

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 9th May 2013

Subject: Part A: Basic Need Programme 2014 – Outcome of consultation on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2014



Part B: Basic Need Programme 2015 – Permission to consult on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in 2015

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Ardsley and Robin Hood, Bramley, Calverley and Farsley, Guiseley and Rawdon, Morley North, Morley South, Kippax and Methley, Pudsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds City Council has a statutory duty to ensure the sufficiency of school places. The Basic Need programme represents the Council's response to the demographic pressures in primary school provision. Through this programme it has approved over 900 new reception places since 2009. The pace of the programme is accelerating and papers will continue to be brought to Executive Board to increase provision across the city. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 proposals to expand school provision constitute prescribed alterations requiring a statutory consultation process.
2. In February 2013 the Executive Board gave permission to consult on a further five statutory proposals to create additional reception places for September 2014 and a further proposal to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School. Part A of this report presents the outcome of statutory consultation on these proposals and seeks permission to publish statutory notices.
3. Part B of this report seeks permission to consult on proposals for expanding primary provision in September 2015. The first step in the process is a public consultation,

which would run from 3 June 2013 to 12 July 2013. This report asks for permission to begin this consultation.

4. These proposals form part of the ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across all of Children's Services, which includes provision for primary and secondary school places, early years, as well as specialist provision. It includes the impact of underlying demographic growth, as well as the core housing strategy. Further papers will be brought forward in 2013 to address the emerging sufficiency issues. These proposals form part of the Council's Basic Need Programme that embeds the 'one council' approach that has achieved shared ownership of proposed solutions.

Recommendations

Part A

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Allerton Bywater Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Asquith Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Morley St Francis Catholic Primary School from a capacity of 154 pupils to 210 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 22 to 30 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of East Ardsley Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Robin Hood Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School from 5 to 11 to 3 to 11.

Part B

- Give permission to consult on the expansion of Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2015;
- Give permission to consult on a linked proposal to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School from a capacity of 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raise the age range from 3 to 7 to 3 to 11 with effect from September 2015;

- Give permission to consult on a linked proposal to expand St Oswald's Church of England Junior School from a capacity of 360 pupils to 420 pupils and lower the age range from 7 to 11 to 5 to 11 with effect from September 2015.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The report is divided into two parts - Part A describes the outcome of the public consultation on the expansion of primary provision across the city for September 2014, and makes recommendations for the next steps for each of the proposals and Part B seeks permission to commence public consultation on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in the city from September 2015.

2 Background information

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 February 2013 the Executive Board considered a report requesting permission to consult on five proposals for the expansion of existing primary provision in 2014 and a proposal to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School, and approved those consultations. These proposals were brought forward as part of a range of measures to ensure the authority meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the proposals described in part A and part B of this report constitute prescribed alterations requiring a statutory process.
- 2.2 Subject to Executive Board approval, the expansion proposals for 2014 would be followed by the publication of a statutory notice before a final decision is made.
- 2.3 These proposals form part of the ongoing work to address capacity and sufficiency across all of Children's Services, which includes provision for primary and secondary school places, early years, as well as specialist provision. It includes the impact of underlying demographic growth, as well as the core housing strategy. Further papers will be brought forward in 2013 to further address the emerging sufficiency issues.

3 Main issues

Part A – Outcome of consultation on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in 2014

- 3.1 The consultation was conducted from 25 February 2013 to 29 March 2013 and from 25 February to 12 April 2013 in respect of Hollybush Primary School. This is in line with government guidance and local practice, and all ward members were consulted during the formal consultation period. A number of public meetings and drop-in sessions were held, and information was distributed widely, including through schools, early years providers and websites, post offices, libraries, doctors surgeries and area management officers. A summary of the issues raised follows and the public meeting notes and additional analyses referred to can be found at www.leeds.gov.uk or, along with the responses received, can be requested from the capacity planning and sufficiency team at educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk.
- 3.2 **Proposal one. Expansion of Allerton Bywater Primary School** from 210 to 420 places, by increasing the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014.

