

Report of the Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 12th February 2020

Subject: Outcome of consultation and request to approve funding to permanently increase learning places at Allerton Grange School from September 2021



Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Roundhay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<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
Will the decision be open 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

1. Main issues

- This report contains details of a proposal brought forward to meet the local authority's duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and accompanying statutory guidance set out the process which must be followed when making such changes. The statutory process to make these changes varies according to the nature of the change and status of the school. The process followed in respect of this proposal is detailed in this report. The decision maker in these cases remains the local authority (LA).
- A consultation on a proposal to expand Allerton Grange School from a capacity of 1200 to 1500 students by increasing the admission number in year 7 from 240 to 300 with effect from September 2021 took place between 6 November and 3 December 2019. The school's current 6th Form and Deaf and Hearing Impaired (DAHIT) provision is unaffected by this proposal.
- A total of 106 consultation survey responses were received during the consultation period of which 52 (49%) either strongly supported or somewhat supported the proposal to permanently expand Allerton Grange School. 48 (45%) either strongly

opposed or somewhat opposed the proposal and a further 6 (6%) neither supported nor opposed. Further details about the responses and issues identified by stakeholders and respondents during the consultation period are detailed in the main body of this report.

- There has been a significant increase in the number of primary school places available across the city over the last decade, including within the Roundhay/Moortown areas of Leeds. As this extra demand progresses through into the secondary sector, additional secondary school places will be required to meet an increased level of need. Current projections indicate that this proposal to create additional school places will be required in this area by 2021 to ensure local demand continues to be met.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- This proposal is being brought forward to meet the LA's statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all the children and young people in Leeds. Providing places close to where projected demand for places is increasing allows improved and more sustainable accessibility to local and desirable school places, is an efficient use of resources, and reduces the risk of non-attendance.
- By providing new high quality school places within an established existing school, this proposal would support the LA's strategy to improve attendance, achievement, and attainment – the 3As; and the achievement of the Best City Priority to help 'young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work'.
- This proposal would establish high quality mainstream school places, actively contributing towards achievement of the Child Friendly City aspiration to 'improve educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes'. In addition, the longstanding third 'obsession' – improve school attendance – has been expanded to improve attendance, achievement, and attainment – the 3As.
- Overall, this proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support the achievement of the Best Council Plan outcome that states 'We want everyone in Leeds to do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life'.

3. Resource Implications

- Planning permission would need to be granted prior to the commencement of any construction works required. Once the feasibility stage is complete and, subject to the proposal gaining approval to proceed to detailed design stage, the scheme proceeding to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. The scheme would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.
- Based on a Department for Education (DfE) funding rate of £16,056 per new secondary place, the funding provided by Central Government for this size of new school is approximately £4.82m. The construction cost estimate of the proposed

scheme will be funded primarily through the Basic Need Grant. However, the precise funding package would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR).

Recommendations

- a) Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand secondary provision at Allerton Grange School from a capacity of 1200 pupils to 1500 pupils in years 7 to 11 with an increase in the admission number from 240 to 300 with effect from September 2021;
- b) Grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £4.8m (based on a Department for Education (DfE) funding rate of £16,056 per new secondary place) to deliver the proposed permanent expansion of Allerton Grange School;
- c) Note that implementation of the proposal is subject to funding being agreed based on the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications as indicated at sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.3 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021; and
- d) Note the responsible officer for implementation is the Head of Learning Systems.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report contains details of a proposal brought forward to meet the Local Authority's duty to ensure a sufficiency of school places, which supports the achievement of the Best Council priority to improve educational attainment and close achievement gaps. This report describes the outcome of a consultation regarding a proposal to expand secondary school provision at Allerton Grange School and seeks a decision to fund delivery of a scheme to create the additional learning places required.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Inner North (secondary planning) area referred to in this report includes the following secondary schools/academies: Abbey Grange School; Cardinal Heenan Catholic High School; Carr Manor Community School; Roundhay School; Allerton High School; and Leeds Jewish School.
- 2.2 The increase in the birth rate over the last decade in Leeds, which prompted the need to embark on a programme of primary provision expansion is now beginning to feed through into the secondary sector, with demand anticipated to grow markedly across most parts of the city until at least 2023-24. Current demographic data suggests that up to an additional 33 forms of entry (FE) of year 7 capacity may be required across the city over future years, with up to 2.7 FE of additional year 7 capacity needed across the Inner North of Leeds.
- 2.3 In response to growing demand for year 7 places, Allerton Grange School has already been admitting over its Published Admission Number (PAN) for the previous four years. Roundhay School was also permanently expanded, increasing its capacity by 250 pupils across years 7 to 11. As the number of secondary-aged students living in

