonsdale Meadows) this would ease a very dangerous situation as far as traffic v children/families crossing roads. (I believe that the Chair of Governors at St Edwards has involvement in the proposed development of the previously Catholic Church-owned Borolla House so surely this would be an easy option to discuss)
105	Somewhat oppose	I wonder does this meet the needs of local children given the catchment for the school is very large. The school control their own admissions and place faith higher than geography in prioritization.
106	Somewhat oppose	St Mary's recently had a classroom and teacher removed within the same local area. St Mary's Boston Spa should be the priority school for expansion ahead of St Edwards.
107	Strongly oppose	The justification for the expansion is that there had been an increase in the population of Boston Spa. However, the entry criteria of St Edwards clearly states that Catholic children outside Boston Spa will be given priority over local non-Catholic children. It follows that that the expansion of the school serves Catholics in the wider region, rather than local non-Catholic children. There is no Catholic Church in Boston Spa. While there is one in Clifford, the existing size of the school more than adequately caters for the needs of its parishioners. The proposed expansion would serve parents of Catholic children outside Boston Spa, in areas outside the locality which already have adequate Catholic schools in their own local areas (St Joseph's in both Tadcaster, N Yorks and Wetherby). This makes the expansion unjustified using the terms set out by Leeds City Council. The people of Boston Spa would be better served by Leeds City Council agreeing to expand non-Catholic school(s) in the area. If the expansion

		<p>leads to spare places at St Edwards, parents shouldn't be placed in the unenviable position of sending their non-Catholic children to be taught a curriculum which has Catholic teachings underpinning it. St Edwards currently demands the 'full support' of parents to its Catholic teaching which 'permeates ever aspect of the school's activities.' While it doesn't prevent applications from non-Catholics, children will be subjected to the Catholic religion. As stated above, this is not reflective of the population of Boston Spa. The proposed expansion will also exacerbate existing traffic problems. Local children could walk to the school, but Catholic children from outside the area will, presumably travel longer distances by car. St Edwards is located very close to Primrose Lane school and the area is already choked by cars at school pick up and drop off time. Adding to this traffic as a result of Catholic families travelling from outside the local area will cause even more misery for locals and is a dangerous situation for residents and footpath users. It's not uncommon to see cars mounting and driving along kerbs and incidents of road rage at these busy times. The extra traffic cannot be justified.</p>
108	Strongly oppose	<p>The school has a strict admissions policy such that the funding would be better used in other local schools willing to open places for all children.</p>
109	Strongly oppose	<p>I am failing to understand if the schools available locally and considering the demographic make-up Boston Spa why expansion of St Edwards would be the sensible option. If LCC are attributing the need for expansion to accommodate the growing demand for school places locally, why has a strong catholic school been selected as the immediate choice? I note from the latest admissions data on the LCC website that St Edwards last submission was accepted from a distance of 1.8 miles away on a straight line basis and the two other schools locally (namely Primrose Lane and St Mary's) admitted the last available place on a straight line distance of approximately 0.5 miles, this data seems to directly contradict the need for school places for 'local' children. I am also aware that St Mary's was in recent years passed over for the possibility of expansion and instead we're forced to lose valuable teaching resource because apparently at the time there wasn't the demand for local school places. How can LCC now only 2 years later be suggesting that another school be considered for expansion? Furthermore, St Mary's have a more inclusive and wider teaching admissions net. I would be extremely concerned to learn that increasing capacity on a more formal footing meant that local children were being overlooked for children that are further away but are higher up on the St Edwards priority list.</p>
110	Neither support nor oppose	<p>I write on behalf of the governing body of St Mary's Church of England Primary School ("the School") in Boston Spa in relation to the proposed expansion of a neighbouring primary school which we expect to be affected by. Whilst we do not object to this proposal, nor do we support it. As a Local Authority owned and maintained school with a similar PAN of 20, we feel the financial pressure of our small school status and have long held a belief that expansion of our PAN is the only route to financial sustainability in the medium term. However, our School has been under invested in by the Local Authority for many years and the site has several estates issues both in terms of maintenance debt and being compliant with regulations or best practice recommendations for site</p>

		<p>security, safeguarding and facilities for staff and children. We have a traffic problem due to inadequate parking facilities both for staff of the school and attached private day nursery, who separately are tenants of the Local Authority. This has an impact not only on the School and nursery users but also on the surrounding area. We recognise that expansion of our School may not represent the highest value for money for the Local Authority compared to St Edward's, as their estate is more developed. We do, however, object to continued underinvestment of capital monies into our School which has resulted in suffering from an insecure perimeter and safeguarding challenges. We are aware of Section 106 monies being available for investment in primary school provision for the children of Boston Spa as a consequence of the Church Fields development. Given the financial position of local authorities for investment in school maintenance and development, we have long held the view that these monies may be our only opportunity to access reserved funds to support our School's estate development. We foresee a need for further expansion locally of primary school and pre-school provision with planned housing developments. We would therefore ask that consideration be given to use of a share of the Section 106 funds to undertake work towards our ability to meet the future need for further school place expansion and to bring our School site up to the standard of other primary schools in the area. We do wish to have recognised concerns that St Edward's has a very wide catchment area with a faith-based school managed admissions policy. We do not see how the Local Authority can be confident the expanded places will be filled by children of Boston Spa and thus meet the purpose of the Section 106 obligations. Furthermore, given St Edward's are owned and controlled by the Catholic diocese they have access to funding sources not accessible to our School. Whilst we are a faith School linked to St Mary's Church, we are not maintained by them. We wish for equitable investment for the needs of our current and future pupils.</p>
111	Somewhat support	<p>St Edwards are very short of funding for more staff. The additional funding that this proposal will provide can go a long way towards supplying valuable teaching assistants that children, like mine, would very much benefit from. Furthermore, I feel that the current split year group that the school has is not conducive to the children's development. Children are split from friendship groups according to if they are in the top or bottom half of the class. I feel this is detrimental to a child's confidence and mental health (particularly after such a turbulent start to school due to Covid!) I appreciate the concerns from some of the local residents regarding the parking situation and road use. A robust plan needs to first be in place to manage this situation, not just for the residents, but for the safety of the children attending the school. I do also have concerns that the cap at 30 will end up being pushed up higher and again stretch the school beyond its capacity, so for me this is a big watch out.</p>
112	Neither support nor oppose	<p>The below proposal was discussed at last night's Parish Council meeting. A number of Councillors hold concerns about the extension of St Edward's, particularly because it is a faith school. The main concern is that the school's intake extends outside of Boston Spa to serve Catholic children in nearby areas and therefore the majority of pupils are brought by car. This puts pressure on the road network and causes</p>

congestion on a busy street (Westwood Way) which already has two additional schools: West Oaks and Primrose Lane. The other concern highlighted was that children of a different faith (or no faith) in Boston Spa who cannot obtain a place at Primrose Lane or St Mary's would then be pushed to accept a place at St Edward's against their wishes. For those parents who feel strongly enough, this would then push them to look for places at Thorp Arch or Bramham which would again mean travelling further afield, usually by car. Of course, the Parish Council does not have a breakdown of the home locations or the faiths of the children that attend the school. We are assuming that some sort of analysis or study has been undertaken that has determined that there is a need to extend a Catholic school. I was wondering whether you could share this with us, or provide us with a pupil breakdown by faith and home location?

Appendix B

Representations received during statutory notice published 9th July - 6th August

Response no.	Response / comments:	Supporting / formal objection or neither but wish to comment	Response number to initial public consultation where applicable*
1	<p>I am writing to object to the proposed expansion of St Edward's Catholic Primary School as outlined by statutory notice. I attach a document on Westwood Way residents concerns about parking problems and Leeds City Council. I also attach a Westwood Way travel action plan [REDACTED]. Kind regards [REDACTED].</p> <p>Westwood Way residents' concerns about parking problems and Leeds City Council</p> <p>When Leeds City Council carried out a survey about the expansion of St Edward's Catholic Primary School the results came back with 59% of respondents being strongly opposed or somewhat opposed to the proposal. Having carried out door to door research in the Westwood Way area it was found that 95% of residents had experienced serious problems with parents parking across drives and blocking access on roads regularly. They signed a petition for residents only parking.</p> <p>The main cause of the problem is that Leeds City Council built three schools in close proximity, which has had a massive impact on the residents of Westwood Way and created an unsafe environment for pedestrians. When Clifford Primary School closed down St Edward's had the opportunity to move to Clifford but turned it down. The residents of Westwood Way have written to the council about problems with bins not being emptied and they have been ignored and the problem not addressed. In the on line consultation of 8 February mention was made of having a residents meeting but that has not materialised. A number of residents have not even received the public consultation document.</p> <p>In 2018 Leeds City Council allowed the development of the Primrose Hill residential site, objections were raised about problems with parking and the planning department said there were none. After three years of building, with significant disruption to all the residents of Westwood Way, Box Tree Court is now open and already the staff and residents are parking half way up Westwood Way.</p> <p>St Edward's parents use Box Tree Court as a drop off zone making it completely inaccessible. Approximately 20 cars drive in and drop off. There are in excess of 60 cars parked by staff on Westwood Way on a daily basis. Whilst St Edward's staff can currently be accommodated in the school car park it is then full and the school does not have the capacity to facilitate the on-site parking needed for the proposed increases in staff.</p> <p>A traffic survey revealed that 80% of drivers on Westwood Way appeared to exceed the 20mph speed limit and 20% of drivers appeared to exceed 40mph. A one hour session revealed nearly 40 drivers seeming to travel at 30mph. The traffic accelerates from both ends once it is on Westwood Way, only slowing if the road is blocked by other traffic. Westwood Way is an extremely dangerous place for pedestrians, who appear to be seen as an acceptable target by many drivers.</p>	formal objection	28

	<p>Additionally there are problems with clients at the vets on the corner of Westwood Way and the High Street. The vet's car park is frequently empty. The vets has been asked to request their clients to use their car park and not to park in the residential area of Westwood Way, but if you telephone to make an appointment this request is not made. The vets also have an appointment system that concentrates client visits at the same time as the school run. As a result of this parking and High Street residents using Westwood Way for long term car parking, Westwood Way is often a single-track road from the High Street to half way down Westwood way. The vet's clients park on the double yellow lines and leave their engines running for 20+ minutes.</p> <p>Until the problems on Westwood Way are resolved the proposed expansion of St Edward's School should not take place. The safety of residents and pedestrians needs to have a greater priority for Leeds City Council. They need to take responsibility for the situation they have created and work with Westwood Way residents to meet the needs of all stakeholders.</p> <p>See attached document- Appendix C: Response 1 attachment</p>		
2	<p>I don't object to this proposal in principle but I am concerned about the number of vehicles using the area at school ingress and egress times. At the moment it is very difficult sometimes to get in or out of the area around the various schools including my road, Rosedale Rise, because of the badly parked cars which are both a traffic and an environmental hazard. Car owners, if requested to park sensibly, are often abusive to residents. In the summer they leave their engines running to keep their air conditioning going and in winter to provide heating while they wait for their children. Fundamentally there are too many junior schools in too small an area with inadequate road provision. Expanding St Edwards will exacerbate this problem. I object to this proposal for these reasons.</p>	formal objection	27
3	<p>I live on The Orchard, off Westwood Way and wish to object to the proposed extension. This is no reflection on the quality of education at the school, it is simply the environmental impact of the increase in the number of pupils and teachers attending the school. There are 3 schools within 100metres of each other on Westwood Way and the area has insufficient parking capacity. Consequently at 8:30am and 3pm for an hour on each day the traffic and congestion on Westwood Way is awful. There has to be better facilities for teachers to park and mums to drop off children before any further expansion can be considered. Can I refer you to page 44 of the Approved Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan (NP) which in 2017 suggested a "Drop Off" Zone be incorporated into the proposed Church Street Development which could serve all the 3 schools, 4 if you include St Mary's, and the playing fields on Stables Lane. I have attached the diagram from the NP.</p> <p>See attached document – Appendix D: Response 3 attachment</p>	formal objection	18