- 3.3 Rising demographics and house building in the area has resulted in pressure for places in the Lower Aire Valley, particularly around Allerton Bywater Primary School. The school admitted over their admission number in September 2012 and have also agreed to admit an additional reception cohort of up to 30 in September 2013 to manage the immediate need for school places. This arrangement is totally independent of the proposal for permanent expansion.
- 3.4 During the consultation phase, 9 written responses were received, 3 in favour and 6 against. The governing body and the Brigshaw Trust, of which the school are part, are fully supportive of the proposal. The following issues were raised in the responses received and in the meetings:
- 3.5 **Concern:** The physical size of the school, and the impact this would have on existing external space.
- 3.6 **Response:** A viability study has been carried out to determine whether or not the school could be expanded. This study does not set out detailed designs at this stage but is intended to provide sufficient confidence that a feasible solution exists. The study concluded that any expansion to this site could be managed within the existing school boundary. It is local and national planning policy that existing protected play space be retained or re-provided elsewhere on the site. It is anticipated that disruption whilst any building work is taking place would be minimal and could be managed with minimal impact on existing pupils.
- 3.7 **Concern:** That this expansion may not be enough to cope with the additional housing being built in the area.
- 3.8 **Response:** The viability study concluded that the physical constraints of the site and the associated impact of increased traffic limit the potential expansion of the school to 2 forms of entry. The proposal has been developed to cater for the children already living in the area, plus any housing developments that are currently under construction, including the millennium village development. At this stage, the expansion will be sufficient based on current information, however, the situation will continue to be closely monitored.
- 3.9 **Concern:** That the expansion will bring increased traffic and more cars parking on the main road outside of the school, thus risking the safety of the pupils.
- 3.10 **Response:** As part of any proposal, Children's Services works closely with the Highways department who analyse the current and potential traffic issues that an expansion of this size would create. They are then commissioned to design any traffic calming and control that may be required to support an increase in traffic to the site. Any changes to access to the school would be formalised through the planning application process. The school are also pro-active in tackling this issue, including posting articles in the school newsletter. Parking attendants also patrol the area and have been issuing tickets for illegal parking.
- 3.11 **Proposals two and three. To expand Asquith Primary School and St Francis Catholic Primary School, Morley.** Previous reports have indicated pressure in the Morley area and there are currently more under 5s living here than there are places available. Morley Newlands Primary School has been the

subject of previous consultation and statutory notice and will expand to three form entry in September 2013.

- 3.12 **Proposal two. Expansion of Asquith Primary School** from a capacity of 210 to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014.
- 3.13 The school admitted an extra 30 pupils into reception in September 2012, and have agreed to admit an additional reception cohort of 30 in September 2013. This arrangement is totally independent of the proposal for permanent expansion.
- 3.14 23 responses were received. 13 in favour, 9 against and one was neutral. The governing body are fully supportive of the proposal. The following issues were raised in the responses received and in the meetings:
- 3.15 **Concern:** That the footpath on the perimeter of the school may need to be re-routed and that it may run alongside neighbouring properties. Some respondents felt that the public right of way should be closed except for access to the school. Other local residents were concerned that public open space would be built on, affecting their properties value/views.
- 3.16 **Response:** The focus of consultation is to determine view on the expansion of the school, the creation of additional places at the school rather than the detail of the building design.
- 3.17 The detailed design work has not yet been carried out. The viability study that has been completed demonstrated that the expansion of the school is not dependent on changes to the footpath, and a number of different options to expand the school are available. A separate public consultation process would be required to re-route or close a public right of way. Local and national planning policy prohibits the development of public open space unless appropriate replacement space or measures to mitigate the loss are provided.
- 3.18 **Concern:** That the design of the existing building and the site it sits on are inappropriate for expansion, and that additional non – teaching space such as hall, kitchen, play space would be needed as well as extra classrooms.
- 3.18 **Response:** Whilst detailed design work has not yet been carried out; any expansion would meet the minimum statutory space requirements for a two form entry school. A viability study has been completed and it concluded that it is possible to expand the school on its existing site. Children’s Services would work alongside the school during the design development to ensure that needs specific to the site and the pupils and staff who use it are addressed.
- 3.19 **Concern:** That the building work would cause disruption.
- 3.20 **Response:** Council officers are experienced in expanding operational schools with minimum disruption. The safety of the children, staff, parents and local residents are paramount, and all health and safety guidelines would be followed.