the Inner North is anticipated to increase further over future years, additional permanent places are required to address the growing need.

- 2.4 Initial engagement with schools across the Inner North has concluded permanent expansions of existing schools is currently the preferred approach to meet all the additional mainstream need in this area.
- 2.5 The proposal to expand Allerton Grange School has been developed through discussions between Leeds City Council and the governing body and head teacher of the School.
- 2.6 Public consultation on the proposal took place between 6 November and 3 December 2019. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including email communications and an online survey. Informal drop-in sessions were also held at Allerton Grange School (for parents, residents and other interested stakeholders) which offered attendees an opportunity to discuss the proposal with Leeds City Council representatives from the school leadership team, as well as the council's Sufficiency and Participation, Highways, and City Development teams. Leaflets advertising the consultation were delivered to residents in the local area. Details about the consultation were also sent to all local primary and secondary schools in the area and to other stakeholders. Posters were displayed at a number of locations in the local area, including at early years settings, and information was available via the Leeds City Council website and through various social media platforms and accounts. A targeted Facebook advertising campaign was also undertaken to reach people living within postcode areas located within the catchment area of Allerton Grange School.
- 2.7 Consultation meetings were held with the governing body, staff and pupils of Allerton Grange School. Local ward members and MP's have also been fully briefed on the proposal.
- 2.8 This proposal is consistent with the positive changes and wider improvements that have been made in the area following the permanent expansion of Moor Allerton Hall Primary. Such changes include the successful re-provision of the community centre and children's centre services and improved educational outcomes.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 There is an identified need for additional secondary places in the Inner North area of Leeds to meet anticipated demand over future years. Allerton Grange School is popular and has taken more pupils than it's PAN for the past four years to help meet higher demand in the area. The school is located in an area of high demographic need and the proposed 60 additional permanent year 7 places would address anticipated future local pressure in Roundhay/Moortown.
- 3.2 Allerton Grange School was rated 'Requires Improvement' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection in November 2017. However, the Learning Improvement team are supportive of the proposed expansion and have stated that the school's leadership team is very strong, which has driven a positive transformation at the school over the last three years. The quality of the curriculum is one of the best in the city with pupils being offered a primarily academic curriculum. Results have been on an upwards trajectory and are now in line with the national average for progress - 74% of pupils took the Ebacc suite of subjects this year. Progress outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

is much improved and School Improvement have observed that pupil behaviour is good at the school and that governance is strong and well led by the chair. The head teacher, governing body and staff are confident that if the school were to expand, existing high standards of teaching and learning could be maintained, resulting in improved outcomes for a greater number of local children.

3.3 A total of 106 consultation survey responses were received during the consultation period of which 52 (49%) either strongly supported or somewhat supported the proposal to permanently expand Allerton Grange School. 48 (45%) either strongly opposed or somewhat opposed the proposal and a further 6 (6%) neither supported nor opposed.

