

**Report of Director of Children and Families Service**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 27 June 2018**

**Subject: Outcome of consultation to increase learning places at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School**



Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Roundhay Moortown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. 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.
2. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority.
3. In October and November 2017 Leeds City Council consulted on a proposal to establish a through-school by joining together Allerton Grange School and Moor Allerton Hall Primary School (PS). The proposed through-school included increasing the number of primary places from its current 60 per year to 120 places per year. The consultation ended on 29 November 2017 and the outcomes were reported to Leeds City Council's Executive Board on 7 February 2018. During that consultation some parents were concerned about safeguarding issues related to primary-aged pupils sharing a site with older children, there were concerns that a 4 form entry (120 pupils) primary phase would not be a child-friendly environment and that there would be a detrimental impact on pupils accessing the Deaf and Hearing Impaired resource at Moor Allerton Hall PS. Concerns were also raised that an expansion to 120 pupils per

year group would negatively impact on traffic related issues in the local area. There were also a number of concerns raised about the potential negative impact on standards and the improvement journey for both schools, if a through-school were to be established. Some people suggested that the expansion of an existing school would be preferable to establishing a through-school in this area.

4. In response to concerns raised during that consultation, and following visits to Moor Allerton Hall PS to listen to the children, governors, and senior leadership team, it was determined by Executive Board that a further round of consultation be undertaken. This was in order to gain the views of stakeholders on a proposal to expand Moor Allerton Hall PS as a stand-alone three form entry (FE) school prior to any decisions being made.
5. A consultation on a proposal to expand Moor Allerton Hall PS from 2FE to 3FE was held from 23 March to 4 May 2018. A total of 135 consultation responses were received of which 71 either strongly or somewhat supported the proposals - 53% compared with 21% support for the previous proposal to expand the school as part of a through-school. Further details about the responses and issues identified by stakeholders is in the main body of this report.
6. This report summarises the consultation responses and seeks approval from Executive Board on the recommendations below.

## **Recommendations**

Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand primary provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019;
- Note that the previous proposals to form a through-school by joining together Moor Allerton Hall Primary School with Allerton Grange School and to expand primary provision as part of that through-school are not to be taken forward;
- Approve the recommendation to exempt the decision from call-in for the reasons set out at 4.5.2; and
- 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 a sufficiency of school places, which support the achievement of the Best Council priority to improve educational achievement and close achievement gaps. This report describes the outcome of the consultation regarding proposals to permanently expand primary school provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School (PS) from 2FE to 3FE and seeks permission to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of these proposals.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Since 2012 several schools within the Roundhay ward and surrounding wards have either permanently expanded or have had additional accommodation added to their sites by way of temporary/bulge increases. Leeds City Council (LCC) has created an additional 630 permanent primary school places (90 places per year group) in the Roundhay area to address an ongoing demand for places. Demographic data indicates that there is an ongoing need for up to two forms (60 places) of additional permanent provision because of significant and sustained population growth within this area and localised pressure on places.
- 2.2 In 2015 The 'Fair Access Schools Trust' submitted a bid to open a free school in the Roundhay area and Leeds City Council deferred any alternative proposals whilst the project was developed. In the summer of 2017 following Government announcements about changes to the free school budget nationally the Regional Schools Commissioner asked the council to self-deliver the free school project. A lack of clarity around what 'self-delivery' meant and a major shortfall in funding for the scheme from the Education and Skills Funding Agency alongside significant planning issues made it unlikely that the Trust would be in a position to provide the required places in Roundhay for September 2018. In light of these issues the council sought an alternative solution to provide good school places within walking distance of the families who need them.
- 2.3 For these reasons, a consultation on proposals to join together Moor Allerton Hall PS with Allerton Grange School as a through-school and to expand primary school provision within the through-school took place from 12 October to 29 November 2017 to seek the views of stakeholders.
- 2.4 In response to concerns raised during that consultation, the Ofsted inspection of Allerton Grange School which happened during the consultation and following visits to Moor Allerton Hall PS to listen to the children, governors, and senior leadership team, it was determined by Executive Board that a further round of consultation be undertaken. This was in order to gain the views of stakeholders on a proposal to expand Moor Allerton Hall PS as a stand-alone three form entry school before any decisions were made.
- 2.5 On that basis a consultation on a proposal to permanently expand Moor Allerton Hall PS on its existing site from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019

was held from 23 March 2018 to 4 May 2018 to understand the views of parents, local residents and other stakeholders.

