

Report of Director of Children and Families

Report to Executive Board

Date: 17th March 2021

Subject: Outcome of consultation to permanently expand Bramhope Primary School from 40 to 60 reception places from September 2022.



Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s): Adel & Wharfedale	<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 by the Collaborative Learning Trust, working in partnership with Leeds City Council, to meet the local authority’s duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The changes that are proposed form prescribed alterations under Department for Education advice for academy trusts, Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy (November 2019). For prescribed alterations for maintained schools the Local Authority would be the decision maker, but for expansions relating to Academies the Trust Board is the decision maker. Bramhope Primary School is an Academy however as any build scheme would be funded by the Local Authority, Executive Board would need to grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) to deliver the proposed permanent expansion.
- A consultation on a proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School, by permanently increasing the number of Reception places from 40 to 60 from September 2022 gradually increasing the overall capacity of the school from 280 to 420 pupils, took place between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021. The Collaborative Learning Trust met to consider the outcome of the consultation and subsequently voted to approve the proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School. This report gives details of the outcome of this consultation and requests provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £1.2m to deliver the proposed expansion at Bramhope Primary School.

A total of 94 consultation online survey responses were received during the consultation period. Of the online survey responses received: 51 (54%) either strongly supported or somewhat supported the proposal to permanently expand Bramhope Primary School; 35 (37%) either strongly opposed or somewhat opposed the proposal; and 8 (9%) neither supported nor opposed the proposal. In addition to the survey, 80 further consultation responses (13 emails and a letter signed by 67 signatories), detailing individual and collective views, suggestions and concerns about the proposal, were received. Some of the respondents submitted comments using multiple channels, i.e. via the online survey and through email, or by being signatories on the letter.

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.

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

- This proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to be the best council, the best city in which to grow up and a child friendly city. The delivery of pupil places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a child friendly city.
- 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 a well-established, Ofsted rated 'outstanding' school, this proposal supports 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'.
- 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

- This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Allocations. Once the feasibility stage was complete and the scheme proceeds 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. Once design freeze had been reached, the precise funding package would be detailed in the relevant Design and Cost Report (DCR) and the Director of Children and Families, in consultation with School Places Programme Board would be asked to approve Authority To Spend

for the proposed scheme along with any necessary risk fund application, in line with the governance arrangements currently in place.

- The proposed scheme may be subject to planning permission which, if required, would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works and would be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.

Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Note the outcome of consultation on a proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School, by permanently increasing the number of Reception places from 40 to 60 from September 2022 gradually increasing the overall capacity of the school from 280 to 420 pupils.
- b) Grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £1.2m to deliver the proposed expansion at Bramhope Primary School.
- c) Note that implementation of the proposal is subject to the outcome of further detailed design work and any planning applications as indicated at section 4.4 of this report, and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2022.
- 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 primary school provision at Bramhope Primary School and seeks provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £1.2m to deliver the proposed expansion at Bramhope Primary School.

2. Background information

- 2.1** The number of families with children under the age of 5 choosing to live in Bramhope village is increasing leading to a rise in demand for places at the village school, Bramhope Primary School. In addition, a large scale housing development in Breary Lane East, Bramhope is expected to increase the need for additional primary school places still further in the coming years. The housing development, which has full planning permission for 330 homes, is now under construction and will take several years to be fully built and occupied. Based on already increasing demand from the existing area and the anticipated additional new housing generated pupil yield, we believe that the proposed increase in places is needed to meet demand.
- 2.2** The proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School has been developed through discussions between Leeds City Council, the Collaborative Learning Trustees, and the Headteacher and governing body of Bramhope Primary School.
- 2.3** The consultation on the proposal took place between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021 to seek the views of parents, local residents and other stakeholders. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including: email communications; an online survey; 2 online consultation sessions – one conducted close to the start of the consultation period and the final one taking place towards its close - which gave parents/carers, residents and other interested parties an opportunity to discuss the proposal with the school's leadership team, Trustees and with Leeds City Council officers; social media messages; and approximately 800 leaflets advertising the consultation delivered to residents in the close vicinity of Bramhope Primary School. In addition, the school informed parents and carers of existing pupils in writing. Details about the consultation were sent via email to primary and secondary schools in the area to share with their parents and communities. Information was also shared via email with local ward members, the Parish Council, MPs and other stakeholders. Information was available via the school's website, Leeds City Council website and through various social media platforms.