3.4 A summary of the views expressed by the 52 survey respondents who strongly or who somewhat supported the proposal is listed below;

- 39 of the comments received recognised that an expansion at Allerton Grange School is needed in order to address the rising demand for secondary places in this area. Some also mentioned that expansion would increase the number of local families able to get a place at their preferred choice of school in future years
- 3 respondents felt that expanding an existing good school which has the required additional space available is preferable to building a new school
- 4 comments received suggested that the proposed expansion scheme could offer benefits for standards of teaching and learning at an improving school. The reasons given for this included: an increase in funding; additional teaching accommodation; and an improved study environment for students
- 13 comments were received stating that the expansion scheme would be an opportunity to improve the school's facilities and some felt that an increase in student numbers may benefit the school financially

3.5 A summary of the views expressed by the survey respondents who strongly or who somewhat objected to the proposal along with a response is listed below;

3.5.1 **Concern that the school would not maintain its current ethos:** 18 comments were received expressing concerns that the proposed expansion may have a negative impact on the schools ethos.

3.5.2 **Response:** The school leadership team are confident in their ability to maintain and extend the schools current values and ethos as it grows. This is supported by the Learning Improvement teams view that the school benefits from strong leadership, able to effectively manage the increase in student numbers. The school enthusiastically welcomes the opportunity to enable more students to benefit from its high standards of teaching and learning within a safe, secure and happy environment. The Governing Body is also confident that the schools leadership and team of staff are able to successfully manage this change.

3.5.3 **Concern about Ofsted rating/ standards of teaching and learning:** 12 comments received expressed concern with the school's current 'Requires

Improvement' Ofsted rating (Last Inspection: Nov 2017) or suggested that the proposal could have a negative impact on teaching and learning.

- 3.5.4 **Response:** The School Improvement team have advised that Allerton Grange is now in a very strong position. It is due an Ofsted inspection this year and there is a high level of confidence that the school will be judged as 'Good'. They also provided the following comments in support of the proposal;

The school's leadership team is very strong, which has driven a positive transformation at the school over the last three years. The quality of the curriculum is one of the best in the city with pupils being offered a primarily academic curriculum. Results have been on an upwards trajectory and are now in line with the national average for progress - 74% of pupils took the Ebacc suite of subjects in 2019. Progress outcomes for disadvantaged pupils is much improved and School Improvement have observed that pupil behaviour is good at the school. Governance is strong and well led by the chair.

Were the school to expand, additional teaching and support staff would be required over the five year period that it would take for all year groups (years 7 to 11) to increase in size to 300 places. The senior leadership team 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 the school and are also confident that expansion would not have a negative impact on learning outcomes for students.

- 3.5.5 **Concern about the proposed physical expansion of the school:** 11 respondents worried that the school was already too big and that further expansion would have a negative impact on some students. Some also felt that making the school bigger could create increased pressure on, or the loss of, some school facilities – i.e. green play space.

- 3.5.6 **Response:** Several secondary schools in Leeds are already operating very successfully with a PAN similar to that proposed at Allerton Grange School – i.e. Roundhay School and Woodkirk Academy. Early feasibility works carried out by City Development colleagues has also concluded that the Allerton Grange School site is large enough to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil numbers.

Detailed plans for the proposed expansion are still at an early stage, therefore, it is not yet clear exactly what additional accommodation and facilities would be required, should the proposal be approved. Initial project feasibility and viability work will need to be carried out to determine if a build scheme needs to be developed and agreed to provide some required additional teaching accommodation and other school facilities. An option to re-purpose the currently unused CLC (North East City Learning Centre) building as a separate 6th form block, is being explored as a means of providing additional teaching space and other facilities within an existing building on the school site. This option would have the benefit of reducing the need to build on existing open green/play space. If this proposal proceeds to the next stages, any required build scheme would be subject to the normal planning process when any interested parties would have the opportunity to comment on those plans as part of the planning approval process.

3.5.7 **Highways concerns:** 5 of the comments received mentioned road safety concerns; 12 respondents had concerns about traffic levels increasing around the school site; 8 felt that the highways infrastructure would be unable to cope; and 7 comments expressed concerns about car parking.