- 2.6 It should be noted that following a meeting between the Trust and the ESFA, the free school bid was withdrawn by the Trust in January 2018 due to significant planning and other issues.

### **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 One of the main issues in this area is that there are not enough places at Talbot PS for all of the children who live closest to it. A number of the other local schools are filled with siblings and their own 'nearest' children making it difficult for some families living nearest to Talbot PS to access a place either at Talbot PS or at most of the other local schools.
- 3.2 A large range of options have been explored over the years to provide the additional places needed in this area. This has included establishing permanent and/or bulge places at a number of local schools and reviewing the feasibility of further expanding schools to meet the ongoing demand for places. Site suitability, highways and location are among the considerations when assessing which schools could expand. Although Talbot PS was able to admit a bulge cohort of children in 2016 it is not possible to permanently expand it.
- 3.3 Moor Allerton Hall PS is situated within a reasonable distance of this area of pressure and would be well placed as an Admission Point to address additional demand. The Sufficiency and Participation Team has recently modelled what the impact would have been if families living nearest to Talbot PS had chosen to preference a place at Moor Allerton Hall PS as one of their preferences. Places were modelled using 2017 admissions data based on a published admission number of 90 at Moor Allerton Hall PS and it should be noted that not all of the families living nearest to Talbot PS chose to preference a place at Talbot PS. The modelling demonstrated that all of the Talbot PS 'nearest' children would have received a reasonable offer of a school place within 2 miles of their home address. If more families were to preference Moor Allerton Hall PS, fewer offers would be made to children living outside of the Moortown/Roundhay area and the sibling impact would be reduced.
- 3.4 Demographic data indicates that there is an ongoing need for up to two forms (60 places) of additional permanent provision however we also know that the way the admission criteria work impacts on the ability of parents to gain a place at a preferred school. For this reason over the next few months we will model potential options for introducing primary school catchment areas in order to determine whether it is appropriate to consider this for future Admission policy. Any such change would require consultation in accordance with the timetable in the Admissions Code. In order to implement any changes that could apply from September 2020, we would need to consult in November 2018.
- 3.5 The Headteacher and Governing Body are confident that the school can manage an expansion alongside its improvement journey. The Learning Improvement team within Leeds City Council will continue to work with Moor Allerton Hall PS

and other partners, to ensure that the progress already made by the leadership and staff at the school continues and that outcomes for children will rise further.

- 3.6 An option being considered is the potential to utilise the former New Highwood pub site. The freehold for the pub site is owned by LCC and the leasehold for the building was recently purchased. The site has been allocated to support the proposed development of Moor Allerton Hall PS and curriculum requirements necessary to expand to 3FE. Our preferred option is to relocate the Children's Centre which sits currently within the existing school building and the Community Centre which is located next to the existing school building, onto the pub site. Although agreements have not been formalised, positive conversations are ongoing with the Trustees of the Community Centre and the Children's Centre to seek their views, and we are working in partnership to deliver a proposal that meets the needs of the community.
- 3.7 Officers acknowledge that there are some local concerns relating to an increase in traffic in the area due to existing traffic issues and we would work with colleagues in Highways Services to look at ways of managing this where appropriate. If the 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 reflect and support the planning application proposals. This would include an assessment of current highways issues and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. LCC encourages sustainable travel so enhancements to or new crossing points would be considered along with the school's travel plan. A pick-up/drop-off area is also being considered which would take some of the traffic off the road and manage it within the site via dedicated parking bays.
- 3.8 During the consultation there were 135 responses received via paper form, email and on-line survey. Leaflets advertising the consultation were distributed to over 4000 local dwellings. Stakeholders were asked to comment on whether they strongly supported, somewhat supported, somewhat opposed, strongly opposed or were not sure whether they supported the proposals. 71 respondents strongly supported or somewhat supported (52.6%), 59 respondents strongly opposed or somewhat opposed (43.7%) and 5 respondents were not sure (3.7%). A total of 366 comments were made about various considerations including highways, location and sufficiency of places, site considerations and school related issues. A summary table of the comments received is attached as an appendix to this report and a summary of comments made and concerns raised is below. A copy of the anonymised responses received can be requested from the Sufficiency and Participation Team at [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk).
- 3.9 Summary of the main themes/comments from those who strongly or somewhat supported the proposal-where 5 or more comments were made against each;
- **Location/sufficiency** - Expansion will address need for places, expanding an existing school is a better option than building a new academy school / free school / through school.
  - **Site considerations** - Supports the council in attempting to provide high quality school places for children in Leeds.