4	<p>I am in full support of this expansion as both a teacher and a neighbour to the school. All year groups already exceed 20 due to in-year movements and our school is always oversubscribed and popular with families. With recent new developments on Church Fields and to the rear of Martin House - many of our children come from houses on the 'Shared Ownership' scheme - meaning families on an affordable route to homeownership on low (near median) income groups take up places at our outstanding school which in turn leads to better child outcomes – in terms of educational achievement and better life chances - by increasing we can offer this more widely and increase diversity in our school ensuring a varied intake. Our school community contributes positively to the local economy too and thus the community which serves them. Additionally, many children benefit from the before and after school clubs at Brook Babes on primrose lane further reducing traffic at peak times due to earlier/later pickups. In terms of parking and traffic - schools on Westwood Way all have different drop-off and pick up times meaning congestion at the start and end of the school day is minimised. At St Edward's many of our families already walk or cycle to school as they live locally and those who do drive are encouraged through the schools Walk on Wednesday and Walk to school initiatives where parents opt to park in the car park next to St Mary's church and walk down to school thus minimising congestion. Additionally, due to an increase in biking and scootering to school we have applied for a larger bike shed to store these and encourage use. Coaches for school trips have never had an issue in getting down the road at these crucial times either due to the wide layout which is in contrast to St Mary's Primary school on an adjacent road which becomes single file when cars are parked. Since the initial consultation for expansion, there has been an increase of cars parked outside Westwood way and Primrose Lane schools as well as on Primrose lane itself - these are staff cars from both schools and places are filled pre-8am - I would suggest adding a limit of three hours to these designated space to prevent this occurring. Throughout the school day cars present on Westwood Way are residential or businesses serving residential homes. I have always had a classroom that is front-facing and traffic is not an issue; the road is peaceful as very few cars pass during the school day. Footfall on the street is obviously high at pick up and drop off but it is to be expected with 3 schools in close proximity but this is quickly dispersed and highlights the families opting to walk. It is being suggested on social media that 20-30 will mean 10 extra cars per year rising to 70 extra cars. This is assuming that a) every new family will drive or not be local; b) that none of the increased cohorts will be siblings, carsharing, or benefitting from one of the childcare clubs and c) that there are only 20 children in each year now - which is simply not the case with year groups exceeding or at 20 across the board 29, 25, 26, 22, 22, 20 and 25 highlighting that the change itself will be minimal \approx 40 more children over the next 7 years and yet this will allow more children to benefit from all our school can offer. St Edward's provides an outstanding education and more places would offer children and families greater choice in choosing our school - particularly non-Catholics who are always welcome and are attracted by the family atmosphere we have. However we are aware that some families do not apply to our school as they are worried they won't get a place - Catholic families opting for St Josephs in Wetherby which offers 30 places or Primrose lane which has a larger pupil intake. By offering 30 places each year - we are on a level playing field and would offer more choice for families in our ever-growing village.</p>	Supporting	101
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5	<p>We have 3 schools on our road and there is already a lack of respect regarding parking. We have had instances where driveways are blocked and it has caused distress. If you are increasing the places and that will go up each year the car parking will be awful. Has any thought been put forward to having residents parking only on Westwood Way? I would appreciate this being considered. Kind regards, [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Response: I have no formal objection at all - I do appreciate the village has expanded so we need more spaces but the parking was very bad on our road with three schools and I would like a consideration for residents parking. I appreciate you following up my concerns.</p>	Neither but wish to comment	58
6	<p>I understand the Council's desire to extend education provision in the area and I welcome the comments in relation to a Highways Team Assessment before proceeding further. I would stress that there are 3 schools located on Westwood Way and traffic congestion is already a major issue for local residents. Consideration should be given to reviewing and extending parking restrictions along the entire length of Westwood Way - I note that there are parking restrictions in place on the more recently constructed Chaly Fields. Key highways issues on Westwood Way include:- 1) Pedestrian Safety 2) Wider vehicles unable to pass through due to cars parked on both sides 3) Cars parked partly on the pavement 4) Inconsiderate parking - blocking driveway access. I do hope that the concerns outlined above are taken in to consideration and acted upon ahead of any school extension scheme progressing.</p> <p>I don't have a view either way in relation to the expansion of the school per se, but I have significant concerns in relation to the related highways matters should the expansion of the school proceed.</p>	Neither but wish to comment	55
7	<p>We live [REDACTED] St. Edwards School, in Boston Spa, about 50m away from the school; but we write IN SUPPORT of the proposals to expand St. Edwards. The key issue for us locally is parking - but the school has both re-surfaced it's car park AND (most crucially) got the staff to use it! Credit is due. They have room for all of their staff to park in their car park. Whilst it is true that the roads are congested around school drop off time, this is to be expected, with parents coming and going. We live on a road which has three schools, so congestion for 15 minutes at the start and at the end of the day, is expected. The problem with parking, from our perspective, is not the parents who are dropping children at school, it is the staff who park all day out on the road. It is our view, having watched people coming and going from our office at the front of our house, that the staff cars causing the all-day issues (difficulty for bin wagons, ambulances, buses etc to get through), are from West Oaks School. Staff from West Oaks regularly park along Westwood Way (certainly outside our house and next door), rather than using the school car park (which has been reduced over the years). St. Edwards should be allowed more pupils because: 1. It is still a relatively small school compared with other local schools and not being allowed to expand (as other schools have) could compromise the viability of the school in the long term; and possibly, in turn, the parish/church of St. Edwards', Clifford. 2. The school is "Outstanding" and should be supported so more students can benefit from a top education. 3. The school compliments other local provision in state provision and has is an integral part in the wider community. In short, we support the proposals.</p>	Supporting	n/a

8	<p>Objection to the Expansion of St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Boston Spa. I would like to strongly object to the expansion of St Edwards Catholic Primary School in Boston Spa, for a number of reasons. Firstly, since the predicted number of admissions for primary schools in Boston Spa are less than the overall places available in the village, it is unnecessary to spend money, time and resources expanding the school. You can see from the screen shot below from the attached document (from 2020), that there are currently 120 primary school admission places in the village and there is predicted demand (See updated table you provided below), of 96 places in 2021, 109 in 2022, 87 in 2023 and 96 in 2024. Based on this prediction from Leeds City Council in 2020 sufficiency assessment, there is no need for additional primary school places in Boston Spa. Whilst the predicted admission numbers have increased over the last year, probably due to the new house build in the area, it is still very unlikely that there will be a need for more than 120 primary school places, as birth rates across the UK are still dropping. Secondly, if it is decided that due to the increase in predicted admissions, due to new house builds, there is a need for additional primary school places, it should be a school with an inclusive admissions policy, that will except local children before those who have to travel into the village. St Edwards School's admissions policy is to accept Catholic children before local children, which will inevitably result in children travelling in from outside the village, most of these being driven in cars. This will add to the congestion on the High Street and Westwood Way, as well as making parking more difficult for local residents. This increased traffic will further add to air pollution in the area, where there is already a problem with "idling" and the associated pollution. Thirdly, the increased traffic and air pollution will reduce the safety of children walking, cycling and scooting to all the local schools in this area - there are three schools on this road, plus Boston Spa Academy, St John's School for the Deaf and St Mary's Church of England School who all may use this road to travel to school. This area is already very congested at school drop off and collection times and this will further increase all the problems associated with increased congestion. In Boston Spa 24% of our carbon emissions come from transport and therefore this has to be a key area of focus to reduce our traffic and not knowingly make decisions that will increase it:</p> <p>https://www.cse.org.uk/news/view/2583?s=03. These issues are significant in themselves, but as we are now in a Climate Emergency, declared by the Government, Leeds City Council and Wetherby Town Council, this unnecessary increase in traffic, congestion and air pollution is completely unacceptable and goes against the LCC objective to reduce our carbon emissions. In the LCC Climate Emergency Update 7th January 2020, (https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s198403/Climate%20Emergency%20Cover%20Report%20191219.pdf), it can be seen that transport accounts for 36% of LCC carbon emissions. It states that the city is making a £270m low carbon intervention through the Leeds Public Transport Investment Programme, which along with the introduction of a Clean Air Zone from last summer (now cancelled), would help to accelerate the reduction in carbon emissions as well as air pollution. It also states that "It is the council's aim to be a city where you don't need to use a car". Given this objective, a school expansion that will increase the number of cars on the road, as children are transported into Boston Spa to the Catholic Primary School and add to air pollution, is clearly not acceptable as it contradicts the LCC objective. It goes on to state further objectives to increase walking by 10%, cycling by 300% and decrease car usage by 15%. Again a school that encourages car use, as its admissions policy is to accept Catholic children from outside of the immediate area before local children, is at odds with these objectives. In addition :</p>	formal objection	81
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	<p>"Council policy has been adopted through the Supplementary Planning Document on Travel Plans to ensure that all new build and expansion schools have a travel plan in place and through the Sustainable Education Travel Strategy to promote safe and sustainable travel to school". What is this travel plan for St Edwards? And more importantly, rather than have individual sustainable travel plans, it makes sense to have a sustainable travel plan for all schools in the Leeds area, which would see joined up thinking on minimising travel from home to school, to reduce the number of car journeys involved and thereby reduce our carbon emissions, air pollution and improve health. Lastly, we would like some information about the sustainability of any extension that was to be made. If this proposal was given the go-ahead, what materials would be used? What consideration has been given to the sustainability of the construction of the new structure, as we know that cement for example has a huge carbon footprint.</p> <p>See attached document – Appendix E: Response 8 attachment</p>		
9	<p>The current proposal to expand St. Edward's Catholic Primary School is a balanced and proportionate response to address the rising demand for primary school places in the Boston Spa area. St. Edward's is an outstanding school situated in the heart of the local community. The school has a positive ethos, strong school leadership and provides an excellent quality of education in a caring setting. There is capacity to expand, good site suitability and future expansion would provide an opportunity to secure a long-term future for the school as an excellent environment for our local children to grow and learn. The school is fully inclusive and has very good SEND provision. St. Edward's is very popular with parents living in the local community and the school has previously offered places to non-Catholic families. Included in the arguments against expansion are concerns over increased traffic congestion bringing with it associated issues in relation to parking. St. Edward's recently extended the staff car park to ensure off road parking for all members of staff and the school actively encourages parents and children to take part in 'Walk on Wednesday'. There are numerous other successful schemes available which would help reduce school run traffic congestion. I strongly support this proposal.</p>	Supporting	93
10	<p>As chair of governors I can confirm that the governing body are fully in support of the plan to expand the school and look forward to the approval being granted.</p>	Supporting	90
11	<p>We are residents in Whitham Close and object to the proposal in the Statutory Notice (SN) i.e. a significant increase in the number of places over a period of time on the grounds that it will increase the risk of illegally parked vehicles, especially at dropping off time (8 - 9 am) and picking up time (3 - 4 pm) every day during term time. This will undoubtedly cause further disruption and inconvenience to the residents and other road users. The current position is that every day during these times and sometimes even outside these times there is serious congestion in Westwood Way and Whitham Close. Parents/carers park their vehicles on double yellow lines, across driveways, double park and mounted on the pavement causing pedestrians to walk into the road or preventing vehicles from passing or indeed leaving their properties. Further and importantly there is and would continue to be serious inconvenience to emergency vehicles particularly now that Box Tree Court is fully occupied and ambulances attend on a fairly regular basis. I have seen cars parked across driveways (including ours), pedestrians forced to walk in the road and bin collections unable to take place due to parents parking their vehicles obstructing the highway, which is in itself an offence contrary to s137 of the Highways Act 1980. Westwood Way is only 500 metres long. A significant part of the road has markings preventing parking. This leaves only a small area where it is legitimate to park. For example, travelling north towards the High Street there is only 191</p>	formal objection	n/a

metres available for parking. However, if one takes account of the residents' driveways this falls to less than 130 metres. Travelling south towards Primrose Lane there is 241 metres. This does not take account of the fact that cars cannot park in the same area on both sides of the road which reduces the places even further. When one considers that there are three schools on Westwood Way and the majority of those spaces are taken up by teachers/visitors from all three schools who park all day there are very few spaces, if any, available for other users. The result is that vehicles also park on the surrounding roads such as Whitham Close and almost always double parked disregarding other road users. According to the Catholic Education Service, Catholic schools, on average, have catchment areas ten times larger than community schools. Therefore the likelihood of new pupils coming from a wider area is high which means that there will be more vehicles taking and collecting children from school. A significant increase in the number of places by 50% over a period of time will only exacerbate the current position and inevitably lead to further serious disruption and inconvenience for residents. This there can be no doubt. We fully understand the proposal and the objectives set out in the SN as per the duties under the Education and Inspection Act 2006. One of the other duties under the 2006 Act not explicitly mentioned in the SN is under s76(3), namely the duty to provide sustainable modes of travel etc. That includes assessing the facilities and services for sustainable modes of travel to, from and within their area. Sustainable modes of travel include the environmental well-being of the whole or a part of their area. This may, for example, include reducing the use of cars to take children to school. Unfortunately, the SN on three occasions states that the Diocese has already undertaken some work to extend car park facilities but does not specify those works. Further the SN says that before implementation the Highways Team would carry out an assessment and identify any potential improvements that could be made to the scheme. Surely, that it not the correct way to approach it because it clearly suggests that the proposal has been or will be agreed irrespective of the consultation process. If the assessment by the Highways Team and the duties imposed on the Council is to have any meaningful purpose then such assessment should be done before hand which should inform the consultation process thereby complying with the Council's statutory duties. Parents/carers who drive children to school already have free access to parking in the nearby car park in Churchfields which is on the High Street. This car park is only approximately 250 metres from the school in which parents could walk their children to school. It only takes three minutes. Not only is this good for both children and parents but it is consistent with the Council's duty under s76 of the 2006 Act. Given the evidence I have seen it is clear beyond peradventure that parents do not use the Churchfields car park. They park as close to the school as possible. The only way is to make the area and surrounding roads residents permit parking during particular times of the day. This would encourage parents/carers to use Churchfields car park and prevent them parking illegally which subjects residents and other road users to unnecessary risks and cause ever increasing inconvenience on a daily basis during term time.