3.5.8 **Response:** As part of the recently approved scheme to expand Moor Allerton Hall Primary School a package of highway works have already been proposed, including a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Lidgett Lane and converting the existing zebra crossing on Lidgett Lane at its junction with Brackenwood Drive to a signalised pedestrian crossing. Both of these road safety improvements will also be beneficial to pupils walking/cycling to Allerton Grange School from the south. In addition, the service road to Allerton Grange has now been opened up as a drop off and pick up area for parents to help reduce congestion and parking on the roads around the school.

If the proposed expansion were to progress, the issues raised during the consultation, including concerns about parking on Talbot Avenue and adjacent streets, and concerns about speeding traffic on Talbot Avenue, will need to be investigated as part of a Transport Assessment, which would be required to support the Planning process.

Car parking on site would need to be increased to accommodate the extra staff required as part of the expansion. An updated School Travel Plan would also be required, and the provision of improved cycle facilities and electric parking points to support sustainable travel would be considered in light of the Council's commitment to carbon reduction.

3.5.9 **Concern that this is the wrong proposal:** 10 comments received expressed general concern about the proposed expansion of Allerton Grange School and suggested that an alternative proposal(s) should instead be brought forward to meet the extra demand in this area.

Response: When planning school places a number of options are considered before proposals are developed. Options include short term bulges or temporary increases where the need may not be sustained, permanent expansion of one or more schools where the need is projected to continue and increase, or the creation of a new school to manage the whole need. As the demand for secondary places in the Roundhay/Moortown area is projected to rise, an options appraisal was carried out to determine which school sites have capacity to expand. Allerton Grange School was identified as an improving school, sitting directly within an area experiencing a sustained increase in projected demand and having the site capacity to expand. Importantly, the proposal is also supported by the school's leadership and governing body, and has the backing of the Learning Improvement team.

The creation of a new free school would firstly require a large enough site but would also create too much provision in one area, potentially negatively impacting on some local schools across the Inner North of the city. This approach would not be effective in delivering the required places across the wider area.

3.5.10 The governing body strongly supports the proposal and raised questions during the consultation period about the following aspects of the proposed expansion:

- Understanding the involvement of the school in decision making of the design and planning of any build scheme/ use of the CLC building
- What would and would not be included with the expansion scheme – i.e. potential to resolve non-related existing condition issues
- Financial support
- Details about project viability and feasibility surveys

3.5.11 As part of the consultation council officers met with students on the School Council to discuss the proposals. The main themes/questions raised at the meeting were as follows:

- Managing congestion in the school corridors and dining areas
- What additional classroom space will be created
- Issue with parking
- Concern about a lack of boys PE changing room space
- Questions about the CLC potentially becoming a 6th form block.

3.5.12 As part of the consultation council officers met with school staff to discuss the proposals. The main themes/questions raised at the meeting were as follows:

- Would the school have input into the planning of any new accommodation/ building modifications needed to expand?
- What impact does the school being a PFI (Private Finance Initiative) building have in any changes?
- Would there be a pedestrian crossing on Talbot Avenue?
- Questions about which areas of the building would be expanded to accommodate the extra pupils and staff
- Interest in what other options have been reviewed in the local area, regarding the need for more school places.
- Concern about what happens if the birth rate decreases?
- Who would be the link person between the school and the council on the project?

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 The process in respect of this proposal has been managed in accordance with the relevant legislation and with local good practice.

4.1.2 Consultation on the proposal took place between 6 November and 3 December 2019. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including: email; an online survey and informal drop-in sessions held at Allerton Grange School (for parents, residents and other interested stakeholders) which offered attendees an opportunity to discuss the proposal with Leeds City Council representatives from the school leadership team, as well as the council's Sufficiency and Participation, Highways, and City Development teams. Leaflets advertising the consultation were delivered to residents in the local area. Details about the consultation were also sent to all local primary and secondary schools in the area and to other stakeholders. Posters were displayed at a number of locations in the local area, including at early years settings, and information was

available via the Leeds City Council website and through various social media platforms and accounts. A targeted Facebook advertising campaign was also undertaken to reach people living within postcode areas located within the catchment area of Allerton Grange School.