- **School related** - A 3FE primary school is more conducive to a primary school ethos than the 4FE proposal, the expansion will lead to improved facilities for Moor Allerton Hall PS / Community Centre.

3.10 Summary of the main themes/comments from those who strongly or somewhat opposed the proposal-where 5 or more comments were made against each:

- **Location/sufficiency** - Moor Allerton Hall PS is too far from area of need, an expansion will not provide a long term solution to the lack of primary school places in Roundhay, concerns about the impact on the area of need should Moor Allerton Hall PS grow in popularity.
- **Site considerations** - Securing the land from the community centre is vital to the proposal, concerns about loss of play space and overcrowding if community centre is not moved, concerns site is too small to accommodate additional children.
- **School related** - Concerns that expansion will impact on school improvement journey, bigger school will mean more pressure on school staff.
- **Highways/environment** - Concerns about an increase in traffic in an already congested area, concerns about increases in parking, air pollution concerns, concerns about road safety.

3.11 The main concerns raised by respondents and a response to those concerns are summarised as follows;

3.11.1 **Concerns about location/sufficiency:** That Moor Allerton Hall PS is too far from the area of need, that an expansion will not provide a long term solution to the lack of primary school places in Roundhay and concerns about the impact on the area of need should Moor Allerton Hall PS grow in popularity.

**Response:** The previous consultation highlighted that there are limited options for providing additional primary places in this area. Moor Allerton Hall PS is situated within a reasonable distance of this area of pressure and would be well placed as an Admission Point to address additional demand. The Sufficiency and Participation Team has recently modelled what the impact would have been if families living nearest to Talbot PS had chosen to preference a place at Moor Allerton Hall PS as one of their preferences. Places were modelled using 2017 admissions data based on a published admission number of 90 at Moor Allerton Hall PS and it should be noted that not all of the families living nearest to Talbot PS chose to preference a place at Talbot PS. The modelling demonstrated that all of the Talbot PS 'nearest' children would have received a reasonable offer of a school place well within 2 miles of their home address. If more families were to preference Moor Allerton Hall PS, fewer offers would be made to children living outside of the Moortown/Roundhay area and the sibling impact would be reduced. Further modelling will be done to consider the impact in future years should Moor Allerton Hall PS become the preferred school for most or all of its 'nearest' children. This will be considered alongside modelling the impact of introducing primary catchment areas. Catchment areas were set as part of the determination of admission policy for community secondary schools in 2016, based on their nearest priority. Over the next 6 months LCC will be modelling the impact of introducing catchment areas for primary schools across the city. If we wanted to

progress then we must consult in accordance with the consultation timetable set out in the Admissions Code.

- 3.11.2 **Concerns about site related issues:** That securing the land from the community centre is vital to the proposal, concerns about loss of play space and overcrowding if the community centre is not moved, concerns site is too small to accommodate additional children.

**Response:** An option being considered is the potential to utilise the former New Highwood pub site. The freehold for the pub site is owned by LCC and the leasehold for the building was recently purchased. The site has been allocated to support the proposed development of Moor Allerton Hall PS and curriculum requirements necessary to expand to 3FE. Our preferred option is to relocate the Children's Centre which sits currently within the existing school building and the Community Centre which is located next to the existing school building, onto the pub site. Although agreements have not been formalised, positive conversations are ongoing with the Trustees of the Community Centre and the Children's Centre to seek their views, and we are working in partnership to deliver a proposal that meets the needs of the community. Any design/proposals would be drawn up in full consultation with the school based on area schedules provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency which sets out the requirements for classroom sizes, play space etc.