12	<p>I am writing in response to your statutory notice on a proposal to permanently expand St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Boston Spa. I would point out there are two other schools (Primrose Lane and West Oaks) adjacent to St Edward's. I live in Boston Spa and can assure you that in normal times (ie no Covid) the term time traffic to the three schools combined produces complete chaos twice a day, and has a significant effect on nearby residents throughout the day. In my view this expansion should not go ahead until and unless the existing problems with traffic and parking have been resolved to the satisfaction of the nearby residents, who I think could fairly be described as "long suffering". This problem with parking was recognised as far back as The Boston Spa Neighbourhood Plan published in 2012. This stated on page 44 "areas around the schools would benefit from a coordinated and strategic approach from the establishments and authorities which would create a drop off area for parents...". Neither the schools concerned or Leeds City Council has taken a blind bit of notice of this part of the Neighbourhood Plan in the intervening time. Instead Leeds City Council have come forward once more with plans to a make a clearly bad situation worse.</p>	Neither but wish to comment	78
13	<p>Whilst I have no problem with the above school wishing to increase its number of pupils year or year from 20 places to 30 places, I have grave misgivings about the amount of extra traffic this will cause on Westwood Way and surrounding roads during school drop off and pick up. 'Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desired school places, is an efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of non-attendance', then why so many children need to be dropped off by car at school, surely if they are 'local', walking should improve accessibility. Presumably quite a few children are not that local. The Diocese advise they have extended the car park, but however many spaces are provided it is definitely not sufficient, and along with more pupils comes more teachers and teaching assistants, who I doubt park elsewhere and walk to work. The parking of cars on Westwood Way is absolutely horrendous, lots of the cars being teachers and other staff at any one of the three schools along its length. The parents have no consideration for the neighbours of these schools, nor other children's safety. Parking on pavements, parking opposite each other making it a one way system almost and goodness knows what would happen should anyone need an emergency vehicle of any sort. Westwood Way is home to a Special School and also Assisted living apartments and should any one of those establishments require emergency vehicles it would be difficult to get through the crazy parking. Our refuse collectors cannot get through and reverse into our cul-de-sac and so we now have to place our bins at the top of our drive when there is a perfectly good bin store which we have used for 28 years, which was part of the planning application for this small development. The emptied bins add another hazard to the pavement until we can retrieve them to our properties. Please don't get me started about the abusive language we have to put up with if we approach anyone parking in a dangerous manner or over our drive - a number of whom I know are parents of children at St Edwards. Not a very good example. I know some of my neighbours have raised this issued with all three schools to no avail. Whilst I appreciate parking should not be the main reason for objections, I am afraid it will be and I also appreciate it is not only St Edwards' parents but this matter does need to be addressed and should be done promptly before consideration is given to increasing the size of any school intake. Whichever bright spark thought it a good idea to put three schools on one road had little foresight for further housing developments, increase in birth rates etc etc.</p>	Neither but wish to comment	14

14	<p>I am writing to express my concerns about, and object to the proposed increase in the number of pupils at St Edwards Primary School, Westwood Way, Boston Spa, and the construction of additional accommodation at the school. Westwood Way When referring to Westwood Way I am referring to Westwood Way, The Orchard, Woodlea and Whitham Close. Objection I am objecting to the proposal because 1. The expansion is not mentioned in the Village Plan. 2. The expansion and the knock-on affects of the expansion would make it harder for the Council to fulfil its other strategic objectives, such as those related to carbon emissions. 3. The report on the public consultation inaccurately summarised the opinions of local residents. 4. The majority of submissions to the public consultation opposed the expansion because of the impact it would have on traffic levels and the health and safety risks that this would create. 5. The process used by the Council to assess the proposal is flawed. The Council makes a decision without considering all of the evidence and then council officers have to implement that decision. The same process was used for the development of Box Tree Court. Residents raised objections which were dismissed by the Council, but now ward councillors have acknowledged that the Box Tree Court development has made the already bad traffic congestion on Westwood Way even worse. 6. The Council should not make any decisions about further development on Westwood Way until it has produced a plan for managing the existing level of traffic, and any potential increase in traffic levels that the expansion of St Edwards or any of the other schools would create. Increase in the Number of Children It is great news that Boston Spa has more children, and that consequently there is a need to increase the number of school places, especially when just a few years ago the Council was suggesting closing the village secondary school. At the Public Consultation meeting on 8th February, I got the impression that Leeds City Council has made its decision. St Edwards already admits more pupils than it is supposed to, so the consultation could be perceived as an attempt to close the door after the horse has bolted. Almost a retrospective planning application. Village Plan I do not remember seeing any mention of expanding any of the schools in Boston Spa in the Village/Neighbourhood Plan. Council Strategies The announcement of the plan for St Edwards by Leeds City Council seems to be at odds with several of the Councils other strategies related to reducing carbon emissions, diversity, community safety and having a joined-up approach to service provision. Carbon Neutral Leeds has a policy of becoming a carbon neutral city so perhaps: Primary schools in the village that prioritise local children who can walk to school rather than being delivered by vehicle should be given priority for expansion over primary schools that recruit pupils from outside the local village. This would reduce the amount of school run traffic in the village, and associated carbon emissions. Primary schools that feed into the Boston Spa and Wetherby secondary schools should be expanded before schools that feed primarily into secondary schools in Harrogate and Leeds. Again, this would reduce the amount of traffic in the village and the associated carbon emissions. The schools on Westwood Way should • have a strategy that encourages staff to share transport or travel by public transport • provide on-site parking for every member of staff who wants to travel to work by car or motorbike • have facilities for the storage of bicycles for staff and pupils • have a proper pupil drop off and collection area that recognises the way in which some pupils now get to and from school. Report on Public Consultation I have read the report which was compiled from the responses to the Public Consultation and presented to the Executive Committee. I do not believe that it accurately reflects the objections and concerns raised by residents and parents during the consultation meetings that I and my neighbours attended or in the submissions my neighbours and I made to the Public Consultation. For</p>	formal objection	94
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example, the illegal parking and driving that residents witness and raised concerns about was dismissed in the report as merely inconsiderate parking. Cars being driven at speed along the pavement is a regular sight on Westwood Way during the school run. Council Process I had a telephone conversation with the Council employee who created the report. She explained that the process followed by the Council involves the Council making its decision and then Council employees working out a way to make that decision work. This is why the highways department will not investigate the problems on Westwood Way until the Council has confirmed the decision to expand St Edwards, and the planning of how that decision is implemented has started. This must place a lot of pressure on Council employees to create information that supports the decision that the Council has already reached. Making a decision in this way lacks logic. There is no sense to a process that starts to consider different courses of action without first having access to all the information about what the implications of each proposed course of action might be for everyone affected by the proposal. No commercial organisation would consider operating in the same way as the Council does. Many Westwood Way residents believe that this is what happened when the proposal to redevelop Primrose Hill was made. The Council decided to approve the development, ignoring the concerns of residents. The research conducted by the highways department was, many residents believe, conducted during the school holidays so that it could discount the concerns of residents and conclude that the decision to approve the planning application was correct. The council employee told me that 'every process can be improved'. I would urge the Council to review this process as a matter of urgency. Linked-up Plan Leeds City Council have explained in their proposal that the local birth rate has and is increasing because of the new housing developments in the village. Many people objected to these developments on the basis that the infrastructure required to support the families that would be living in the new houses did not exist in the village. Now the Council wants to provide the infrastructure. However, the perception of many residents is that as St Edwards is a Roman Catholic primary school its admissions policy favours Roman Catholic children regardless of where they live over local non-Roman Catholic children. Is expanding St Edwards the best solution to meeting the needs of the local community? It is only a couple of years since West Oaks School on Westwood Way was expanded without any real consultation with the local residents or community. Now residents of Westwood Way have been asked about the expansion of St Edwards Roman Catholic Primary School. The question this raises is when will a similar plan be announced for Primrose Lane Primary School the third and oldest of the schools on Westwood Way. Given that there are three schools on Westwood Way it would seem logical that the Council should make one proposal for all three schools on Westwood Way. The Council should present a proposal for the growth of all the primary schools in Boston Spa including St Mary's Church of England School on Clifford Road. Past Planning Mistakes I was for many years a governor at Boston Spa School which became Boston Spa Academy. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]. During that time, I had many conversations in official meetings and privately with senior officials from Leeds City Council Education Department in which they explained that no one would put three schools on the same residential road nowadays. Alternative Locations I am surprised that Leeds City Council are not investigating how they can remedy the problem of three schools in such proximity and looking for an alternative location for St Edwards. School Walk Becomes School Run The decision to build the three schools on the same small road was made at a time when children walked to school. Nowadays children likely to be delivered to school by car or other vehicle as part of their parents

or guardians commute to work. It is this change in the way that pupils get to and from school that makes the expansion of the schools on Westwood Way problematic for residents of Westwood Way, like myself. Westwood Way My family have lived on Westwood Way since the houses were constructed by Costain in 1971. At that time Westwood Way was a cul-de-sac with a road sign at the junction with the High Street that identified it as such. As a cul-de-sac it simply was not designed to take the amount of traffic that now use it. As a boy, I can remember watching both St Edwards and West Oaks schools being built, and the hedge that separated the residential area of Westwood Way from the school area being dug up to link the two pieces of road. I was always told that the linking of the two roads was to facilitate access for the emergency services like fire engines, ambulances, and police vehicles. The volume of traffic that now uses Westwood Way and the number of cars that are parked on Westwood Way all day have at times made it difficult for large vehicles like fire engines and ambulances to get through. Increase in Traffic An extra ten pupils a year at St Edwards would mean an extra sixty pupils after the first additional intake had finished their primary school education. Given the way that pupils get to and from school nowadays and the additional staff there could be as many as sixty extra vehicles using Westwood Way each school run period the equivalent of an additional 120 movements each school run. Vehicle Movements A couple of years ago another resident who had lived on Westwood Way since 1971 the late Graham Robinson, who was a governor at West Oaks School counted an average of 450 vehicle movements at every school run period. Since then, along with the increase in pupil numbers above their published admissions strategy means that the number of vehicle movements can only have increased. Westwood Vets The school run period also coincides with the drop off and collection times for patients at Westwood Vets. The vet is located at the junction of Westwood Way and the High Street. They do have a car park, but clients are likely to park on Westwood Way rather than have the hassle of manoeuvring a vehicle into a car park. High Street Residents Parking Several High Street residents who collectively have more cars than either their off-street parking facilities, that they do not use and the street space on the High Street can accommodate. Instead, they park their cars in the area of Westwood Way that runs from the High Street along the side of the vet's car park and the front garden of number one. Single Track Road As a result, there are many days when there are cars parked from the High Street to number 14 Westwood Way, which creates a long distance, including a left-hand bend over which Westwood Way is a single-track road. Several of the cars belonging to High Street residents stay in the same position without moving for several weeks. Pavement Parking Every school run vehicles are parked on both sides of the road, on the pavement, blocking driveways and in some cases on driveways without the residents permission. Cars have also been seen to drive along the pavement towards pedestrians rather than wait for a car travelling in the opposite direction to move out of the way. Residents' Access Leaving or returning to your home during the school run by vehicle has become extremely difficult for Westwood Way residents. Behaviour of School Run Parents Ask a school run parent not to park in a way that blocks your drive and the response is likely to be an F word filled tirade of abusive language delivered in front of their child. Ask a parent to stop their child from vandalising a front garden and the response will be similar and include being told that the child is only eight so you can't say no to them. The parents' assemblies that St Edwards has result in Westwood Way being completely blocked by parent cars. Sports days and open evenings have a similar impact on vehicle movements. Parents will park on grass verges. Attitude of Schools Report the incident to the school and despite the schools like St Edwards claiming to value their

community and respect their neighbours the response will always be the same. You will be told that events outside the school gate are nothing to do with them. When I was a school governor, as a Westwood Way resident I tried to get all three schools, Leeds City Council, the local Parish Council and the Police to work together to create a solution for improving the situation. Although Primrose Lane and St Edwards participated West Oaks refused. The two primary schools did commit to provide residents with a list of events being held at the school that might result in increased traffic. Residents asked for this so that they could plan their own visitors. Unfortunately, none of the schools have provided this information. The two primary schools also committed to investigate how walking buses might be organised. But at other meetings that I attended they dismissed the commitment, and no action has been taken. In the Public Consultation Meeting on 8th February, we heard from a parent how their car had been hit by a car driven by a member of staff from West Oaks school, The parent described the school staff member as not being bothered about the damage they had caused. In another incident an employee of one of the schools hit a car parked on Westwood Way. The car belonged to a High Street resident. The school employee told the resident that they just had not seen the large saloon car. Day Long Problem If the traffic congestion only lasted for the school run period, the situation might be manageable. But the problem continues throughout the day. Staff from the three schools are regularly parking cars for the whole length of the residential area of Westwood Way. These cars are often parked on the pavement. The non-residential area of Westwood Way is usually full of parked vehicles belonging to school staff, as is the length of Primrose Lane from Westwood Way to Church Street. This makes both Primrose Lane and Westwood Way single track roads. School Buses I have seen school buses used for school trips trapped by vehicles parked on both sides of the road creating a bottle neck that they cannot get the bus through. Staff frantically but fruitlessly knocking on residents' front doors trying to find the owner of the parked cars. The vehicle blocking the road is most likely to be owned by school staff or a client of the vets. Taxi Drivers I believe that the taxi drivers used by West Oaks School are prohibited by their contract with Leeds City Council from doing so but they regularly park in the residential area of Westwood Way, often on the pavement, valeting their cars with loud radios, and using abusive and threatening language to residents who ask them not to do so. West Oaks deny any responsibility for managing this behaviour and requesting assistance from Leeds City Council has only been met with the response that it is someone else's job. Junction with the High Street The junction of Westwood Way and the High Street is not, in my opinion as someone who uses it regularly, suitable for the volume of traffic that uses it during the school run. Traffic leaving Westwood Way cannot see traffic heading west out of the village because their visibility is blocked by the vehicles that are parked on the south side of the High Street. Vehicles belonging to High Street residents and clients of the vets parked on the east side of Westwood Way and the vehicles of parents parked on both sides of Westwood Way turn Westwood Way into a single-track road that makes exiting the High Street on to Westwood Way difficult when traffic also wants to leave Westwood Way. This causes congestion on the High Street. Health and Safety Risk Most residents believe that the volume and disorganised nature of the traffic combined with the number of pedestrians creates an unacceptable health and safety risk that could result in a road traffic accident outside their front door which could include a serious injury to a child. This is because they see multiple vehicles jostling for position and weaving between parked cars often driving on the wrong side of the road or on the pavement, coupled with excited children on scooters, (a mode of transport that St Edwards