3. Main issues

- 3.1** There is an identified need for additional primary places in Bramhope village to meet anticipated demand in future years. The school admitted 20 pupils above its Published Admission Number (PAN) for Reception 2020 to ensure sufficient Reception places were available in the local area and intends to do so again in 2021. The school is regularly oversubscribed and in recent years it has become more difficult to allocate all local children a place. New housing will increase demand further still. The proposed 20 additional permanent Reception places would address all anticipated local pressure in the Bramhope area in future years.

- 3.2** Bramhope Primary School was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted at its most recent inspection and is popular with local families. The Headteacher and Trustees 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 consultation on a proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School, by permanently increasing the number of Reception places from 40 to 60 from September 2022 gradually increasing the overall capacity of the school from 280 to 420 pupils, took place between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021
- 3.4** A total of 94 consultation online survey responses were received during the consultation period. Of the online survey responses received: 51 (54%) either strongly supported or somewhat supported the proposal to permanently expand Bramhope Primary School; 35 (37%) either strongly opposed or somewhat opposed the proposal; and 8 (9%) neither supported nor opposed the proposal. In addition to the survey, 80 further responses (13 emails and a letter signed by 67 signatories), detailing both individual and collective views and concerns about the proposal and the consultation process, were received. Some of the respondents submitted comments using more than one route, i.e. via the online survey and submission of an email, or by being signatories on the letter.
- 3.5** A summary of the views expressed by the 51 online survey respondents who strongly or who somewhat supported the proposal is listed below;
- 26 comments received supported the position that an expansion at Bramhope Primary School is needed in order to address the rising demand for primary school places in this area.
 - 29 comments expressed a preference for expanding Bramhope Primary School over any alternative available option (i.e. a new free school or relocation of the existing school).
 - 6 comments mentioned that an expansion of Bramhope Primary School would increase parental choice in the local area.
 - 18 commented that pupils attending at Bramhope Primary school would benefit from changes to the organisation of classes, required as a result of the proposed expansion, which would result in pupils being taught in their own year groups, rather than in the current mixed year group classes.
 - 6 comments received stated that the financial investment offered by an expansion scheme would provide an opportunity to improve the school's existing facilities and that by having more pupils on roll this would benefit the school financially.
 - 6 commented that Bramhope Primary School, as an Ofsted rated 'outstanding' school, should be expanded to meet increasing demand as it already offers excellent standards to teaching and learning, which could be extended to more children in the local area.
- 3.6** A summary of the views expressed by the respondents who strongly or who somewhat objected to the proposal along with a response is listed below;

3.6.1 Highways concerns: 27 commented that they had concerns about traffic levels increasing around the school site, with 1 comment received suggesting that more attractive pedestrian walking routes should be created to encourage more children to walk to school. Another comment suggested that roads close to the school should be subject to traffic restrictions at school drop off and pick times; 8 comments expressed concern about a lack of car parking; 11 comments mentioned road safety concerns; 5 comments suggested that the existing highways infrastructure would be unable to cope; and 2 comments raised concerns that the proposed expansion could lead to increased levels of air and noise pollution.