- 3.11.3 **Concerns relating to the school:** That an expansion will impact on the school's improvement journey and that a bigger school will mean more pressure on school staff.

**Response:** As noted at 3.5 of this report the Headteacher and Governing Body are confident that the school can manage an expansion alongside its improvement journey. The Learning Improvement team within Leeds City Council will continue to work with Moor Allerton Hall PS and other partners, to ensure that the progress already made by the leadership and staff at the school continues and that outcomes for children will rise further. The Governing Body supports the proposal and notes the potential for greater staff development within a larger school. The school would receive funding to enable it to recruit additional teaching and support staff.

- 3.11.4 **Concerns relating to highways/environment:** Concerns about an increase in traffic in an already congested area, concerns about increases in parking, air pollution concerns, concerns about road safety.

**Response:** As noted at 3.7 of this report, officers acknowledge that there are some local concerns relating to an increase in traffic in the area due to existing traffic issues and we would work with colleagues in Highways Services to look at ways of managing this where appropriate. If the 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 reflect and support the planning application proposals. This would include an assessment of current highways issues and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. LCC encourages sustainable travel so enhancements to or new crossing points would be considered along with the school's travel plan. A pick-up/drop-off

area is also being considered which would take some of the traffic off the road and manage it within the site via dedicated parking bays. A full and transparent planning process would be followed if the proposals were to progress.

3.12 As part of the consultation council officers met with the Governing Body (GB) and a formal response to the consultation was received which is included in the tally of responses. The GB indicated in its response 'We have a continued commitment to welcoming all new children to our school where all pupils can progress and thrive. We feel this proposal could allow us to do this even more effectively than we currently do and could enhance our children's experience. Should the proposals go ahead, we look forward to working in collaboration with the Council to make a success of the expansion'.

3.12.1 The GB notes that there are significant differences with this proposal to the previous proposal which have informed its wish to support including:

- A wish to support LCC to provide enough high-quality school places in the area;
- The ethos, identity and leadership of the school would be retained as there would be no merger with another school, providing stability for staff;
- Staff and Governors can continue to focus on the continued improvement in achievement of all pupils;
- Improved facilities for the school;
- Greater opportunities for staff retention and development with a 3FE school;
- Proposal meets the needs of the school's most vulnerable children in a more effective way; and
- LCC has involved the school in the planning of the consultation process so that parents and carers were considered as a priority stakeholder group to communicate with.

3.12.2 Some concerns were also raised by the Governing Body including;

- Increased traffic and parking issues;
- That a significant number of families are allocated the school who don't preference it and that in future years should the birth rate decrease or the more preferred schools have more capacity than they currently do that the number of children attending Moor Allerton Hall PS could reduce. The GB would urge LCC to work closely with the school to develop a plan to mitigate this possible outcome; and
- There is a concern for some parents in the area about the walking distance to the school from the area of need.

3.12.3 The GB strongly support the proposal on the proviso that certain conditions are met; that pupils have a usable year-round outdoor space with meets legal requirements and the needs of children and staff using the space currently occupied by the Community Centre and Children's Centre and that sufficient additional resource is given to the school for leadership time to manage the expansion whilst ensuring that the improvement journey continues at pace.

- 3.13 As part of the consultation council officers met with the School Council (SC) to discuss the proposals and 12 responses were submitted by SC on behalf of peers (not included in the tally of responses above). All 12 responses were in support. The main themes/questions raised in the responses and at the meeting were as follows: The leadership team and staff have effective support from the Council School Improvement Team to continue to raise standards in school;
- There is agreed financial support from the Council to ensure there is enough capacity on the school's Senior Leadership Team to continue our improvement journey whilst still being able to effectively plan for the expansion over 2018-19;
  - That the final delivered campus includes a good provision of outdoor play space for a three-form entry school, usable round the year; and
  - The school is given the funds to provide the appropriate infrastructure (e.g. IT capacity, security systems) and learning resources (e.g. class furniture, new PE equipment, dining tables, extra IT equipment, expanded reading library) to meet the needs of the full increase in numbers from reception to year 6 without a drain on the school's current budget.