	<p>encourages their pupils to use with financial incentives) on a road that was not built to accommodate that amount of traffic or people. Box Tree Court When the Council proposed the redevelopment of Primrose Hill and the construction of Box Tree Court Westwood Way residents expressed concerns about the increase in traffic that the new development would create both during construction and once it was opened. These concerns were dismissed by the Council as being unfounded, yet now residents are receiving emails from their ward councillors acknowledging that the traffic situation is much worse as a result of the development of Box Tree Court. The construction phase created a lot of congestion with cars driving on the pavement. My own driveway became a refuge for frustrated school run parents who could not cope with the extremely aggressive driving. Now that Box Tree Court is open residents have noticed staff parking all day on Westwood Way and the associated side road, causing blockages that have prevented refuse vehicles and other delivery vehicles gaining access. When the bistro at Box Tree Court opens residents expect the traffic and parking issues to get worse. It is important that Westwood Way is clear 24 hours a day to ensure that emergency vehicles have unobstructed access to Box Tree Court. Legitimate Use Every user of Westwood Way, clients of the vets, the High Street residents, and the parents delivering children to the primary schools, as well as residents all have a legitimate reason their use of Westwood Way. But when that use is combined at the same time Westwood Way becomes log jammed, and the health and safety risks are increased. Expanding St. Edwards will increase the number of vehicle movements and make the situation worse for every user. The Council should not take any further action on the expansion of St Edwards until it has created a proper plan for how it will manage the traffic on Westwood Way.</p>		
15	<p>I would like to object against the proposal regarding extra school places. My points are below: There are 3 schools on Westwood Way and no consideration has been taken regarding parking. I live on Woodlea and on many occasions we have not had our bins collected as they are unable to access our road due to the cars parked. What happens if anyone on Westwood way, Woodlea or surrounding streets (including the new residential property) require an Ambulance or Fire engine, they would not be able to get down. We have actually had people blocking our drive so we have had to wait, and on a few occasions arguments with the parents. We have also had people park on our drive! this is just disrespectful, we have CCTV and see them and I wouldn't mind its different cars! we have written to the schools on more than one occasion regarding this, but nothing changes. I'm sure you can appreciate this all needs to be taken into consideration.</p>	formal objection	n/a
16	<p>I have no problem educationally with the proposal to expand the number of places. However, you will be aware that there are three schools in Westwood Way. This leads to traffic chaos each morning and afternoon. Ignoring the advice of the Education Authority that driving to the school should be avoided, Westwood Way becomes dangerous not just for vehicles but also for children. I live in the extension of Westwood Way leading to the recently opened Housing21 apartments. This has always been used as a convenient turning area for vehicles. Cars seem to regard driveways to the three houses as public spaces on which to turn or they drive into Bar Tree Court to turn. Deliveries to The Bay Tree building can be presented and occasionally it is impossible for residents to get in or out of this narrow piece of road. I have no confidence that this use as turning space (and parking area for school staff) can be halted, but it would be helpful to have one side of the road yellow lined. Anything which discourages this practice of traffic use for short journeys would be welcome.</p>	Neither but wish to comment	n/a

17	Any further expansion of school places in Boston Spa, should increase the provision of secular education and be welcoming to all local residents. There should be no more increase in the provision of exclusive and divisive faith based education. There are two main reasons for this:- a) If schools are open to all local residents then less car journeys are needed and children get a healthy start to the day by walking, scooting or cycling; b) Secular schools encourage diverse, tolerant communities and broad minded individuals. 3 out of 4 of the Boston Spa / Thorp Arch Schools are Church Schools. Best wishes,	formal objection	n/a
18	I object to the above on the grounds that the local roads are too narrow and the locale is too residential at school in and out times.	formal objection	n/a
19	Objection to the Expansion of St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Boston Spa. I would like to strongly object to the expansion of St Edwards Catholic Primary School in Boston Spa, for a number of reasons. 1) Since the predicted number of admissions for primary schools in Boston Spa are less than the overall places available in the village, it is unnecessary to spend money, time and resources expanding the school. 2) Based on this prediction from Leeds City Council in 2020 sufficiency assessment, there is no need for additional primary school places in Boston Spa. 3) Whilst the predicted admission numbers have increased over the last year, probably due to the new house build in the area, it is still very unlikely that there will be a need for more than 120 primary school places, as birth rates across the UK are still dropping. 4) The issue of bring in children from local village to fill the spaces looks a distinct risk.	formal objection	n/a
20	It's not necessary to expand the school based on predicted admissions. Therefore a waste of money, time and resources. If additional primary school places are needed the money and resources should be spent on expanding a school that will take local children first, to encourage walking, cycling and scooting to school and discourage more car journeys. We are concerned about the impact of increased traffic on child safety, both from crossing the roads and also the increase in car pollution. There is already a problem with "idling". More traffic means increased air pollution. It will make it even more difficult for local residents to move safely in and out of their drives.	formal objection	n/a
21	I would like to register my objection to plans to expand St Edwards School. The area is very well served with schools. I believe we have six. Many children travel in to Boston Spa to be educated so it is not just to serve the local community. I don't believe extra provision is required at the moment and even if it does become the case in the future surely local children should be given priority for places. I am very concerned about pollution levels in the village, as it stands, without increasing this with more parents driving to schools to pick up, leaving their cars idling in our streets, smoking next to their cars while they wait for their children and drinking take away coffees etc. I spend part of every day removing the litter from outside our schools and so do others. The mess is substantial on a daily basis. Parking is a huge issue in many of our streets, especially at school drop off and pick up times. Surely we should be working towards calming traffic in this community and so making it a safer place for our children and indeed every one of us that need to move around the village. We should also be looking towards reducing levels of air and land pollution. Expanding schools further in this community is taking us in the wrong direction. I would be interested to hear your views on this topic.	formal objection	n/a
22	I am writing re the proposed expansion of St Edward's Primary School. I object to this expansion because the admission criteria for the school favours people based on their faith. Local students would be trumped by students travelling along way, resulting in more traffic in the area, more pollution and potentially more dangerous roads.	formal objection	66

23	<p>Re the proposed expansion of St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Boston Spa. This expansion should not go ahead. The traffic in this area of Boston Spa at the drop off and pick up points of the day is horrendous for the residents of the local roads around the school and also for people visiting for legitimate reasons. There are three schools in this locality and the utter disregard parents have when dropping or collecting children has to be seen to be believed. People living in the area struggle to access their own properties and I have actually seen roads and drives blocked by inconsiderate parking. And when it's hard to park they just park on the pavements! Parking on pavements for me is very difficult as I used a wheel chair with both my late mother and my late sister, I now have a disabled husband. Such inconsiderate parking is not unusual and should not have to be tolerated. I guess the schools expansion will not be able to prevent this situation becoming worse. I have attached photos of this parking for your perusal. This is not a new problem but residents should not be expected to contend with yet more families vying for parking. It is also most likely that additional children using a catholic school will come from a greater catchment area increasing the likelihood of travelling to school by car. Should there be a Requirement for more school places in the locality this should be provided within the local county primary where there is a greater chance of these children walking or cycling to school. Any likelihood of children being brought to school by car should be discouraged by making parking as difficult as possible and ensuring that children live sufficiently close to the school to walk.</p>	formal objection	n/a
24	<p>I would like to are known my objections to the proposed expansion at St Edwards Catholic Primary School Boston Spa. While the proposal for an increase in the Reception class of 10, this will mean, over the next few years, an overall increase of fifty percent in the size of the school. This, in turn, will considerably exacerbate the serious problems that already exist with regard to traffic and parking in the area. There are already 3 schools in close proximity on Westwood Way. Many parents bring and collect their children by car causing considerable congestion. Westwood Way, Whitham Close and other nearby roads are frequently rendered inaccessible by cars being parked on both sides of these roads. On occasion it has meant that refuse collection had to be missed as the lorries have not been able to access the road. Road cleaning is impossible. In addition there is constant parking on the pavements making it impossible to walk with a pushchair or wheelchair forcing these onto the road to pass. My own drive has been blocked on a number of occasions making it impossible for me to drive my car out of my garage when needed. Parking on double yellow lines at the road corners is common. In colder weather waiting cars are almost always running their engines, adding to the pollution in the areas. I am also concerned for the safety of the children as well as pedestrians and road users at key times now. This issues will only worsen if the proposed expansion goes ahead.</p>	formal objection	n/a

25	I would like to register my objection to the expansion of St Edwards Primary School, for the following reasons: 1. The level of traffic up and down Westwood Way, especially on school days is inappropriate for a residential area. Parents regularly speed and we have had 3 incidents of parents damaging our parked cars through careless driving. 2. There are already two other schools which also cause congestion. 3. There is a veterinary practice which is also a very busy business which cause traffic congestion in the streets in a residential area, with both customer and staff parking not limited to the premises. 4. Parking for residents is extremely difficult and parents delivering children park on the pavements and yellow lines on Westwood Way and the High Street. 5. There is now Box Tree Court which again adds to congestion. 6. All this is adding to the pollution of the area, I often observe parents in cars with their engines running. In fact we as residential and rate payers feel that our standard of living and peace has been severely affected by these developments and our needs constantly ignored by Leeds City Council. One suggestion would be to make Westwood Way and the High Street resident only parking, as in York. Parking could be provided at various car parks located around the village ie St Mary's Church etc.	formal objection	n/a
26	We are writing to voice our strong objection to the proposal to increase places offered in Reception at St Edwards Catholic Primary School, Westwood Way, Boston Spa from 20 to 30 from September 2022. Our objections are as follows:- 1) There are currently 3 schools with main entrances on Westwood Way – St Edwards, Primrose Lane Primary and West Oaks SNE – all of whose start and finish times overlap. As a result, the motor vehicle congestion at drop-off and pick-up times already renders the areas of Westwood Way and Whitham Close virtual no-go areas, and makes crossing of the roads for those parents and children walking to and from school, many with push chairs or prams, dangerous because of poor sight lines. 2) Because of the congestion, on a number of occasions, refuse collection vehicles have been unable to access our street, Whitham Close, and have lefty the bins unemptied. Any increase in school numbers would exacerbate the situation. 3) Again, because of the congestion, in the event of an emergency, it is highly unlikely that larger vehicles such as fire engines would be able to access the 11 properties on Whitham Close at drop-off or pick-up time. This situation could only become worse in the event of an increase in school numbers. 4) The new Housing 21 development on Westwood Way has put further pressure on parking possibilities in the Westwood Way and Whitham Close areas. 5) From our point of view, it would only be acceptable to accept any increase in numbers if the parents of those children were local and willing and able to walk their children to school. We suggest that Planning Officers attend during drop-off and pick-up times to see the problems for themselves.	formal objection	n/a

*It was possible to complete the online survey to respond to the public consultation anonymously, therefore we have matched responses where possible but cannot be sure that those marked n/a did not make a response without entering their name.

Appendix C: Response 1 attachment

Westwood Way traffic action plan for 2021 -2022

Priority : To have residents only parking on Westwood Way from the High Street up to Box Tree Court							
Success criteria: Residents only parking on Westwood Way, The Orchard, Woodlea, Whitham Close and Box Tree court							
Objective	Actions	Timescale	Persons	Impact of actions	Resource	Monitoring	Status
To gauge residents opinion on residents only parking	Residents survey	12 – 19 April 2021	██████████	95% of residents have indicated the need for residents only parking	Time	Individual interviews with residents ██████████	Survey done
To learn of the parking problems across Westwood Way	Individual interviews with residents from Westwood Way, the Orchard, Woodlea, Whitham Close and Box Tree Court	7 June 2021	██████████ ██████████	Feedback from Westwood Way residents petition for residents only parking document collated	Time	Individual interviews with residents ██████████	Issues noted
To have residents only parking	LCC to liaise with PCC to implement residents only parking	6 August 2021 -6 February 2022	██████████	Traffic can flow freely and safely along Westwood Way at all times as per Neighbourhood Plan CPA 1	Time and money	Monthly written feedback from ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	
Evaluation:							

Westwood Way traffic action plan for 2021 -2022

Priority : To ensure vehicles going to the vets use client only parking and turn their engines off							
Success criteria: All drivers at the vets to park in client only car park with engines turned off							
Objective	Actions	Timescale	Persons	Impact of actions	Resource	Monitoring	Status
To ensure the vets tell their clients to use the client only car park	Discussions and emails with the vets requesting they tell clients at the time of booking to park in the car park	March 2021 onwards	████████ ██████████ ████████ ████████	Limited success so far	Time	██████████ asking drivers parked on Westwood Way to use the vets car park is very effective	Issues noted
To ensure the vets tell their clients to switch off their engines	The vets have displayed the LCC banner and clients are respecting this	March 2021	The vets	Very successful, cars in client car park engines switched off	LCC Banner	██████████ daily walk past	Done
Evaluation:							

Westwood Way traffic action plan for 2021 -2022

Priority : To establish and maintain a speed limit of 20mph for all drivers at all times							
Success criteria: To reduce speed of all drivers to 20 mph as captured from data of speed guns							
Objective	Actions	Timescale	Persons	Impact of actions	Resource	Monitoring	Status
To do traffic survey of Westwood Way	Survey of traffic from 7.30 – 9.00am	17 May 2021	██████████	80% drivers seemed over 20mph, 20% seemed over 40mph	Time	Further traffic survey September 2021 ██████████	Done
To identify speeding drivers and re-educate them	Speed gun to be used to determine precise speeds of drivers on Westwood Way	tba	██████████	To reduce speed in line with Neighbourhood plan page 42, also TMA 1, TMA 2 page 44	Time Speed gun	Data from the speed gun	
Evaluation:							

Westwood Way traffic action plan for 2021 -2022

Priority : To develop a parents parking drop off zone adjacent to St John's School							
Success criteria: Parents use parking drop off zone alleviating chronic parking problems on Westwood Way							
Objective	Actions	Timescale	Persons	Impact of actions	Resource	Monitoring	Status
To ascertain feasibility of a parking zone near St John's School	Meetings with St Edwards and St John's head teachers and LCC to discuss potential parents parking drop off zone	July 2021 to start meetings January 2022 to trial	██████████ ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	The provision of a parents drop off zone as per Neighbourhood Plan TMA 3 page 44	Time and space for drop off zone	Feedback from parents to schools Feedback from residents to ██████████	Issues noted
To improve pedestrian safety outside St Edwards school	Residents only parking Establish 20mph zone Investigate having a zebra crossing near the Primrose Lane end of Westwood Way on the route of the proposed parents drop off zone	Mar 2022 Jan 2022 Sept 2021 to start meetings January 2022 to be completed	██████████ ██████████ ██████████	No parents parking Reduce car speed Provides a safe crossing point for St Edwards pupils and carers	Time/ cost Speed gun Time and money	Feedback from parents to schools	
Evaluation:							

Potential Drop-Off Zone



Learning Places Sufficiency Assessment

19/00664/FU | Demolition of existing buildings, conversion of Borlocco House to 10 apartments and erection of 73 dwellings
18 May 2020



Leeds City Council use established pupil product ratios (PPRs) to estimate the number of children likely to be yielded from new housing development in Leeds. The PPRs are 25 primary aged children and 10 secondary aged children per 100 family dwellings (2+ bedroom units). This projected yield is aligned with current population data, including birth and Census data, and our latest school place projections for Reception and Year 7 to produce an assessment of need and whether expansion of existing schools or a new school may be required to meet the additional housing generated demand.