3.6.2 Response: As part of a planning process to create new accommodation the Highways team would be required to formally comment on any approved expansion proposal. A Transport Statement would focus on evaluating the potential transport impacts from the school extension and this would propose mitigation measures to avoid unacceptable or 'severe' impacts resulting from the development. This process would include an assessment of current highways issues and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. Highways measures identified as being required for planning approval would need to be incorporated into the final scheme, which may include increased parking enforcement, the closure of Breary Rise to school drop off and pick up traffic (Safe Schools scheme); and other traffic management measures on nearby roads as detailed below.

Recent census information shows that the majority of children who attend Bramhope Primary School live within Bramhope village and that 46 percent of pupils walk to school. Any future development would continue to support this trend and promote sustainable methods of travel.

As part of any planning application, the school's 'Travel Plan' would be considered and a package of measures would be identified in order to mitigate the potential impact on the highway as a result of the development. 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.

Additional parking would be provided within the school site to ensure that staff and visitors are adequately catered for. As such it is unlikely that any staff or visitor parking would take place 'on street' outside the school site. The provision of improved cycle facilities and electric parking points to support sustainable travel would also be considered in light of the Council's commitment to carbon reduction.

Surrounding streets are already restricted to 20mph, but speed surveys and assessment of existing speed limits could be undertaken to get a comprehensive picture of the average traffic speed in the vicinity of the school. Based on the results, appropriate additional traffic calming could be installed.

A speed limit assessment of Leeds Road which is currently 40mph could be looked at, with a view to reducing this to 30mph if the results support this action. In addition to this, a widening of the existing traffic islands on Leeds Road will be considered as part of the assessment.

A detailed Collision Impact Study would be undertaken to assess Personal Injury Collisions (PIC's) within the vicinity of the school site. This would determine if there

are any existing collision trends or clusters of collisions, and would outline solutions and measures to mitigate any trends / clusters where needed.

Additional single and double yellow lines can be installed within the 'Tredgolds'. This would help to maintain the free flow of traffic and would protect existing junctions.

3.6.3 Concern about current shared access and parking arrangements between Bramhope Primary School and the Medical Centre: 2 comments received suggested that the medical centre should be relocated on to the Miller Homes development in Breary Lane East, Bramhope, using the available primary school land which was secured through a Section 106 agreement, if it is not to be used for a new school. This was suggested primarily as a means of easing highways congestion around the shared school and medical centre vehicular entrance and to provide more car parking space for the school.

3.6.4 Response: The Transport Statement prepared by the Highways team will consider additional traffic management measures needed to address any identified issues in regard to the current school and medical centre access and parking arrangements.

Any proposal for an alternative use of the school site would have to be considered against Green Belt policy as it would not fall within the provisions of the current planning permission granted for the housing development. A relocation of the village medical centre would be considered to be an inappropriate use in the Green Belt unless very special circumstances could be demonstrated. This suggestion also goes beyond the remit of this proposed school expansion scheme and would need to be considered separately.

3.6.5 Concern that this is the wrong proposal needed to meet higher demand for places: 8 comments received suggested that, instead of proposing to expand Bramhope Primary School, a new school should be built elsewhere instead. Most of these respondents felt this new school should be constructed at the Breary Lane East development on the reserved primary school land.

3.6.6 Response: The following three possible options to create some new school places in Bramhope were considered before a final decision was taken to consult on the proposed expansion of Bramhope Primary School:

Option 1) Relocate and expand Bramhope Primary School to 2FE at the Breary Lane East housing development school site. The outcome of the viability study cost estimate to expand Bramhope Primary School suggests that relocation to a new site would be a more expensive proposal than creating additional capacity on the school's current site, as an entire new 2 Form Entry (60 place) school would need to be constructed on what is currently green belt public open space. The old school site would also need to be decommissioned at the local authority's expense.

Option 2) Run a free school presumption to facilitate the opening of a new free school at the Breary Lane East housing development school site. Given the scale of this proposal, overall it would cost more than creating additional places at Bramhope Primary School. This option would also be likely to negatively impact on Bramhope Primary School and other schools in the wider area, given that it would lead to a large oversupply of places, with current projections suggesting that only 20 additional places are required.