SLT also noted 'We also believe the Council need take into serious consideration the traffic impact of increasing pupil numbers both upon the city's clean air zone commitment and upon road safety. We would look for support to develop permanent 'park and stride' locations and upgrade to the current zebra crossings outside of school to pelican ones to better manage traffic flow during peak times. Finally, we hope for support from the Council in promoting Moor Allerton Hall effectively in the areas of need so that the school becomes a known positive option at preference time'.

- 3.15 Responses to this consultation were also received from the National Deaf Children's Society and staff from the school's Deaf and Hearing Impairment Team (DAHIT), included in the tally of responses. Both expressed general support for the proposals indicating a number of issues that they would want LCC to consider. These included ensuring that BB93 performance standards guidelines are met, that any changes would lead to improved outcomes for deaf children, that parents and deaf children are involved in the expansion process to ensure that they have a voice in helping to shape the proposals, that flashing fire alarms are fitted, and that aspects such as flooring, lighting and decorating requirements are considered to ensure a calm environment with good acoustics.

If the proposals were to progress colleagues within City Development would work closely with senior leaders and the DAHIT team lead at the school and Complex Needs Team to ensure that a suitable accommodation solution is agreed and that any changes made improved and enhanced the quality of provision for pupils to positively support their outcomes. This would also ensure that the solution meets the needs of both children and staff in accordance with performance standards guidelines and Building Bulletin 93 which provides acoustic design guidance including specifics on design for pupils with hearing difficulties. During the design phase, we would consult with both children and parents on the design options.

#### **4 Corporate Considerations**

## 4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.2 The process in respect of all the proposals has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.
- 4.1.3 The consultation was carried out over a six week period and included use of the WordPress on-line forum and the Council's on-line survey system. A number of drop-in sessions were held at the school supported by officers from Highways, Children and Families Service and City Development teams, to discuss the proposals. One of these sessions included a questions and answers session at which senior officers were available to answer questions put forward by attendees in a public forum. These were attended by parents, carers, school staff, local residents and one of the local councillors. Information was distributed widely, including via the school website, to other local schools, via local Early Years providers, on the Leeds City Council website, via social media and to the National Deaf Children's Society. Meetings were held separately with the governors, staff and school council of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School along with a meeting for parents/carers of pupils accessing the deaf and hearing impaired resource at the school. Banners were placed at the entrance to the school to advertise the consultation and leaflets highlighting the consultation, and the timings of the consultation drop-in meetings were distributed to over 4000 local dwellings, along with letters to local residents. Leaflets were also displayed in local shops.
- 4.1.4 The consultation document was translated into both Urdu and Punjabi which the school indicates are its main heritage languages. These were published on the Leeds City Council and school websites along with paper copies being available at the school and at the drop-ins.
- 4.1.5 Local ward members indicated support for the proposals.
- 4.1.6 The consultation document for this proposal can be found at: <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Currentconsultation.aspx> or requested from the Sufficiency and Participation Team at: [educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk).

## 4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI screening form for the proposals at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School has been completed and is attached as an appendix to this report.
- 4.3 **Council policies and Best Council Plan** 4.3.1 This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council outcome to give everyone the chance to do well at every level of learning, gaining the skills they need for life.

proposal is being brought forward to meet the LA'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, is an efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of non-attendance.

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. By creating good quality local school places we can support the priority aim of improving educational achievement and closing achievement gaps. In turn, by providing young people with the skills they need for life, these proposals provide underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy by compassionate means. 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 behaviour, attendance and achievement. It is important when bringing any proposal forward that there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on teaching and learning. The Headteacher and governing Body are confident that they can manage the expansion of the school whilst continuing to demonstrate improvements in relation to the school's learning improvement journey as demonstrated in the consultation responses highlighted at 3.12 onwards.