Based on the PPRs stated above we would estimate this proposed development (78 2+ bedroom units) would yield approximately:

Total Primary School Pupils: 20

Primary School Pupils per school year group: 3

Total Secondary School Pupils: 8

Secondary School Pupils per school year group: 2

There are 5 primary schools located within the Boston Spa Primary School Planning Area (PPA), providing a combined total of 120 Reception class places close by to the proposed development. The nearest secondary school(s) are *Boston Spa Academy* and *Wetherby High School* which together provide a total of 400 Year 7 places.

The table on the next page provides details of the total number of nearest children and available reception places for the primary schools in the Boston Spa PPA. The number of nearest children is lower than the number of places available in future years, indicating that there are sufficient places across primary schools in the area for all children. However, cohorts do tend to grow from birth in this area and primary schools in Boston Spa have been full at allocation in reception in some recent years. It is, therefore likely that additional primary school places may be needed in the area at some point to meet the additional need generated by new housing.

Options may exist within the surrounding area to expand local schools on a temporary or permanent basis in order to meet additional housing generated demand, however, understanding which schools have potential to expand requires a detailed feasibility study to be carried out, and this would only take place once a proposed solution is being taken forward.

Therefore only a high level summary of proposed solutions can be discussed at the planning application stage. All options would need to be fully assessed in order to ascertain the best approach to be taken should planning approval be granted.

Boston Spa Primary Planning Area	Admission Limit	Cohort Data (Number of nearest children by year starting school)		
		2021	2022	2023
Totals	120	91	106	80

The nearest secondary schools to the development have had some surplus capacity in year 7 in recent years and secondary projections for this area indicate that there are sufficient places available to absorb the small amount of additional demand this proposed development would generate.

Finally, it should be noted that the demographic landscape is constantly changing and, as most housing developments take a number of years to complete or even start, our projection data may become out of date by the time this proposed development is constructed. Therefore, although the planning of school places needs to be planned ahead of the need arising, it is essential that actual construction start dates and build rates are known in order to more accurately assess the impact of housing generated demand on the availability of school places at that time.

Appendix F

Executive Board report: Outcome of consultation to permanently increase learning places at St Edward's Catholic Primary School from September 2022.

Below are points 3.6 and 3.7 of the report that was discussed at Executive Board on June 23rd 2021. These sections summarise the responses received during the public consultation.

3.6 A summary of the views expressed by the survey respondents who supported the proposal is listed below;

- The most frequent comment made, by 30 respondents, was that an expansion at St Edwards Catholic Primary School is needed in order to address the rising demand for primary school places in the Boston Spa area. Some respondents linked the increased need to housing developments in the area and some mentioned that increasing places available would encourage young families to move into the area which would be of benefit to the village.
- 9 respondents commented positively about the teaching and pastoral support that is available at St Edwards and how this could be extended to more children through the expansion. Comments made by the respondents included; that the school is rated outstanding; has strong leadership; has dedicated staff and; provides an excellent quality of education.
- 8 respondents felt that teaching and learning at St Edwards would benefit as a result of an expansion as it will bring in more funding for staff and resources.
- 11 comments mentioned that an expansion could have benefits to the school in terms of improvements to facilities (e.g an additional classroom).
- 11 respondents felt that increasing the number of places would benefit the school in allowing a move to single aged teaching. Respondents felt that this would benefit the children and would reduce the size of classes in the upper end of school where some mixed classes have been above 30.
- 2 respondents commented that increasing places at St Edwards would enable the majority of parents to walk their children to school rather than drive.

3.7 A summary of concerns raised by respondents and responses to those concerns is given below;

Concern about potential negative impact on traffic and highways: 33 respondents raised concerns around increased traffic, inconsiderate parking, road safety issues, highways infrastructure being unable to cope and concern over possible increase in levels of air pollution as a result of increased traffic. Comments received expressed concern that there would be increased traffic on roads around the school which would exacerbate existing issues, some also suggested that a better alternative would be to build a new school or relocate St Edwards to reduce traffic on Westwood Way. A number of comments around inconsiderate parking also suggested that a drop off point should be created for parents/carers from all local schools to be able to use to drop children off safely and one respondent requested that the School Streets initiative, which restricts

access to roads outside primary schools at opening and closing times, be considered for Westwood Way.

Response: If the proposed expansion were to progress a full traffic assessment and a transport statement, based on the results of surveys commissioned for this project, would be produced to support the development of the scheme and fulfil any associated planning requirements that may arise. This would include an assessment of current highways issues and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. Specifically these would look at concerns raised by residents and parents, such as parking around the school and safe walking routes. Leeds City Council encourages sustainable travel and although it is expected that the majority of children would walk to school any planning application required would need to demonstrate how any issues resulting from an increase in traffic could be mitigated. An updated school Travel Plan would also be required which would encourage sustainable modes of travel for pupils. Leeds City Council's 'Travelwise Team' would support school to identify measures that could be incorporated into the travel plan that ensured safe routes to and from school and promote walking, cycling and scooting. The school already promotes walking, cycling and scooting to school and runs a "Walk on Wednesdays" initiative, those children who take part for each half-term get entered into a prize draw for a £5 reward voucher. St Edwards has recently had some improvements made which created a number of additional on-site parking spaces. The school feel that the number of parking spaces will be adequate to accommodate all staff, including catering staff and any visitors' cars in the car park following the expansion. As part of any expansion process we would always review the number of parking spaces available to ensure that this was sufficient for all staff.

Recent census information shows that the majority of children who attend St Edwards Catholic Primary School live within Boston Spa and that 54 percent of pupils walk or cycle to school. Some families also make use of the nearby Church Fields car park and walk to school from there. Any future development would continue to support these trends and promote sustainable methods of travel.

The School Street Initiative would not be appropriate on Westwood Way as it is a 'through route' carrying traffic from the High Street in the direction of Clifford.

The increase in pupil numbers would happen gradually over several years so the full impact of increased numbers of pupils would not take place suddenly. Although there will be an increase in the admission limit of 10 places per year group for Reception to year 6 it should be noted that the school already has more than 20 pupils on roll in most year groups and the overall number of children on roll at last census was 169, meaning the net gain in the school population will actually be closer to 40 pupils than 70.

Concern that expanding St Edwards would provide places for Catholic children living outside the village and not help with the local sufficiency issue: 18 comments received expressed concern that extra places at St Edwards will bring in more children from outside the village as Catholic children are prioritised in the Admissions Policy ahead of those living locally, 2 went on

to question whether the potential use of Section 106 (S106) monies to help support the costs of the expansion would be within the terms of the S106 agreement.

Response: The majority of pupils attending St Edwards live within the Boston Spa area. The school offered an additional 10 places in Reception in 2020, offering a total of 30 places. 18 places were offered to Catholic families based on faith criteria and the other 12 places were offered to non-Catholic families based on distance. All of the children allocated a place at the school had listed the school as a preference. St Edward's is popular with both Catholic and non-Catholic families in the area and so is anticipated to continue to serve a local need.

Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), agreements and planning obligations can be entered into to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal. S106 agreements can be made between local authorities and developers and attached to planning permission outlining conditions which must be fulfilled to make the development acceptable in planning terms. The Church Fields development in Boston Spa is subject to a S106 agreement and the contribution which is index-linked currently stands at £522,033.38 to be "used by the Council as a contribution towards the capital costs of provision of and /or improvements to facilities at primary schools in Boston Spa the need for which directly arises from the Development." At school census in October 2020 there were a number of children living on the Church Fields development who were on roll at St Edwards Catholic Primary School. Along with basic need funding some of the Section 106 contributions could be used to part fund the expansion at St Edward's. The precise funding package would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR).

Concern that places are being created in the wrong school: 20 respondents suggested that St Marys C of E school should be the school to expand instead, with some respondents noting that the school had recently been through a Managing Staffing Reductions process and an expansion there would have a positive impact on the school's budget, staffing and organisation. There was a suggestion that the expansion and investment of capital funding into St Mary's would help the school to address some building and condition related issues along with a suggestion that some of S106 monies should be used at St Mary's. Some respondents expressed concern over expanding a faith school which admits on faith criteria and suggested that places are needed in a school that does not prioritise admission based on faith criteria.

Response: 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/carers.

There are 5 schools across the Boston Spa primary planning area. Bramham Primary School has already been expanded from 20 to 30 places, Primrose Lane Primary School already has a PAN of 30 and cannot be expanded further due to site constraints, and Lady Elizabeth Hastings Church of England Primary

School is also on a constrained site that could not support expansion. St Marys C of E Primary and St Edwards Catholic Primary are both faith schools with a PAN of 20 and there is potential to expand to 30 on these sites. It is possible that we will need to expand both schools to 30 in future years dependent upon general growth and further housing coming forward in the area and at present an additional 10 places is anticipated to be sufficient to meet anticipated demand. St Edwards having already undergone recent changes to add a sixth classroom and additional car parking facilities would be a simpler and more affordable expansion scheme to undertake.

Although St Edwards prioritises places based on faith criteria, it is a school that is preferred by both Catholic and non-Catholic families. The school offered an additional 10 places in Reception in 2020, a total of 30 places, and of these 12 places were offered to non-Catholic families based on distance. The additional places at St Edwards which is popular with local families is anticipated to meet the need for places across the area.

The LA recognises that St Mary's has had a number of issues partly arising from a challenging budget position and has worked with the school to address these. The authority will continue to support the school going forward and will work with the Governing body should further places be needed in the future. In relation to the use of the S106 monies, a feasibility study has been commissioned to look at some potential areas for improvement to the building/site and in principle use of some of the S106 monies will be considered to pay for any works identified and agreed.

Concern that there is no need for additional places in the area: 3 comments received expressed doubt over the need for additional places in Boston Spa.

Response: Data on births, cohort sizes and allocation patterns are reviewed on a regular basis to look for any changes and identify any emerging need for additional places. In recent years we have needed to offer additional places above the schools admission numbers at some schools, for September 2020 St Edwards offered 10 additional places. Current demographic data on the under 5s living in this area indicates that there will be a continuing demand for places alongside demand from new housing developments. There are a number of housing sites with planning permission in the area which will add to the level of demand for places in Boston Spa.

Concern about potential negative impact on teaching and learning: 4 comments expressed concerns that the standards of education and teaching might be compromised were the school to increase in size.

Response: Were the school to expand, additional teaching and support staff would be required over the period that it would take for all year groups to increase in size to 30 places. The head teacher and governing body are committed to maintaining the current high standards. The head teacher and governing body are confident that the proposed expansion would not have a negative impact on pupils and anticipate that with an increase in pupil numbers the school would be more effective at meeting pupils' needs as it would enable

them to move to single aged teaching across the whole school rather than having mixed age classes as is currently necessary in key stage 2.

Schools are funded based on the number of pupils they have on roll. The increase in the number of pupils would attract an increase in funding for the school which would allow the school to enhance their curriculum offer and also enable them to employ more support staff to better support children's individual learning needs and increase the effectiveness of teaching.

Concern over whether there is enough physical space at the school to accommodate the increase in pupils: 3 comments received expressed concern that there is limited space within school to accommodate further pupils.

Response: If the proposal is approved then building work would be required to provide an extra classroom at the school. The additional space provided would be in line with the recommendations, set out in the Building Bulletin 103 guidance, for a 1FE school. We would work with school to schedule when the building work takes place to minimise disruption.

Concern that the school has not had a recent Ofsted inspection: 1 comment received expressed concern that Ofsted has not visited the school since 2011.