- 3.21 **Concern:** That increasing the size of the school would mean the small family ethos would be lost.
- 3.22 **Response:** The school has grown since it admitted its first 12 pupils in the first year, and is now part of the community. The Head Teacher, leadership team and governing body are confident that they would be able to retain the welcoming family ethos of the school and that the school would maintain its key values regardless of the number of pupils on roll.
- 3.23 **Concern:** That the increase in the birth rate was not anticipated ten years ago and that the same situation may occur in ten years' time.
- 3.24 **Response:** The birth rate has risen over the last 10 years, from 7784 births in the academic year 2001/2 to 10350 in 2011/12. The expansion of existing schools rather than building new ones allows for more flexibility to cope with demographic change. The impact of new housing is also taken into account. The Capacity Planning team monitor new developments and work closely with the Planning Department to plan for this. The focussed Basic Need programme provides a more robust overview of demographic change, and as part of this, further proposals will be brought forward as appropriate to address any further pressure.
- 3.25 **Concern:** That expanding the school will mean an increase in the volume of traffic entering the area to drop off pupils.
- 3.26 **Response:** Potential traffic and highways issues are discussed at an early stage and throughout the design development with the Highways department, who are commissioned to design and deliver any necessary improvements to the local infrastructure. The impact of the school expansion would be considered alongside other local area pressures within the design that is approved through the planning process. Initial discussions with Highways suggest that these issues would not be a barrier to the proposal proceeding.
- 3.27 **Concern:** Morley North Children's Centre, which shares its site with Asquith Primary School have expressed concerns that the proposed expansion will cause disruption for the families who use the centre, have an impact on space for the centre in the future and that services may have to be run from alternative venues.
- 3.28 **Response:** The Council would work closely with all existing building and site users to ensure that disruption is minimised and services unaffected. There are no plans to permanently decrease the size of spaces that are currently available for Children's Centre use.
- 3.29 **Proposal three: to expand St Francis Catholic Primary School Morley** from a capacity of 154 to 210 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 22 to 30 with effect from September 2014. The expansion would better facilitate the management of classes within the school and contribute to meeting the need for increased demographics in the area. The governing body brought forward the proposal and the catholic diocese are supportive of expansion of the school. 12 written responses have been received, 6 in favour and 6 against.

- 3.30 **Concern:** One person attended the public meeting and was concerned that the expansion would result in larger class sizes in older year groups, as the new reception children could potentially bring older siblings with them.
- 3.31 **Response:** The school would increase its capacity from reception upwards and it would therefore take seven years for the school to reach its full capacity. However, it is possible that extra children could enter the higher year groups. This would be for the Head Teacher to agree and manage. In terms of infant classes, legislation currently states that classes may have a maximum of 30 children, unless exceptions are made, reception, year 1 and year 2 would not have classes of more than 30.
- 3.32 **Proposals four and five: To expand East Ardsley Primary School and Robin Hood Primary School.** Demand for places across the Ardsley/Tingley and Rothwell planning areas has been under review for some time. In Ardsley/Tingley in particular, whilst birth data indicates that there are sufficient places for children living in the planning area, the impact of new housing combined with preference data indicates that the creation of an additional 30 places across the two planning areas would provide the flexibility required to be able to manage the admissions system, offer choice and diversity to parents and prepare for the impact of planned new housing.
- 3.33 **Proposal four: To expand East Ardsley Primary School** from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014.
- 3.34 The school have agreed to admit an additional reception cohort of 15 for September 2013 to meet local demand. This arrangement is totally independent of the proposal for permanent expansion.
- 3.35 18 written responses were received, 9 in favour and 9 against. The school's governing body fully support the proposal. There has been broad support from parents and staff, particularly because the expansion to 2FE would mean that future classes would be single age, as opposed to mixed year groups, which is currently the case.
- 3.36 **Concern:** That the expansion would undermine other schools in the area, for example Thorpe Primary School, and that this would result in a lack of choice for parents.
- 3.37 **Response:** Birth data and house building in the area suggests that there will be continuing demand for places in the near future, which will ensure that other local schools are not undermined. A number of local schools were considered for expansion, including Thorpe Primary School, and viability studies carried out concluded that expansions at both East Ardsley and Robin Hood Primary Schools presented lower risks than other schools under consideration, and would also allow both of these schools to move from mixed age to single age classes.
- 3.38 A small surplus of places is also needed to allow some flexibility in the system and to ensure that families moving into the area during the school year can gain