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

- 4.4.1 A feasibility study has been commissioned to determine options and ensure we proceed with the most effective solution, financially and educationally. Any scheme would be subject to relevant consultation at the appropriate juncture as informed by the key stakeholders and local ward members and any design/proposals would be drawn up in full consultation with the school based on area schedules provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Planning permission would be required prior to the commencement of any construction.
- 4.4.2 This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme through Basic Need Allocations. The precise funding packages would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost reports.

#### **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 It is recommended that this report is not subject to call in. This is because if Executive Board agrees with the recommendation to publish a Statutory Notice in respect of these proposals, a Statutory Notice would need to be published as early as possible in order for the majority of the Statutory Notice period to fall outside of the school holidays. This would give maximum opportunity for stakeholders to comment formally at that stage and for a final decision to be sought from Executive Board at the first opportunity. If the call in period was not exempted the Statutory Notice would be published after the school holidays in September which would delay a final decision from Executive Board and introduce a higher risk of school places not being delivered on time. It would also mean that a final decision would not be available until after the primary

admissions round opened, causing further uncertainty for parents. A decision could not have been sought earlier from Executive Board as the public consultation ended on 4 May 2018 following Executive Board's decision at its meeting in February 2018 for a new consultation to be held.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 The proposal to increase primary provision in the Roundhay area has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2019. Bulge places will be required to ensure a sufficiency of places in 2018 and a decision not to proceed with regard to this revised proposal may result in a fresh consultation on new proposals, and there is a high risk that places will not be delivered in time. The LA's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short and longer term may be at risk. 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.
- 4.6.2 To ensure sufficiency of accommodation for the commencement of the September 2018 academic year works will take place on-site at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School in summer 2018. Officers from within the Authority are working closely with the school management team to ensure the necessary accommodation and facilities are provided to allow placement of this additional cohort.
- 4.6.3 As a consequence of the requirement to plan additional places within the Roundhay and Moortown area it has been necessary for the Authority to work at risk to develop the expansion proposals based on an increase to 3FE. The Authority have been working closely with the school management team, Highways, Planning, local community groups, ward members and other key stakeholders to ensure these proposals are in keeping with, and respond to, feedback provided at both of the Moor Allerton Hall consultations. The critical path programme dates for the design and construction of any new accommodation overlap with the statutory process and if treated sequentially delivery of any permanent solution for September 2019 is not possible. In order to meet statutory obligations for pupil places within the area in September 2019, and provide the essential accommodation, it may be necessary to submit the planning application for the proposed expansion prior to Executive Board's final determination on the statutory process, should Executive Board approve the recommendation in this report to publish a Statutory Notice. A planning consultation session will be held early September 2018 with a view to submitting the planning application itself mid-September 2018. This will not circumvent the statutory process as approval to proceed with the construction of any new permanent accommodation at Moor Allerton Hall will not be granted by Executive Board unless both planning permission and statutory approval have been granted. Submission, and potential approval, of planning permission in no way presupposes any final decision on the proposal to expand the school. Delaying the planning application would place significant 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 children is one of our priorities. The original proposal as consulted on, followed by the revised proposal on which a decision is sought 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 Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 The response rate for this consultation is considerably less than that of the previous proposals (135 compared with 308). From the feedback received formally during the consultation and anecdotally during the consultation drop-ins and questions and answers session, this appears to be a more acceptable proposal for the majority of people who took the time to respond. Crucially the Governing Body and Senior Leadership Team of the school fully support the proposals, subject to mitigation of issues raised earlier in this report. This proposal also has support from School Council. The risk of not providing additional places in an area of such high need outweighs some of the concerns shared during the consultation bearing in mind the mitigations outlined in this report. On balance the revised proposal is strong and addresses the LA's statutory duty to provide sufficient primary places and to provide places close to where children live, allow improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, manage resources effectively and to reduce the risk of non-attendance.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Executive Board is asked to:

- Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand primary provision at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School from a capacity of 420 pupils to 630 pupils with an increase in the admission number from 60 to 90 with effect from September 2019;
- Note that the previous proposals to form a through-school by joining together Moor Allerton Hall Primary School with Allerton Grange School and to expand primary provision as part of that through-school are not to be taken forward;
- Approve the recommendation to exempt the decision from call-in for the reasons set out at 4.5.2; and
- Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

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

7.1 None