Response: St Edward's Catholic Primary School is a popular, oversubscribed school which has an 'outstanding' Ofsted rating. Learning Improvement colleagues within Leeds City Council have indicated that pupils achieve highly across all statutory year groups and significantly above national levels, and that both leadership in school and staffing are stable.

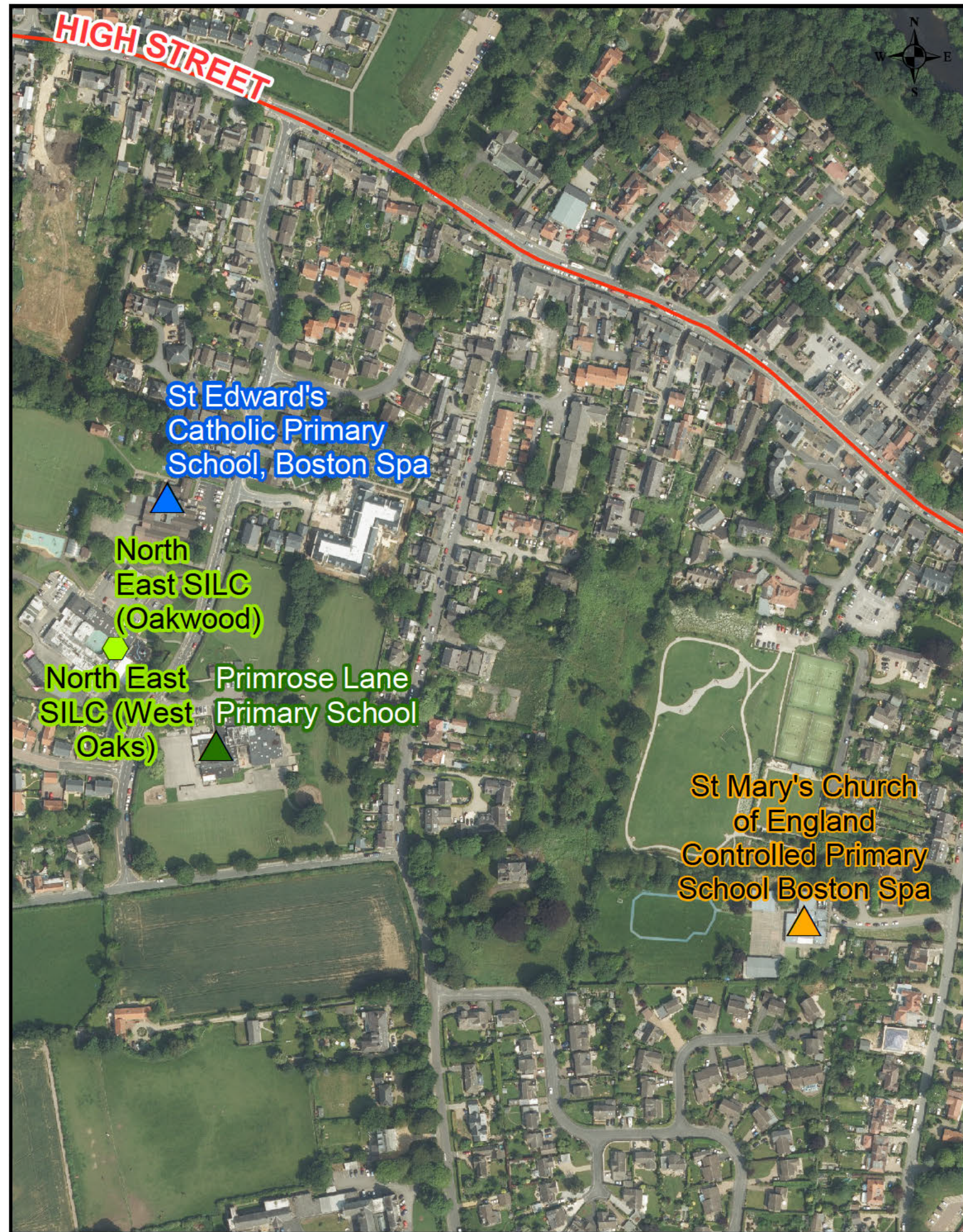
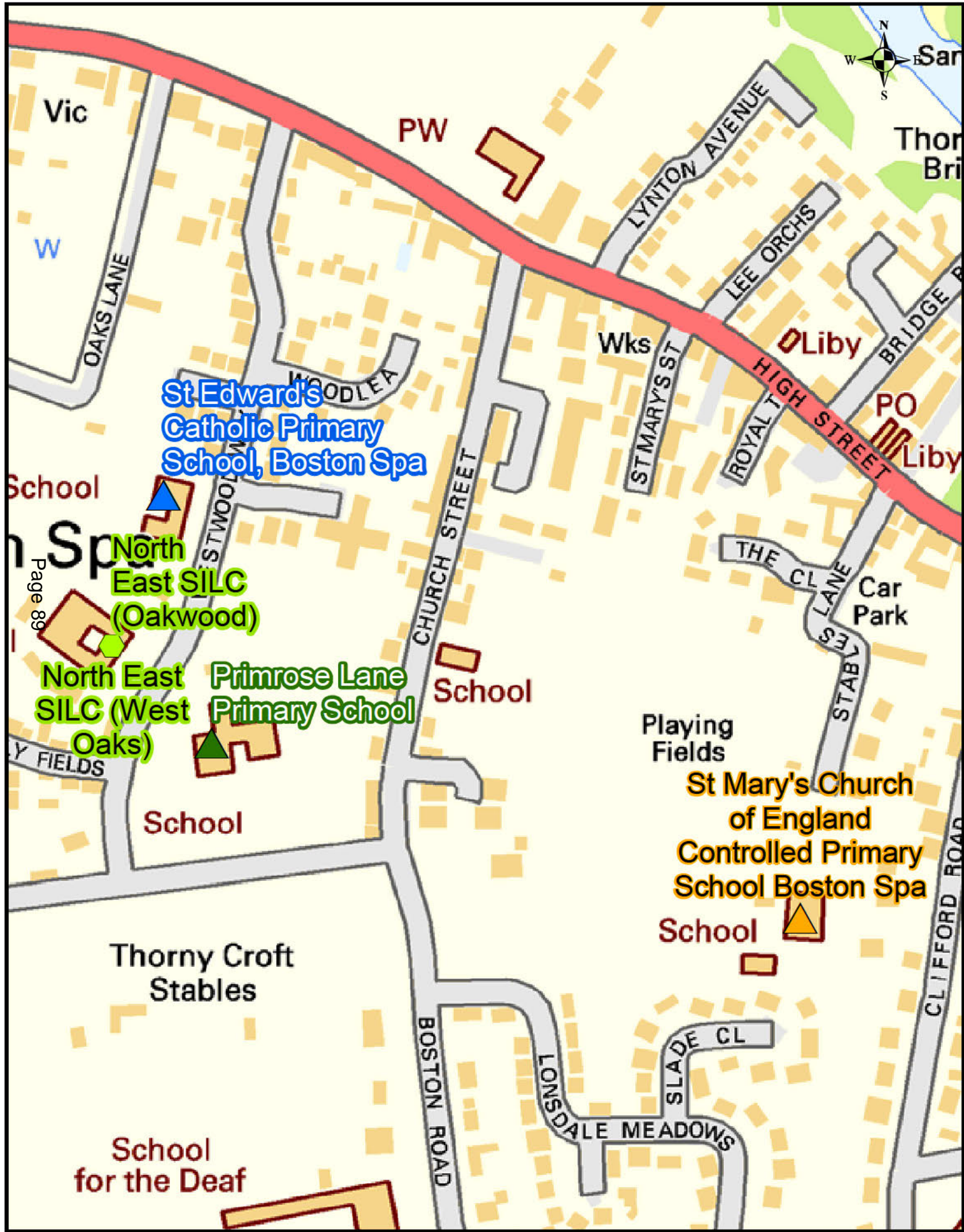
Concern that there is an alleged conflict of interest: 5 comments received expressed concern that the chair of governors has other business interests that pose a conflict of interest with relation to the expansion of the school, namely that his company is seeking planning permission for a housing development in Boston Spa and that the Chair of Governors did not fully declare this business interest in his Governor profile.

Response: The local authority reviews data on births, cohort sizes and allocation patterns on a regular basis to look for any changes and identify any emerging need for additional places. The local authority independently identified a need for school places in this area and went on to discuss this need with the local schools before deciding on a proposal to put forward to expand St Edwards Catholic Primary School.

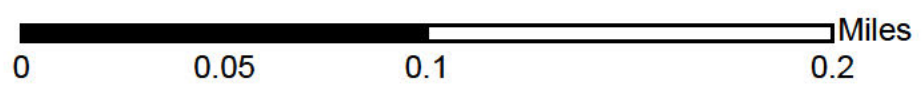
The Chair of Governors previously set out in the introductory section of his governor profile what his other interests were, however, this has recently been amended to make it more clear in the declaration of interests section what business interests he has. The Chair of Governors has had no input into the decision making process other than as part of the Governing Body which voted unanimously to support the council's expansion proposal. The proposal is and always was being made by the council, and not the school, and so the council

is of the view that there is no conflict of interest to answer. The decision on whether or not to expand the school will be made by Executive Board.

Appendix G. School provision on Westwood Way, Boston Spa



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Tackling the long-term impacts of Covid-19 on children and families – Draft Inquiry Report

Date: 8th September 2021

Report of: Head of Democratic Services

Report to: Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- The former Children and Families Scrutiny Board had used its final meeting in March 2021 to begin exploring what the potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be on children and their families and what further actions the council can actively take, along with key partners, to begin mitigating these impacts.
- It was proposed that a report summarising the Board's views and proposed recommendations arising from its March discussion, but also reflecting any developments and issues raised since March, be considered and formally approved by the Board in July 2021. However, as the Board's meeting in July was held as a remote consultative meeting, Members were unable to formally approve its draft report, but were still invited to share any initial views on draft inquiry report prior to it coming back to the next formal public meeting for approval.
- The Board's draft inquiry report is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration and formal approval during today's meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider and agree the Board's report following its recent inquiry into tackling the long-term impacts of Covid-19 on children and families.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

1. During the Scrutiny Board's consultative meeting on 9th June 2021, it was noted that as well as monitoring and helping to inform some of the immediate responses needed during the Covid-19 pandemic, the former Children and Families Scrutiny Board had used its final meeting in March 2021 to begin exploring what the potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be on children and their families and what further actions the council can actively take, along with key partners, to begin mitigating these impacts.
2. In anticipation of the Scrutiny Board conducting its July meeting as a formal public meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, it was proposed that a report summarising the Board's views and potential recommendations arising from its March discussion, but also reflecting any developments and issues raised since March, be considered and formally approved by the Board in July.
3. However, following confirmation by Government of the extension of national Covid-19 restrictions until at least 19th July 2021, a joint agreement was reached by all Scrutiny Board Chairs to conduct the planned Scrutiny Board meetings in July as remote consultative meetings.
4. While this meant that the Board's draft inquiry report could not be formally approved during its July meeting, Board Members were given the opportunity at that stage to discuss and share any initial views on the draft report prior to it coming back to the next formal public meeting of the Board for approval.
5. The Scrutiny Board's draft inquiry report is now attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration and formal approval.
6. Once approved, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

7. The Board's draft inquiry report summarises the key findings of the Scrutiny Board around specific issues that had been raised primarily during its discussion in March, such as the psychological impacts on children and young people; the impact and recovery needs surrounding lost learning, including the need to deliver a quality remote learning offer in the future; and the impact on early years.
8. During the Board's July meeting, the Chair reminded Members that the work undertaken by the Board was primarily aimed at identifying key priority areas for the Board to maintain a watching brief or to potentially undertake further detailed work in the future. Linked to this, it was noted that the Scrutiny Board had identified a number of areas where scrutiny has already played a key role and can continue to add value as part of its future work programme. This includes maintaining a key focus on recovery actions linked to education settings; tracking the implementation of the new Future In Mind Strategy; maintaining a focus on delivering the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy; and maintaining its commitment to

resume its ongoing inquiry work in tackling school exclusions, elective home education and off-rolling.

9. However, the Scrutiny Board also made a number of recommendations for the Director of Children and Families to take a lead in implementing, which are set out within the draft inquiry report.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

10. The Board's draft inquiry report details those individuals that had contributed to the Board's inquiry work.
11. The Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules state that "where a Scrutiny Board is considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised".
12. During the Board's July meeting, the relevant Director and Executive Board Members were also invited to share any initial views on the draft inquiry report prior to it being formally approved by the Board.

What are the resource implications?

13. There are no resource implications relevant to this report.

What are the legal implications?

14. This report has no specific legal implications.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

15. There are no risk management implications relevant to this report.

Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

16. The Scrutiny Board's inquiry supports the Best Council Priorities in terms of supporting families to give children the best start in life and improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.