Option 3) A proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School to 2FE on its current site. **This is the preferred option, and the one that has been proposed and consulted on** as it offers the most cost effective solution; provides the right number of additional places to meet all forecast additional demand; and is a lower risk option as the school is already established and popular with local families.

3.6.7 Concern that the extra places are not needed, or not yet needed: 5 comments expressed concern that a lack of data was made available to support the stated need for more places, or that the additional places may not be needed just yet. Some of these comments suggested that this could lead to an issue whereby the siblings of children attending Bramhope Primary School from outside the village would gain priority access to the extra places over and above other more local children.

Response: Year on year increases in all future Reception class cohorts (NHS 0-5s data) living within Bramhope Primary School's priority catchment area is driving higher demand for places at the school, with both 2019 and 2020 Reception cohorts having grown to be larger than the number of places available. As a result, 20 additional temporary (bulge) places were needed at Bramhope Primary School in 2020 and will be needed again in 2021 to ensure sufficient Reception places are available to meet demand.

Construction has also started at the Breary Lane East, Bramhope (Miller Homes) housing development - a large scale residential development of 330 dwellings - which, over the longer term, will increase demand for school places in Bramhope still further. It is estimated that, on first occupation of these new dwellings, the development will yield a total of 80 additional primary aged pupils, equivalent to approximately 12 pupils per primary school year group. The proposed expansion, which would provide 20 additional places each year, would meet all projected growth in demand for places at Bramhope Primary School for the foreseeable future, while taking account of historical Reception place allocation patterns. Therefore, although applications from siblings of children already attending Bramhope Primary School would be ranked under the sibling priority within the school's admission policy, projected demand provides confidence that there would remain sufficient places available to meet all other local demand.

Creating a new free school at the Breary Lane East housing site is an option available to the local authority, however having two schools within Bramhope would create too many primary school places for the long term level of demand expected, and, therefore could put one if not both schools at risk of being financially unsustainable.

Available population data suggests that without the expansion of Bramhope Primary School, there will be insufficient places available to meet local demand. Although some of the additional demand for places will gradually arise as the new housing in Breary Lane East is constructed and becomes occupied, it is expected that the majority of demand for places at Bramhope Primary School would continue to originate from its own priority catchment area immediately post-expansion. As the increase in demand is directly linked to growth within Bramhope Primary School's own priority catchment area, the increase in places would not be of detriment to the admissions of other local schools.

3.6.8 Concerns about building works and loss of green space: 4 comments received expressed concern about the extent of any building works required if the proposed

expansion goes ahead; 2 comments expressed concern that there would be insufficient space available for the extra pupils; and 2 commented that they were worried that building works may create some noise disruption to local residents. A further 4 comments stated concerns about the potential loss of green and play area space at the school's site.

3.6.9 Response: 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. Full project feasibility will need to be undertaken to determine if a build scheme needs to be developed and agreed to provide some required additional teaching accommodation and other school facilities. However, although at this early stage only a high level site viability assessment has been undertaken for this potential scheme, it is anticipated that the majority of the works required to make the school suitable for 2 forms-of-entry would be achievable through internal remodelling of existing space, rather than via a large scale building extension or by adding more floors to the existing building.

A clear objective of any approved expansion would be to absolutely minimise the need to build on existing open green or play space. In addition, 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.

3.6.10 Concern about the impact of teaching and learning, or that the school would not maintain its current ethos:

3.6.11 Response: Bramhope Primary School was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted at its last inspection and is popular with local families. The Headteacher and Trustees 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. Were the school to expand, the number of classes would increase to accommodate the extra children, with additional teaching and support staff employed as the school grows. The school has also stated that a move from mixed year to single year group classes, required as a result of the proposed expansion, would be beneficial from a school curriculum delivery point of view.