- 4.1.3 Consultation meetings were held with the governing body, staff and pupils of Allerton Grange School. Local Roundhay ward members have been fully briefed on the proposal. MP's have also received communications about the proposal.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 The EDCI screening form for the proposal is attached as an appendix to this report.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This proposal offers good value for money through its capacity to support achievement of the Best Council Plan outcome that states 'we want everyone in Leeds to do well at all levels of learning and have the skills they need for life'.
- 4.3.2 This proposal is being brought forward to meet the local authority's statutory duty to ensure that 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.
- 4.3.3 This proposal contributes to the aspiration for Leeds City Council to be the best council and for Leeds to be the best city in which to grow up in, 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 aims of improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes. In turn, by helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills, this proposal provides underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy and a compassionate city. A good quality school place also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve achievement, attainment and attendance at school.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 There is an identified need for additional secondary school provision in the Roundhay/Moortown area of Leeds. This proposal would meet some of this increased demand and offer increased choice so that local families are able to access local places and reduce journey times to and from school. Allerton Grange's close proximity to residential areas which have experienced population growth means that walking to school would be a viable option for many of the extra students who may choose to attend the school.
- 4.3.5 If the proposal is approved Allerton Grange School would need to produce an updated 'Travel Plan' which would contain a package of agreed measures to mitigate the potential impact on the highways. Leeds City Council's 'Influencing

Travel Behaviour Team' would support these measures and seek to ensure safe routes to and from school by promoting walking, cycling and scooting. Progress on these matters would be monitored and support offered where appropriate.

- 4.3.6 Existing planning policies seek to address the issue of climate change by ensuring that development proposals incorporate measures to reduce the impact on non-renewable resources. The council's Executive Board has also mandated that the authority should be carbon neutral by 2030. This will result in sustainable/ green infrastructure being required of all future projects in order for planning permission to be granted. To this end if the proposal progresses, any build scheme would explore the potential use of renewable energy and energy saving technologies, with the aim of increasing sustainability and minimising energy consumption. In parallel with this, the Energy Unit will support the design team to identify energy saving measures that can help achieve energy savings comparable to a 47% reduction in average energy consumption levels, in line with the 2025 requirements. The proposed energy efficiency standards are likely to increase the capital costs for any build scheme required, however, there is as yet insufficient benchmark data available to provide a reliable estimate of how much these additional measures would be likely to add to the cost of the scheme. Leeds City Council promotes an 'Invest to Save' strategy that allows access to funding in order to offset the enhanced capital costs. The improved energy efficiency will also reduce the school's overall running costs, as the building will be more economical to run long-term, eventually paying for the measures put in place.
- 4.3.7 Any contractors tendering for the proposed development will need to demonstrate a robust Waste Management Plan, be registered with The Considerate Constructors Scheme, of which, the main consideration of the scheme falls into three categories: The general public, the workforce and the environment. Contractors will also need to be sympathetic to the Leeds Talent and Skills Plan by striving to employ local trades thus reducing the impact of extended travel.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 Planning permission would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works required. Once the feasibility stage is complete and, subject to the proposal gaining approval to proceed to detailed design stage, the scheme proceeding to the detailed design phase, budgets would be realigned to reflect that all parties have agreed the final design and cost estimates, which would take account of site investigations and survey information, in accordance with standard project and risk management principles. The scheme would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.
- 4.4.2 Provision for children who are deaf and hearing impaired (DAHIT) currently at Allerton Grange School would continue to operate as it does now. Any build solution, which may include the remodelling of existing buildings or changes to the CLC building, would replicate the existing provision in the school e.g. sound fields in each classroom.
- 4.4.3 The construction cost estimate of the proposed scheme would be funded primarily through Basic Need Grant, which, based on a Department for Education (DfE) Central Government funding rate of £16,056 per new secondary place, is

approximately £4.82m. As a PFI school, there is a risk that expanding Allerton Grange may attract additional PFI related costs, such as: Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) project management fees; SPV legal team fees; Facilities Management Company fees; lenders legal team costs; lenders fees; fees associated with board approval; and LCC legal and LCC PFI team costs. However, an option to re-purpose the currently unused CLC building as part of the scheme is being explored. As the CLC is owned by LCC it would not be subject to PFI fees or approval. Any agreed project would minimise the works to both the existing school and CLC buildings, and employ value engineering to help reduce costs.