Appendices

17. Appendix 1 – Tackling the long-term impacts of Covid-19 on children and families – Draft Inquiry Report.

Background papers

18. None.

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Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

scrutiny



Children and Families

Tackling the long-term impacts of Covid-19 on
children and families

July 2021

Draft Report



leeds.gov.uk/scrutiny



@ScrutinyLeeds



Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Scrutiny Board Membership (2021/22):

Councillor H Bithell	(Kirkstall Ward)
Councillor B Flynn	(Adel and Wharfedale Ward)
Councillor A Forsaith	(Farnley and Wortley Ward)
Councillor C Gruen	(Bramley and Stanningley Ward)
Councillor S Lay	(Otley and Yeadon)
Councillor Z Hussain	(Roundhay Ward)
Councillor J Illingworth	(Kirkstall Ward)
Councillor J Senior	(Morley South)
Councillor A Lamb	(Wetherby Ward)
Councillor E Flint	(Weetwood Ward)
Councillor A Marshall-Katung	(Little London and Woodhouse Ward)
Councillor K Renshaw	(Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward)
Councillor R Stephenson	(Harewood Ward)

Co-opted Members (Voting)

Mr E A Britten	Church Representative (Catholic)
Mr A Graham	Church Representative (Church of England)
Mrs K Blacker	Parent Governor Representative (Primary)
Ms J Ward	Parent Governor Representative (Secondary)

Co-opted Members (Non-Voting)

Ms C Foote	School Staff Representative
Ms H Bellamy	School Staff Representative

Children and Families Scrutiny Board

Focusing on services affecting the lives of children and families across the city to monitor progress towards becoming a child friendly city; putting children first and developing active citizens.

Queries in relation to this report can be directed to the Principal Scrutiny Officer supporting the inquiry:

Angela Brogden

 Angela.Brogden@leeds.gov.uk

 0113 37 88661

Further information about the work of the committee can be found here:

[Children and Families Scrutiny Board](#)

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Foreword

Foreword of the Chair

The disruption caused by the pandemic and successive lockdowns has clearly impacted on the daily lives of children and young people, resulting in lost routines and reduced social contact. However, the single biggest change for the majority of children during the pandemic has been not attending school.

The pandemic has also exposed and amplified existing inequalities facing children, meaning those already facing the worst life chances have felt the greatest burden from the virus. Since the outbreak of the pandemic, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board has regularly considered the local authority's Covid-19 response and particularly focused its attention on how the council and its partners are working collaboratively to support all children and their families, especially the most vulnerable, during this unprecedented and challenging period.

In doing so, it has been evident that consultation and engagement with a wide range of stakeholders from across the city has been critical to the success of implementing necessary alterations to working practices, the successful transmission and uptake of rapidly changing guidance and ensuring that Children and Families has been able to continue to deliver high quality services in conjunction with its partners.

The magnitude of the impact on children and young people is yet to be fully understood but will be determined by many vulnerability factors that create existing inequalities such as development age, physical health and pre-existing mental health conditions, living in poverty or in the care system.

However, as we approached the end of the 2020/21 municipal year, the Scrutiny Board began to explore what the potential longer term impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be on children and their families and to identify what actions need to be prioritised now in order to begin tackling such impacts. In doing so, we sought the views of experts and from young people themselves.

As the Chair of the Scrutiny Board I want to thank all those elected members, council officers, partners and young people who have shared their professional knowledge, insight and personal experiences to help inform the Board's views and recommendations set out within this report.

Cllr Alan Lamb
Chair, Children and Families Scrutiny Board



Summary

1. Aims of the Inquiry

Best Council Priorities:

- **Supporting families to give children the best start in life;**
- **Improving social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing.**

- To consult the views of experts on what they regard to be potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 on young people in Leeds from the perspective of their service area(s).
- To consider the views of children and young people and hear directly from representatives of the Leeds Youth Council.
- To consider what priority actions are needed to help mitigate the long-term impacts.

2. Key Findings

- 2.1 Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board has maintained a key focus on the local authority's Covid-19 response, particularly in terms of how the Council and partners are working collaboratively to support all children and their families, especially the most vulnerable, during this unprecedented and challenging period.
- 2.2 As well as monitoring and helping to inform some of the immediate responses needed during the pandemic, the Scrutiny Board agreed to use its final meeting of the 2020/21 municipal year to also consider what the potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be on children and their families and explore what further actions the council can actively take, along with key partners, to begin mitigating these impacts.
- 2.3 As attention becomes focused on longer term impacts of Covid-19, the Scrutiny Board acknowledges the potential widening of the gaps in outcomes and opportunities between vulnerable children and their peers. Covid-19 has also had a disproportionate impact on children and families from BAME backgrounds, due in part to the inequalities which already existed pre-pandemic. The longer-term implications are unknown but are predicted to be significant and as such the planning and implementation of support and resources by the council and its partners will need to take these disproportionate impacts into account.



Summary

- 2.4 This report summarises the key findings of the Scrutiny Board around specific issues that had been raised primarily during its discussion in March, such as the psychological impacts on children and young people; the impact and recovery needs surrounding lost learning, including the need to deliver a quality remote learning offer in the future; and the impact on early years.
- 2.5 In undertaking this piece of work, the Scrutiny Board was able to identify a number of areas where scrutiny has already played a key role and can continue to add value as part of its future work programme. This includes maintaining a key focus on recovery actions linked to education settings; tracking the implementation of the new Future In Mind Strategy; maintaining a focus on delivering the Leeds Child Poverty Strategy; and maintaining its commitment to resume its ongoing inquiry work in tackling school exclusions, elective home education and off-rolling.
- 2.6 However, the Scrutiny Board has also made a number of recommendations for the Director of Children and Families to take a lead in implementing, which are set out within this report.

Purpose of the Board's Recommendations

- Identifying pupils' learning gaps and new starting points and exploring how best to respond to that as part of the curriculum planning and delivery.
- Promoting uptake and maximising the use of Pupil Wellbeing Surveys.
- Helping children to become proficient readers, access the curriculum and read independently.
- Identifying and supporting pupils with special educational needs and those who are vulnerable due to their context.
- Encouraging alternative opportunities for those pupils who missed out on key events and celebrations due to the pandemic.
- Engaging scrutiny in the ongoing work aimed at identifying appropriate actions to support the Early Years sector and local children.
- Engaging scrutiny in the ongoing review of early help and prevention resources and programmes.



Summary

3. Recommendations

Recommendations to the Director of Children and Families

Recovering from lost learning	Work with senior leaders, subject leaders and teachers to identify pupils' learning gaps and new starting points, and how they can best respond to that in their curriculum planning and delivery.
Maximising the use of Pupil Wellbeing Surveys	Actively promote the uptake of Pupil Wellbeing Surveys in schools and ensure that the directorate is considering the outcomes of the survey and refining its offer to schools to respond to them.
Reading to learn	Work with schools to ensure that pupils receive good quality phonics teaching enabling them to become proficient readers, access the curriculum and read independently.
SEND and vulnerable learners	Work with schools to identify and support pupils with special educational needs and those who are vulnerable due to their context.
Reunion opportunities	Encourage schools to explore reunion opportunities for those pupils that had missed key events and celebrations due to the pandemic.
Responding to research findings surrounding the impact on Early Years.	Actively engage with Scrutiny as part of the directorate's review of the findings of ongoing national and local research projects on the impact on the early years' market and workforce with the aim of identifying appropriate actions to support the sector and local children.
Review of Early Help and Prevention.	Actively engage with Scrutiny as part of the ongoing review of early help and prevention resources and programmes.



Part One

4. Inquiry Approach

- 4.1 The Children and Families Scrutiny Board agreed to use its final meeting of the 2020/21 municipal year to consider what the potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be on children and their families and explore what actions the council can actively take, along with key partners, to begin mitigating these impacts.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny Board's meeting took place on 3rd March 2021 and was held remotely due to national Covid-19 restrictions being in place. However, the use of remote technology had enabled the Board to engage with a wide ranging and significant number of contributors in this single session. The meeting was also webcast live to enable public access. Both the meeting papers and the webcast recording are accessible on the council's website ([Link to meeting papers and webcast](#)).

Inquiry Structure

Contributors were asked to consider the following:

- What they regard to be potential long-term impacts of Covid-19 on young people in Leeds from the perspective of their service area(s) or own experience?
- How they would prioritise actions to help mitigate such impacts?

Contributors to the Inquiry

- 4.3 The organisations represented during the Scrutiny Board's meeting on 3rd March 2021 are listed below. A full list of individual contributors can be found at Appendix 1.

Leeds City Council
Children and Families Directorate
Public Health
Leeds Youth Service

Partners

NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group

Councillors (Non-Board Members)

Cllr Jonathan Pryor (Executive Member)
Cllr Fiona Venner (Executive Member)



Part Two

5. Examining The Evidence

Capturing the views of children and young people

- 5.1 When Leeds first set out its vision to be a child friendly city, the Council listened to the ideas of thousands of young people of all different ages in terms of what would make Leeds a better city for them to play, live and grow up in. From this consultation, the '12 Wishes' were formed, which underpin the entire Child Friendly Leeds approach.
- 5.2 One of the original '12 Wishes' expressed by local young people refers to a child friendly Leeds being a place where '*children and young people express their views, feel heard and are actively involved in decisions that affect their lives*'.
- 5.3 During 2018/19, the Children and Families Scrutiny Board undertook an inquiry which aimed to take stock of the overall progress made since the launch of the Child Friendly Leeds initiative and ask the question 'Is Leeds a child friendly city?' As part of its inquiry work, the Scrutiny Board ensured that young people's views were being captured and particularly valued the role played by the council's Voice, Influence and Change (VIC) team in assisting to facilitate such engagement work with young people.
- 5.4 The Scrutiny Board therefore welcomed the assistance of the VIC team again during its meeting on 3rd March 2021 as representatives of the Leeds Youth Council, aged between 13 and 17 years of age, were invited to share with the Board their own views and experiences, as well as those of their peers and classmates linked to the broader work being undertaken by the Leeds Youth Council. Such insights have helped to inform the Scrutiny Board's conclusions and recommendations set out within this report.
- 5.5 The Board also acknowledged that since the beginning of the pandemic and the closure of schools, there has been a growing conversation on 'pupil wellbeing' in Leeds that has led to collaborative work between a number of Children and Families' Services, including the Health and Wellbeing Service and Educational Psychologists, to develop a dedicated set of wellbeing surveys.
- 5.6 The pupil survey findings are posted on the School Wellbeing Website each half term (www.schoolwellbeing.co.uk). However, the headline data arising from the latest

"As a city we have focused over the years on listening to the voice of children and young people and acting on what they tell us.....this is central to everything we do."

Director of Children and Families, Leeds City Council



Part Two

developed Early Years Survey; Parents and Carers Survey; and Pupils Wellbeing Survey was presented to the Scrutiny Board as part of the report from the Director of Children and Families.

- 5.7 In terms of identifying priority actions going forward, the Board fully supported the need to continue to listen to the voice of children and young people about their wellbeing and to ensure that there are effective mechanisms for leadership teams to be kept aware of emerging issues.
- 5.8 It was also noted that while the council's Health and Wellbeing Team has capacity to collate results every 6 weeks, they are not trained data analysts or qualified statisticians and therefore Members supported the need for further dedicated and skilled capacity to be identified in order to effectively and regularly analyse survey responses and report appropriately.
- 5.9 The Board acknowledged that while young people are resilient, it remains too early to tell the real extent of the impact of the pandemic on young people so recognised the importance of the Council and its partners to be guided in their response by what the data is telling them, alongside school knowledge and experience of their pupils.

The value of adopting a 'Think Family Work Family' approach

- 5.10 The Scrutiny Board acknowledged that potential changes to family dynamics, including additional pressures placed on parents and carers, will inevitably impact on the child. Members therefore recognised the value of adopting a 'Think Family Work Family' approach in terms of working with whole families to help reduce any associated negative impacts on children.
- 5.11 Linked to this, particular reference was made to the vital role played by the Early Help Hubs, which are multi-disciplinary teams based across three localities in the city; West, East and South Leeds. These teams consist of early help practitioners, Police and specialist coordinators in substance misuse, domestic violence and mental health.
- 5.12 While the work of Early Help coordinators are commissioned through Adult Services, Members welcomed their commitment towards ensuring that a whole family approach is applied to the families with whom they work, which means ensuring that the needs of the children are also being met.
- 5.13 Members learned that since the beginning of the pandemic, mental health coordinators within the Early Help Hubs have seen a high rise in anxiety across the board, but for those shielding this has brought added pressures particularly in relation to isolation, the pressures of home schooling and worries about contracting the virus.



Part Two

- 5.14 Issues surrounding digital exclusion and poverty were also highlighted as common themes picked up by the work of the coordinators, which had been further compounded by the pandemic as some individuals have lacked confidence in accessing online services, particularly if English is a second language, and so are choosing to wait until the end of lockdown before they access the appropriate services. This could therefore compound waiting lists and lead to delays in mental health needs being supported early.
- 5.15 Members welcomed the approach of the Early Help Hubs in prioritising the identification of initiatives which can help mitigate such impacts on workloads and waiting lists. It was also acknowledged that good partnership working has come about during the pandemic by the need to support the needs of families and that such work is continually developing. The Board also expressed an interest surrounding the ongoing review work being undertaken around early help and prevention resources and programmes.

Psychological impacts on children and young people

- 5.16 While the direct health impact of COVID-19 on children and young people is relatively low, the Scrutiny Board acknowledged the significant indirect impacts on social and emotional mental health, particularly evidenced by rising referrals to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and bereavement services.
- 5.17 It was reported that a poll conducted for Barnardo's by YouGov and published on 30th June 2020 had reported a rise in issues related to mental health and wellbeing for at least one in three of the participating 4,000 children and young people. Over two-thirds said that not seeing their friends was one of the hardest things about lockdown. Emerging evidence (Anna Freud National Centre for Children & Families Report - December 2020) also indicated that young people with eating disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) have reported a worsening of symptoms.
- 5.18 The Board noted that the National Youth Agency (NYA) also published a report "Out of Sight: Vulnerable young people: COVID-19 Response"¹ that detailed how young people's existing needs increased or were caused by the restrictions placed on them due to Covid-19. As a result, calls to help lines had significantly increased, with services reporting that mental health of young people has deteriorated due to school closures and not being able to access mental health support. The report also suggested that over a million young people were at risk from one or more of the "toxic trio" - addiction, mental health and domestic abuse.