a place at their local school. Providing more places in the East Ardsley area will increase choice for parents. Having allocated an additional 15 children to East Ardsley for September 2013 it should be noted that Thorpe has also been allocated a full reception class, and have a number of first preferences that have been refused.

- 3.39 **Concern:** That play space will be lost and that a larger hall/kitchen will be required.
- 3.40 **Response:** There is sufficient play space within the existing site to ensure that minimum standards for external space can be provided. Whilst the detailed design work has not yet been carried out, it appears likely that a relatively small extension to the existing building at most would be required; therefore ensuring minimal impact on external space. The existing hall is the required size for a 2 form entry school. The Head teacher and leadership team would determine the most appropriate arrangements for managing the school day e.g. lunch and play times.
- 3.41 **Concern:** That any building work will cause disruption.
- 3.42 **Response:** Part of the expansion would involve some internal remodelling of the existing building, which would potentially be carried out during the school holidays. Any other works would be carried out whilst ensuring all health and safety standards are met. Council officers have a wealth of experience in working around operational schools.
- 3.43 **Concern:** That the school is a PFI school, therefore the expansion would not provide value for money for the authority.
- 3.44 **Response:** The proposal has been brought forward to address the need for places in the area; and at this stage, and following viability studies carried out at other local schools, the proposal is considered to provide value for money. Experience of expanding PFI schools elsewhere in the city has shown that the capital building cost is not impacted by PFI status.
- 3.45 **Proposal five: Expansion of Robin Hood Primary School** from 315 to 420 places, by increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 from September 2014.
- 3.46 There were 78 written responses. 23 in favour of the proposal and 55 against. The governing body fully support the proposal conditional upon an appropriate building solution being identified. There has been broad support from parents and staff, particularly because the expansion to 2FE would mean that future classes would be single age, as opposed to mixed year groups, which is currently the case. Parents and staff also felt that the expansion would bring the benefits of the excellent education provision at the school, to more children, particularly those who live locally, but would not be able to gain a place should the proposal not go ahead.
- 3.47 The following issues were raised in the responses received and in the meetings:

- 3.48 **Concern:** That the expansion of the school would have a detrimental effect on other schools in the area, namely Rothwell Primary School. The Head Teacher, Governing Body and parents of Rothwell Primary School expressed concerns that they were not consulted before the proposal was put forward, and that the proposal would undermine their school. They also felt that there are already sufficient school places in the Rothwell/Robin Hood/Woodlesford area. Similar concerns were also been expressed by Thorpe Primary School. Rothwell Primary School Governing Body also expressed the wish to also be considered for expansion.
- 3.49 **Response:** It is important to note that the expansion of Robin Hood Primary School has been brought forward to ensure that there are sufficient places for those for whom the school is their nearest, and to accommodate extra children potentially generated by a new housing development next to the school. The data demonstrates that whilst there are sufficient places in the wider Rothwell area as a whole, the area is made up of distinct communities, and that in the case of Robin Hood, there are more children living near the school than there are places. The proposal seeks to provide local places for local children.
- 3.50 Preference data also indicates that very few children who have Robin Hood as their nearest choose to attend Rothwell or Thorpe primary schools and it is not anticipated that the expansion of Robin Hood would undermine those schools.
- 3.51 The consultation process is the opportunity to bring forward a proposal and seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders. This is the opportunity to discuss and debate the merits of a particular proposal. The details of the proposal being brought forward was shared with all schools in the area before the public consultation period commenced.
- 3.52 In the case of Rothwell Primary School, whilst it has available land on site on which to expand and has drop off arrangements for parents/carers, demographics indicate that it does not have a high number of children living nearest to the school.
- 3.53 Local demographics, the provision of local places for local children and the reduction in the journey to school are key drivers in determining which proposal to bring forward. Should additional place be required in a Rothwell school, these factors would be taken into account in developing a proposal. The situation in that area will continue to be monitored.
- 3.54 **Concern:** A number of respondents, both at the public meeting and in written responses have raised concerns that the current site is not big enough to accommodate an enlarged school, and that any expansion would limit the amount of play space and dining/hall facilities. Some felt that potential changes to the school day, such as staggered play and dinner times would be detrimental.
- 3.55 **Response:** A viability study has been undertaken on the site and has concluded that the site, whilst challenging, is sufficiently large to accommodate the expanded school. Additional classrooms would be provided, and although no detailed design work has yet been carried out, minimum standards will be met in terms of play and hall space. An appropriate building solution which will enable

the school to maintain its ethos is an important caveat to the governing body's support.

- 3.56 As the statutory process is separate to the design process and planning approval requires separate consultation; it is not possible to provide assurances beyond the fact that the Council will work closely with the school governing body throughout the process of design development to ensure that their needs and concerns are fully considered and addressed. Play times are currently split and this may need to continue, along with other changes to the school day, however, most larger schools in the city already operate staggered break times and assemblies and this does not cause disruption to the school day.
- 3.57 **Concern:** That the expansion would result in increased traffic on an already busy road and create additional dropping off and parking issues.
- 3.58 **Response:** It is recognised that traffic and highways issues are a challenge for this particular proposal; however, early advice received from the Highways Department has indicated that these issues would not be a barrier to the expansion of the school. The building design would be subject to a separate planning process, and Highways have been commissioned to design and deliver an appropriate response to the potential issues. It must also be noted that this proposal is designed to accommodate children living near to the school i.e. within walking distance, thus minimising any traffic impact. Measures to alleviate any increase in traffic may include a reduction in the speed limit outside the school.
- 3.59 **Concern:** That the building work will cause disruption to teaching and learning.
- 3.60 **Response:** The building project would be managed by specialist Council officers who have extensive experience in managing projects around operational schools. Every possible measure would be undertaken to ensure that the work has no detrimental impact on the education or working environment of the pupils or staff.
- 3.61 **Concern:** That the before and after school club will be too small to cater for the potential increase in parents requiring this facility.
- 3.62 **Response:** The sufficiency of nursery and before and after school provision is currently being reviewed across the city, and work is being undertaken to identify and address areas where there is pressure for such provision.
- 3.63 **Proposal six: to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School** from 5 to 11 to 3 to 11 from September 2014. Since September 2011, the school have taken responsibility for the leadership and management of the delivery of nursery education provision delivered on the school site. The provision is established as a 52 place nursery and has operated since September 2004. The proposal to lower the age range of the school would formalise these arrangements.
- 3.64 The public meeting was not well attended and one written response was received, strongly agreeing with the proposal. The respondent felt that the proposal would send out a positive message about the school and that it would

result in more joined up childcare for parents, potentially improving access to work.