The precise funding package would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost report (DCR).

4.4.4 School Places Programme Board, chaired by the Director of Children and Families, provides strong cross council and corporate involvement to ensure that appropriate governance is applied to learning places schemes and it specifically approves individual scheme DCRs, along with any necessary Capital Risk Fund applications. Executive Board approved the establishment of a Capital Risk Fund to provide a mechanism which enables timely and proportionate responses to variations which are required to individual project budgets. Decisions by the Director of Children and Families to access the fund must be made with the prior approval of the Director of City Development and the Director of Resources & Housing, both of whom are Board members, and be in consultation with the appropriate Executive Members.

4.4.5 Executive Board is asked to approve 'provisional' Authority to Spend of £4.82m for this scheme. Once design freeze has been reached, School Places Programme Board will be asked to approve Authority to Spend for the scheme along with any necessary risk fund application, in line with the governance arrangements set out above.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

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

4.5.2 This report is subject to call in.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 These proposals have been brought forward in time to allow secondary places to be delivered for 2021. A decision not to proceed at this stage may result in fresh consultations on new proposals, and places may not be delivered in time. It may

also result in further bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which would be more costly in the longer term. The LA's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short term may be at risk.

- 4.6.2 In response to growing demand for year 7 places, Allerton Grange School has already been admitting over its Published Admission Number (PAN) for the previous four years. Roundhay School was also permanently expanded, increasing its capacity by 250 pupils across years 7 to 11. As the number of secondary-aged students living in the Inner North is anticipated to increase further in future years, additional permanent places are required to address the growing need. A decision not to proceed with the expansion of Allerton Grange could result in insufficient school places being available to meet local demand.
- 4.6.3 If the proposal does not proceed there is a risk that increased demand for places in the local area would have to be met further from the area of need, reducing the opportunity for more children and young people to walk to their local school, and potentially increasing journey times and car use.
- 4.6.4 There is also a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school/learning 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/learning places, is one of our top priorities. This proposal has been brought forward to support learners in Leeds to benefit from being able to access a local secondary place and so delivering our vision of Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2 A majority of respondents support the proposal to expand Allerton Grange School, provided that the additional teaching accommodation and other facilities required to manage the increase in students is addressed. Concerns raised during consultation have been considered, and on balance, the proposal remains strong and addresses the need for school places in the area.
- 5.3 In response to growing demand for year 7 places, Allerton Grange School has already been admitting over its Published Admission Number (PAN) for the previous four years. Roundhay School was also permanently expanded, increasing its capacity by 250 pupils across years 7 to 11. As the number of secondary-aged students living near to Allerton Grange School continues to increase this proposal will allow more children and young people to attend at and walk or cycle to their local school, reducing reliance on private cars and public transport.
- 5.4 The additional places are required to ensure the authority meets its legal requirement to ensure sufficiency of secondary provision for September 2021. There is evidence of local need for places in the area and it is therefore recommended that the proposal be approved.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Approve the publication of a Statutory Notice on a proposal to permanently expand secondary provision at Allerton Grange School from a capacity of 1200 pupils

to 1500 pupils in years 7 to 11 with an increase in the admission number from 240 to 300 with effect from September 2021;

6.2 Grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £4.8m (based on a Department for Education (DfE) funding rate of £16,056 per new secondary place) to deliver the proposed permanent expansion of Allerton Grange School;

6.3 Note that implementation of the proposal is subject to funding being agreed based on the outcome of further detailed design work and planning applications as indicated at sections 4.4.1 and 4.4.3 of this report and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2021; and

6.4 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.