¹ [Out of Sight? Vulnerable Young People: Covid-19 Response. National Youth Agency. April 2020.](#)



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- 5.19 Board Members were informed that the experience in Leeds had also mirrored these concerns, with youth workers hearing from young people that social distancing, which had led to their growing sense of isolation, had compounded and increased the issues they were facing.
- 5.20 The Board had welcomed the efforts of the Leeds Youth Service in working to find alternative ways to engage with young people and bring them together during the pandemic period and while young people had valued these opportunities, the preferred approach is still to have face-to-face contact.
- 5.21 The Leeds Youth Service had also been delivering a number of programmes through a range of youth work activities, including street-based youth work, with an increased presence of youth work teams in the communities of greatest need. Outdoor educational activity days were also being targeted at the most vulnerable children and young people to reduce the risk of placement and family breakdown during this challenging time. It was noted that the feedback from young people and staff has been really positive in terms of learning new skills, improving confidence and communication and teamwork. As such, the Board was pleased to learn that as the service continues to move into the recovery phase, it aims to expand this offer to other groups of vulnerable young people.
- 5.22 In November 2020, the Scrutiny Board had focused its attention on the work being undertaken to refresh the Leeds Future In Mind Strategy. In doing so, the Board supported the key priority outcomes proposed for the new strategy and praised the ongoing partnership approach, particularly with the third sector and other key services such as the Youth Service. Linked to this, the Board also gave a commitment to continue monitoring the implementation of the new Strategy, especially as the main focus will continue to be around support measures to address the psychological impacts of Covid-19 on children and young people.
- 5.23 The Board noted that issues around mental health and wellbeing has intersected all engagement work undertaken by the UK Youth Parliament throughout the pandemic period and has been the focus of its campaign work in recognition that it has had a hugely detrimental effect on many young people.
- 5.24 During its meeting in March 2021, the Scrutiny Board also heard directly from the Leeds Youth Council representatives who highlighted that the mental health of young people during periods of school closure and readjustment as schools reopen was identified as a key issue, as stress associated with adapting to new ways of working and reduced social contact with peers have amplified some of the problems young people were already facing. To address this, the Youth Council representatives felt that peer group sessions with pupils of a similar age and facilitated by teachers would be of great benefit as it would allow young people to discuss their experiences and concerns in a safe space.



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"I understand there is a normal level of exam stress that I would get to about this point, but I do believe that it would be significantly lower without Covid."

Leeds Youth Council Representative

5.25 It was acknowledged that students have also been increasingly concerned about the lack of certainty and clarity over how they will be assessed this academic year. Regardless of how assessment is implemented, students are reporting feeling anxious about how fair the process will be.

5.26 In January 2020, the Scrutiny Board had considered the national guidance surrounding statutory pupil assessments, having already relayed its own concerns in writing to the Secretary of State for Education and Ofqual. In maintaining these concerns, the Board had identified 4 key considerations to achieve fairness in the assessment approach and these were shared with the Children and Families Directorate to help inform a response to the DfE/Ofqual public consultation on how GCSE, AS and A level grades should be awarded.

5.27 It was highlighted that young people had also felt that they had missed out on key experiences and milestones in their adolescence due to school closures, such as school leaver celebrations and work experience, as well as more regular social activities such as after school clubs.

5.28 Young people have also reported feeling a lack of closure on the last academic year – for example not having the chance to say a proper goodbye to school friends and staff before they transitioned to college.

"Having to leave high school without that closure, without that real goodbye is definitely something I've struggled with and I know a lot of my friends have as well...it is just difficult to move on to a new chapter of your life when you haven't really said goodbye and got closure on the last chapter."

Leeds Youth Council Representative

5.29 In recognition of the lack of usual rituals and support during periods of transition and the difficulties this has caused young people moving on to other educational settings, the Scrutiny Board supported the suggestion put forward by the Youth Council representatives for schools to work with previous pupils to look at opportunities to rearrange those lost events and celebrations.



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Delivering a quality remote learning offer in the future

5.30 All schools are legally required to have a remote education offer, with details shared on their website. However, remote education is not the same as on-line education. It is a broad term encompassing any learning that happens outside of the classroom, with the teacher not present in the same location as the pupils. Working through worksheets, reading practical textbooks and undertaking physical activity are all examples of remote education, as well as the live streaming of lessons or accessing pre-recorded on-line lessons. Although it is possible to receive a remote education without a digital device or internet access, the Scrutiny Board felt that the pandemic emergency had very much highlighted the added benefits and clear need for both.

5.31 While it was reported that there had been mixed experiences in terms of the remote learning provisions for schools and colleges in Leeds during the pandemic, the Scrutiny Board was also informed of a number of positive long-term aspects of home learning that have been identified by both pupils and teachers generally, such as the availability of online material to support revision and also in supporting and encouraging school refusers back into full time learning on-site.

"One of the positives from the pandemic is how remote learning has allowed for lessons to be recorded so that you can go back to them later. If that was to be continued then a lot of students would welcome that because it has been very helpful."

Leeds Youth Council Representative

5.32 The Scrutiny Board therefore emphasised the importance of ensuring that a quality remote learning offer is achieved across the city to continue maximising these positive benefits, but also in terms of being fully prepared should similar emergency incidents occur in the future.

5.33 Linked to this, Members were informed of the various government schemes to supply laptops and internet access to those pupils who do have them. However, it was noted that there are still many children in Leeds who do not have regular access to a digital device which is not a mobile phone. To help fill this gap, information was shared about the local schemes and initiatives also working hard to fill the gap by asking for donations and repurposing old equipment to give to families in need. The latest data reported from a survey of schools in Leeds found that 2045 pupils in 80 primary schools do not have a device and 757 do not have access to the internet; Of 16 secondary schools responding to the survey, 1690 pupils do not have a digital device and 262 have no internet access.



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The impact and recovery needs surrounding lost learning

- 5.34 The Department for Education (DfE) commissioned the Education Policy Institute (EPI) and Renaissance Learning to undertake research to examine the extent of learning loss experienced by primary and secondary school pupils in England during the 2020 autumn term as a result of the covid-19 pandemic. The DfE had published the first report from this ongoing research project on 24th February 2021². The timeliness of this report meant that some of the key interim findings from this research were able to be shared with the Scrutiny Board during its meeting on 3rd March 2021.
- 5.35 In particular, it was reported to the Scrutiny Board that this research - which had been based on more than 400,000 assessments from the current academic year - found that by the first half of the 2020 autumn term, pupils had experienced a learning loss of up to two months in reading (in primary and secondary schools), and up to three months in maths (in primary schools). There also appeared to be some regional disparities in the level of learning loss in reading, with pupils in the North East and in Yorkshire and the Humber seeing the greatest losses.
- 5.36 This research also found that, at secondary school level, learning losses in schools that have a high proportion of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds were around 50% higher than those schools with very few pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds (2.2 months in schools with high rates of free school meal eligibility and 1.5 months in schools with low rates of free school meal eligibility).
- 5.37 The Scrutiny Board was informed that before the pandemic crisis, disadvantaged children were already 18 months behind their wealthier peers in their learning by the time they finished their GCSEs. It was therefore acknowledged that while the full impact of school closures on children's outcomes is not yet fully known, such closures are likely to have worsened the disadvantage gap.
- 5.38 To address this moving forward, the Scrutiny Board learned that the approach in Leeds is to consider quality rather than quantity. At secondary level, training will be focusing on supporting teachers to identify specific gaps in learning, to reteach content and to address misconceptions. The Learning Improvement service will also work with teachers to develop subject expertise and to reshape the curriculum so that there is a focus on the key concepts pupils need to understand in order to progress. At primary, there is an unremitting focus on early reading as this is the gateway to further learning and will aid catch up and independent work.

² [Understanding progress in the 2020/21 academic year. Interim findings. January 2021. Renaissance Learning, Education Policy Institute.](#)



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- 5.39 In addition to this, Members were pleased to learn that the Library Service is also working with the Children and Families Directorate to promote the Summer Reading Challenge and that there is also a planned research project in place with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to address the vocabulary gap at transition from primary to secondary schooling.
- 5.40 The Board also considered the broader efforts aimed at assisting pupils to catch up on lost learning that were linked to the government's own catch up programme. In relation to the 2020-21 school year, it was noted that the government's catch up fund was made up of two parts. The first part was £80 for each pupil from Reception to Year 11 inclusive in mainstream school and £240 for pupils in specialist settings. Schools were tasked to use their funding on evidence-based interventions based on their pupils' needs and also optional summer schools over the summer for secondary-aged pupils most in need of support. The Board was informed that a number of schools in Leeds had used this money to buy additional digital devices for pupils.
- 5.41 The second part of the fund relates to the National Tutoring Programme, which provides additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help. This part has two pillars of support. The first pillar is a system whereby participating schools will be able to access subsidised tutoring from an approved list of tuition partners. To aid the success of this approach, Board Members recognised the importance of ensuring that good practice is embedded in terms of teaching staff working closely with the tutors from the tutoring programme in considering the specific needs of their pupils. The second pillar is where trained graduates will be employed by schools in the most disadvantaged areas as academic mentors to provide intensive catch-up support to pupils, allowing teachers in these schools to focus on their classrooms.
- 5.42 With regard to the option of summer schools, the Board emphasised the importance of ensuring that any plans to arrange extracurricular activities should be based more on outdoor and fun activities as opposed to just holding additional lessons as this would help encourage take-up and also help to promote emotional wellbeing and self-esteem. While the Youth Council representatives agreed in terms of the approach, they also felt that more pupils would be interested if such events were planned after school once or twice a week rather than through the summer.
- "Everything has felt like school at the moment and so giving up summer to focus on, not school but more school-based activities, wouldn't be that successful. After school would be a lot more helpful and more people would attend I think."*
- Leeds Youth Council Representative*
- 5.43 As part of the next step in the government's plans to boost education recovery, the Department for Education had announced on 2nd June 2021 that a further £1.4 billion was



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also being invested, including £1 billion to support up to 6 million, 15-hour tutoring courses for disadvantaged school children, as well as an expansion of the 16-19 tuition fund, targeting key subjects such as Maths and English. £400 million will help give early years practitioners and 500,000 school teachers across the country training and support, and schools and colleges will be funded to give some year 13 students the option to repeat their final year. While this brings the total investment to over £3 billion, the Scrutiny Board also acknowledged the view expressed by the then Education Recovery Commissioner that more will still be needed to meet the scale of the challenge.

- 5.44 Moving forward, the government had also set out its intention to undertake a review of time spent in school and college and the impact this could have on helping children and young people to catch up. The findings of this review are to be set out later in the year to inform the spending review and will therefore remain on the radar of the Scrutiny Board.
- 5.45 The Board also acknowledged that over the course of the pandemic, there has been a significant rise in the number of Electively Home Educated (EHE) children and young people and that some of those families who had opted for EHE may not return to mainstream schooling. Members were assured that the EHE team continues to implement usual practice and protocols despite this increased volume including safeguarding calls / garden visits to parents, check-ins with social care and review of suitability of education plans as well as annual check-ins focused on year 11 and post-16 pathways. It was also noted that the Scrutiny Board would be able to consider this matter in greater detail as part of its separate ongoing inquiry into Exclusions, EHE and Off-rolling.

The impact on early years

- 5.46 The Scrutiny Board was informed that some of the psychological impacts for very young children are currently unknown in terms of brain development and socialisation in the context of Covid-19. These children have been social distancing for much or all of their lives and have therefore had limited opportunities to socialise with peers, family members or the wider community.
- 5.47 The Board therefore acknowledged that the developmental impact of social isolation and parental stress on infants and toddlers is an area that will require attention moving forward, highlighting the importance of providing additional support to Early Years providers.
- 5.48 Linked to this, it was noted that a number of national research projects are underway to assess the impact of the pandemic specifically on the early years' market and workforce. A team from the universities of Leeds and Bristol have also been awarded funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and Leeds City Council aims to engage with these and review any findings to identify appropriate actions to support the sector and our children.



Appendix 1

Appendix 1: Contributors

The following individuals contributed to the Scrutiny Board's meeting on 3rd March 2021

Attendee	Organisation
Councillor Jonathan Pryor	Executive Member for Learning, Skills and Employment
Councillor Fiona Venner	Executive Member for Children, Families and Adult Social Care
Saleem Tariq	LCC, Director of Children and Families
Julie Longworth	LCC, Deputy Director of Children and Families
Tim Pouncey	LCC, Chief Officer Strategy and Resources
Val Waite	LCC, Head of Service (Learning Inclusion)
Dave Clark	LCC, Head of Service (Learning Improvement)
Karen Jessup	LCC, Principal Educational Psychologist
Steven Ruse	LCC, Sustainable Schools Consultant
Erica Hiorns	LCC, Senior Secondary Improvement Advisor
Dr Jane Mischenko	NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, Strategic Lead Commissioner for Children and Maternity.
Janice Burberry	LCC, Head of Public Health
Kathryn Ingold	LCC, Chief Officer / Consultant in Public Health
Lyndsey Mortimer	LCC, Service Delivery Manager, Families First
Victoria Fuggles	LCC, Youth Offer Lead
Richard Cracknell	LCC, Area Voice and Influence, Coordinator
Charlotte; Alannah; Attia; Ciara and Amelie	Representatives of the Leeds Youth Council

Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Tackling the long term impacts of Covid-19 on children and families

July 2021

Report author: Angela Brogden

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