

Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to Executive Board

Date: 9 March 2016

Subject: Outcome of statutory notice on proposals to expand primary provision in Pudsey/Swinnow



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s) 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

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

Consultation on a proposal to expand Greenside (Community) Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils by increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017 took place from 14 September to 9 October 2015. At its meeting on 18 November 2015 Executive Board gave permission for the local authority, as proposer to publish a statutory notice in respect of the proposals. The statutory notice period commenced on 14 December 2015 and concluded on 11 January 2016, and provided the opportunity for respondents to make representations regarding the proposals. A final decision must be made within two months of expiry of the notice, therefore by 11 March 2016. This report gives details about the representations received and seeks a final decision from Executive Board.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve changes to Greenside Primary School by increasing its capacity from 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report contains details of proposals brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. This report describes the outcome of a statutory notice regarding proposals to expand primary school provision at Greenside and seeks a final decision on these proposals.

2 Background information

- 2.1 At its meeting in November 2015 Executive Board considered the outcome of consultation on the proposal to expand Greenside Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017.
- 2.2 Executive Board gave permission to publish a statutory notice on this proposal, which was brought forward under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. The notice was published on 14 December 2015 and expired on 11 January 2016. A final decision must be made within 2 months of the expiry of the notice, therefore by 11 March 2016. Executive Board is the decision maker for these proposals.
- 2.3 The statutory notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 14 December 2015 and it was displayed at each entrance to the school and on notice boards at the school. The full proposal was posted on the school website and on the Leeds City Council website. Awareness of the publication of the statutory notice was raised by the school through an email to parents and via the school newsletter. Stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or email.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 During the consultation period there were 43 written responses received and three responses submitted via Talking Point. In total there were 36 responses in support of the proposal and 10 responses objecting to it.
- 3.2 All of the concerns raised during the consultation were addressed in the report to Executive Board in November 2015.
- 3.3 During the statutory notice period one representation was received. The respondent did not object to the proposals, however did raise concerns about traffic and parking issues in the vicinity of the school. The respondent made a series of suggestions as to how existing parking pressures and potential increases in the volume of traffic and number of parked cars near to the school caused by an expansion could be addressed. These comments have been passed on to the highways team and will be considered as part of the Transport Statement if the proposal were to be granted final approval.
- 3.4 To ensure the school has sufficient classroom space it is proposed that the roof void within the main school building will be utilised. Children's Services technical advisors, Norfolk Property Services Leeds have reviewed the proposal and acknowledged that the work is feasible.

- 3.5 This proposal has been brought forward to meet the projected demand for primary school places across the Pudsey/Swinnow area from September 2017 onwards. The additional places are required in the area to ensure sufficient primary school places are available for local children.
- 3.6 The governing body continues to support the expansion and engage well with the Local Authority regarding the process of planning the additional accommodation which would be required. No other information has emerged to suggest that the proposal should not proceed.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation was managed in accordance with all relevant legislation and local good practice. The notice was published in the Yorkshire Evening Post on 14 December 2015 and copies were placed at all of the school entrances. The full proposal was placed on the school and Leeds City Council's websites.
- 4.1.2 Stakeholders had the opportunity to make comments in writing, by letter or by email.
- 4.1.3 Local ward members were formally consulted during the public consultation stage and were offered the opportunity to comment at statutory notice phase. Ward members continue to give their support to the proposals.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI screening forms has been completed and was attached as an Appendix to the original Executive Board report of 18 November 2015. The EDCI form is also attached as an appendix to this report.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The proposals are being brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places for all the children in Leeds. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, and thus reduces the risk of non-attendance.
- 4.3.2 The proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to be the Best Council and the Best City in which to grow up; a Children Friendly City. The delivery of pupil places through the Basic Need Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a Child Friendly City, by creating good quality local places. A good quality school place contributes to the achievement of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to 'improve behaviour, attendance and achievement'. It is therefore important that when bringing any proposal forward, there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on the teaching and learning in the school. Greenside Primary School was rated 'Good' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection.
- 4.3.3 Further objectives of the Best Council Plan 2015-2020 are 'Supporting communities and tackling poverty and 'Become a more efficient and enterprising

council'. Choice and diversity for parents and families is promoted by responding to the needs of communities, by delivering additional school places in the areas where families need them. Meeting these expectations while demonstrating the five values underpinning all we do is key to the basic need programme.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 It is not possible at this stage to quantify an indicative budget for the proposed Greenside Primary School expansion project because of the uncertainties described above. A previous estimate of £2.5m gave an early indication of the indicative cost to expand the school by 0.5FE, given the particular constraints of this site. Once the feasibility stage is complete and the scheme moves towards the detailed design phase, the budget will be realigned to reflect the design freeze or pre-tender estimate which will take account of site investigations and survey information.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

4.5.2 This report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The statutory time limit for a final decision on the proposal detailed in this report is 11 March 2016. The proposals to increase primary provision in Pudsey/Swinnor have been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2017. Any significant change to the proposals at this stage would preclude the delivery of places for 2017, and the authority's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may also be at risk.

4.6.2 A detailed risk register would be established and would be maintained for the project, if approved. It is necessary to progress feasibility design work at risk during the statutory notice phase; however the decision to proceed to detailed design stages would not commence until a final decision has been made. Any delay to the statutory process would increase the risk of delayed delivery of the building solution or financial risk of abortive fees being incurred.

4.6.3 There is a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Our ambition is to be the best city in the country. As a vibrant and successful city we will attract new families to Leeds, and making sure that we have enough school places for the children is one of our top priorities. These proposals have been brought forward to meet that need, and following the appropriate

consultation we now seek to move them to the next stage. They would ensure that children in Leeds would have the best possible start to their learning, and so deliver our vision of a child friendly city.

5.2 The proposal to expand Greenside Primary School is a strong one. It would provide additional school places for local children in the Pudsey/Swinnow area. No objections were raised at the statutory notice stage and the concerns raised at the consultation stage were addressed in the report to Executive Board in November 2015.

5.3 It is therefore recommended that the proposals be approved.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the expansion of Greenside Primary School from a capacity of 315 pupils to 420 pupils, increasing the admission number from 45 to 60 with effect from September 2017.
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

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