The Headteacher and Trustees are also confident in their ability to maintain and extend the schools current values and ethos as it grows. The school welcomes the opportunity to enable more children to benefit from its current high standards of teaching and learning.

3.6.12 Concern that an increase in primary places at Bramhope Primary School will eventually lead to difficulties getting a place at a local secondary school: 2 comments expressed concern that, should the proposal be approved, it would become harder to get a secondary school place due to larger cohorts at Bramhope Primary School eventually feeding through into the secondary sector.

3.6.13 Response: As part of the Collaborative Learning Trust, pupils attending Bramhope Primary School receive a higher priority for a Year 7 place at Otley Prince Henry's Grammar School under that school's admission policy. This arrangement will remain in place should the proposed expansion go ahead. However, it is likely that additional secondary school places will be required across the North West area of Leeds to help manage the growth in current population at primary schools, as well any additional pupils generated by new housing development. The Sufficiency and

Participation team will be working closely with secondary schools to determine the options available to create additional places where a need is identified.

3.6.14 A summary of the views and concerns expressed by those who chose to submit a written response via email or by letter is listed below. All but one of these mirror concerns and suggestions raised by the consultation online survey respondents and have, therefore, already been addressed above. A response is provided to the new concern raised at 3.6.17:

3.6.15 Traffic/ Highways/ Air Pollution: The 67 signatories to the letter stated that they were not, in principle, against the proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School provided that all traffic congestion, highways infrastructure and road safety issues are adequately addressed via an effective traffic plan.

3.6.16 Alternative proposals: A respondent supported the suggestion of opening a new school at the Breary Lane East housing development site instead of expanding Bramhope Primary School. Another respondent suggested that the medical centre should be relocated to the school site, while another opposed this suggestion.

3.6.17 Need for additional places: 2 respondents expressed concerns that the places may not required to meet a local need, or that the proposed additional places at Bramhope Primary School may have a detrimental effect on admissions at nearby Pool C of E Primary School.

3.6.18 Response: Available population data suggests that without the expansion of Bramhope Primary School, there will be insufficient places available to meet rising demand from within the school's own catchment area. Although some of the additional demand for places will gradually arise as the new housing in Breary Lane East is constructed and becomes occupied, it is expected that the majority of demand for places at Bramhope Primary School would continue to originate from its own priority catchment area without detriment to the admissions of other local schools, including Pool C of E Primary School.

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 The consultation on the proposal took place between 14 December 2020 and 24 January 2021 to seek the views of parents/carers, local residents and other stakeholders. To maximise stakeholder engagement a variety of consultation methods were used, including email communications and an online survey. Information about the consultation was posted on the Leeds City Council and school websites and through various social media platforms. 2 online consultation sessions were also hosted by the school which gave parents/carers, residents and other interested parties an opportunity to discuss the proposal with the school's leadership team, Trustees and with Leeds City Council officers. Approximately 800 leaflets advertising the consultation and providing background information regarding the need for additional (bulge) places in 2020 and 2021, were delivered to residents living within close proximity of Bramhope Primary School. The school informed parents and carers of existing pupils and details about the consultation were sent via email to primary and secondary schools in the area to share with their parents

and communities. Information on the proposal was shared via email with all ward members, the Parish Council, the local MP and other stakeholders.

4.1.3 Local ward members and the Parish Council have been fully briefed on the proposal. Members have raised some issues and suggestions they would like to see addressed if the proposal is approved, including:

- Strategic planning is needed to bring together wider infrastructure issues in Bramhope (i.e. Bramhope road safety, medical centre parking)
- consideration for the use of the Breary Lane East housing development school site (as an alternative to expansion of Bramhope Primary School or for relocation of Bramhope's medical centre)
- Residents highways, parking and road safety issues and concerns;
- Minimising the use of existing green space within the school site for any agreed school expansion project

4.1.4 The Collaborative Learning Trust, school leadership, and governing body all strongly support the proposal, welcoming the opportunity to offer more school places within the village as it grows.