Part B – Permission to consult on proposals for the expansion of primary provision in 2015

- 3.65 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 these proposals constitute prescribed alterations requiring a statutory consultation process, of which the first step is public consultation, which would run from 3 June 2013 to 12 July 2013. Depending on the issues raised, approval could be sought to proceed to the statutory notice stage in the autumn of 2013 and to a final decision in the spring of 2014.
- 3.66 **Proposal one: expansion of Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School.** Increased demographics as well as the impact of new housing means that one form of entry is required in the area from September 2015.
- 3.67 As well as an increase in the birth rate over the last four years, Pudsey schools have also historically drawn children from surrounding areas, namely Bramley, Armley and Farsley. One form of entry would provide the additional capacity required and allow some flexibility to be able to manage the admissions system, and offer choice and diversity to parents.
- 3.68 Work has been carried out to interrogate the existing school estate in the Pudsey area to determine viable options for expansion, and this work has been taken into account when bringing forward these proposals.
- 3.69 **Proposal one: to expand Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School** from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2015. The expansion of this school would provide an additional 15 places in an area of Pudsey where there is particular demand for places. The school has taken additional children into reception over the last four years.
- 3.70 Expanding the school from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry would also bring the opportunity to establish single age classes and deliver a more efficient revenue structure for the school. The governing body have also expressed their support to begin consultation.
- 3.71 **Pudsey St Joseph’s Catholic Primary School.** The Catholic Diocese have indicated the need for additional places for baptized children in the area; the governing body of St Joseph’s are therefore seeking to create an additional 10 places at the school and the governing body will be bringing forward a proposal to increase their capacity of 210 pupils to 280 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 40 with effect from September 2015. The school is an academy and the proposal is complimentary to the one to increase Primrose Hill. The proposal is included here for completeness and provides an overview of provision in the Pudsey area.
- 3.72 **Proposals two and three: linked proposals to raise the age range and expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and lower the age range and**

expand St Oswald's Church of England Junior School. Previous reports have identified a shortage of places in the Guiseley area, where birth rates are rising year on year. House building in the area has also added to the underlying demographic pressure, which has resulted in the need for an additional form of entry. A report to the December 2012 Executive Board recommended that a previous proposal to expand Tranmere Park Primary School from September 2014 was paused to allow further work to be carried out in the area. Whilst there was support from the school's governing body and some of the local community, there were also a significant number of objections to the proposal, which led to the need to explore possible alternatives for Guiseley.

- 3.73 In response to this, individual and joint meetings of the governing bodies of Guiseley Infant and Nursery School and St Oswald's Church of England Junior School have taken place. As a result, permission is sought to consult on creating two 2 form entry primary schools by raising the age range of the infant school, lowering the age range of the junior school and physically expanding both schools. These proposals must be treated as linked proposals as one cannot happen without the other.
- 3.74 **Proposal two:** expand **Guiseley Infant and Nursery School** from a capacity of 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raise the age range from 3 to 7 to 3 to 11 with effect from September 2015. The governing body of the school support the move to consultation on expansion.
- 3.75 **Proposal three:** expand **St Oswald's Church of England Junior School** from a capacity of 360 pupils to 420 pupils and lower the age range from 7 to 11 to 5 to 11 with effect from September 2015. This proposal is being brought forward by the governing body and the local authority, as in this case, only the governors can propose lowering the age range of the school. The governing body of the school support the move to consultation on expansion.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The consultation in relation to part A of the report has been managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and local practice. Ward members in all wards city wide were formally consulted at the public consultation stage, both individually, and through area committees to ensure awareness of all proposals city wide and improved understanding of the impact of proposals in neighbouring areas. Several members of Allerton Bywater Parish Council attended the public consultation meeting in respect of the Allerton Bywater proposal and provided feedback on the proposal. As far as future proposals are concerned, arrangements will be put in place to ensure that parish councils are formally notified of proposals at the start of the consultation process.
- 4.1.2 The consultation process in respect of proposals to expand primary provision in 2015 will be carried out in line with good practice and in accordance with relevant legislation. Drop in sessions will continue to be offered alongside public meetings where appropriate.

4.1.3 All respondents are routinely asked for their views on how the consultation process can be improved. The issues raised during the consultation for the 2014 proposals are summarised in Appendix 2. Following feedback from previous consultations, informal drop in sessions were held at the beginning or end of the school day in addition to the public meetings. Where possible, the consultation was also communicated through local community groups to ensure a wider knowledge of the proposals and associated meetings.

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

4.2.1 Equality Impact Screening forms have been completed in relation to part B of this report (three proposals for expansion in 2015) and are attached. Screening forms for the five proposals for expansion and the proposal to lower an age range in 2014 (part A of the report) have previously been completed and published as part of a report to the Executive Board in February 2013, therefore, they are not attached to this report.

4.3 **Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, and thus reduces the risk of non-attendance.

4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 **Part A** - The high level estimated cost of delivery of the proposals is £5.7m which will be funded through the education capital programme. Feasibility studies have been commissioned at risk for all projects and the outcomes of this are expected during early summer 2013. Early highways design work has commenced with the outcomes of this also expected during autumn 2013.

4.4.2 In addition, section 106 funding has been secured in respect of housing developments in the vicinity of several of the proposed schools. This amounts to £435,719 in Ardsley/Tingley, and £414,451 in Morley. This will contribute to the overall funding of these projects.

4.4.3 **Part B** - The high level estimated cost of delivery of the proposals excluding the expansion at Pudsey St Josephs' is £4.84m which will be funded through the education capital programme. Feasibility studies will be commissioned at risk for all projects and the outcomes of this are expected during autumn 2013. Early highways design work will commence alongside the feasibility studies with the outcomes of this expected during late autumn/winter 2013.

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

4.5.1 The changes described in the proposals constitute prescribed changes under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The consultations have been, and will be, managed in accordance with that legislation and with local practice.

4.6 **Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 A detailed risk register has been established and will be maintained for each project. It is necessary to progress feasibility design work at risk during the public consultation stage; however the decision to proceed to detailed design stages will be dependent on approval to progress to the latter stages of the statutory process. Therefore any delay to the statutory process will increase the risk of delayed delivery of the building solution or financial risk of abortive design fees being incurred.
- 4.6.2 The risk of objections through the planning process will be mitigated by engaging in early and detailed discussions with colleagues in City Development. These have commenced for proposals within Part A.
- 4.6.3 In recognition of the concerns raised during the public consultation stage, highways design work has commenced at risk such that an agreed solution can be submitted as part of the planning application for each school.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 **Part A:** The issues raised in consultation have been considered, and on balance, the proposals for the expansion of five primary schools, and the proposal to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School from September 2014 remain strong ones, which address sufficiency needs in their immediate areas. The issues raised regarding the detailed design have been noted and commented upon in the report and would be addressed further should the proposals be progressed at detailed stage through the planning process.
- 5.2 Whilst concerns were raised during the consultation phase, in particular in relation to the expansion of Robin Hood Primary School regarding the potential impact upon schools in the Rothwell area, the proposal was brought forward to manage increased demand for local places for local children at a popular and outstanding school and it is still felt to be a strong proposal. .
- 5.3 There has been broad support during the public consultation for all of the proposals, and although there are a number of challenges presented by each, it is believed that these can be addressed.
- 5.4 **Part B:** The proposals for increasing primary provision in 2015 form part of the authority's ongoing planning to meet the need for school places. This work involves other council directorates to ensure holistic planning and best use of corporate assets.

6 Recommendations

Part A

- 6.1 Executive Board is asked to:
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Allerton Bywater Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;

- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Asquith Primary School from a capacity of 210 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 30 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Morley St Francis Catholic Primary School from a capacity of 154 pupils to 210 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 22 to 30 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of East Ardsley Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice for the expansion of Robin Hood Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2014;
- Approve the publication of a statutory notice to lower the age range of Hollybush Primary School from 5 to 11 to 3 to 11.

Part B

- Give permission to consult on the expansion of Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2015;
- Give permission to consult on a linked proposal to expand Guiseley Infant and Nursery School from a capacity of 270 pupils to 420 pupils and raise the age range from 3 to 7 to 3 to 11 with effect from September 2015;
- Give permission to consult on a linked proposal to expand St Oswald's Church of England Junior School from a capacity of 360 pupils to 420 pupils and lower the age range from 7 to 11 to 5 to 11 with effect from September 2015.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 There are no background documents to this report.

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