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 supports 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 providing new high quality school places within a well-established, Ofsted rated 'outstanding' school, this proposal supports 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'. 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 primary school provision in Bramhope both due to increases in pupil numbers and the housing development at Breary Lane East. This proposal would meet the current and future increase in demand and help ensure that local families are able to access local school places and reduce journey times to and from school. Bramhope Primary School'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 pupils who may choose to attend the school.
- 4.3.5** Recent census information shows that the majority of children who attend Bramhope Primary School live within Bramhope village and that 46 percent of pupils walk to school. Any future development would continue to support this trend and indeed promote sustainable methods of travel. As part of any planning application, the school's 'Travel Plan' would be considered and a package of measures would be identified in order to mitigate the potential impact on the highway as a result of the development. 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** This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme, primarily through Basic Need Allocations. Once the feasibility stage was complete and the scheme proceeded 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. Once design freeze had been reached, the precise funding package would be detailed in the relevant Design and Cost Report (DCR) and the Director of Children and Families, in consultation with School Places Programme Board would be asked to approve Authority To Spend for the proposed scheme along with any necessary risk fund application, in line with the governance arrangements currently in place.

4.4.2 Beyond an expectation that the appropriate land area for school provision is reserved and transferred at nil consideration, if required to deliver a new school, the developer and land owner of the Breary Lane East housing development were not required to make a cash contribution towards the cost of providing education places. However, the development will contribute to the council's strategic fund via payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

4.4.3 The proposed scheme may be subject to planning permission which would need to be granted prior to the commencement of construction works. The scheme would also be subject to relevant stakeholder consultation.

4.4.4 Executive Board is asked to grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £1.2m to deliver the proposed expansion at Bramhope Primary School.

4.4.5 The provisional figure requested has been estimated following a review of the Viability Study (November 2020), and consultation with key stakeholders including the school, Highways and ward members. The main components currently factored into the broad scope at this stage are the provision of two additional classrooms via internal remodelling, re-provision of displaced IT and library spaces, works to increase the capacity of the kitchen and dining functions, potential linking of the two buildings through landscaped features, fencing of the site perimeter to address safeguarding and security concerns, and all required external works including enhanced parking provision. Design fees and a scheme contingency have been included, while it is important to note that the feasibility study will refine the project scope and determine the final budget allocation required for delivery.

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 statutory framework and departmental advice set out in: Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy and Closure by Mutual Agreement (November 2019).

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 additional primary places to be delivered for 2022. A decision not to proceed at this stage may result in fresh consultations on new proposals, and places may not be delivered in time. It may also result in further bulge cohorts being delivered in other local schools which would be more costly in the longer term. The Local Authority'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 Reception places, Bramhope Primary School has admitted over its Published Admission Number (PAN) in 2020 and has committed to doing so again in September 2021. As the number of primary pupils living in the Bramhope area is anticipated to increase further in future years, additional permanent places are required to address the growing need. A decision not to proceed with the expansion of Bramhope Primary School 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 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 primary place and so delivering our vision of Leeds as a child friendly city.
- 5.2** A majority of consultation survey respondents support the proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School. 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** The additional places are required to ensure the authority meets its legal requirement to ensure sufficiency of primary provision for September 2022. There is evidence of local need for places in the area and it is therefore recommended that the proposal be approved.

6. Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- a) Note the outcome of consultation on a proposal to expand Bramhope Primary School, by permanently increasing the number of Reception places from 40 to 60 from September 2022 gradually increasing the overall capacity of the school from 280 to 420 pupils.
- b) Grant provisional approval for authority to spend (ATS) £1.2m to deliver the proposed expansion at Bramhope Primary School.
- c) Note that implementation of the proposal is subject to the outcome of further detailed design work and any planning applications as indicated at section 4.4 of this report, and that the proposal has been brought forward in time for places to be delivered for 2022.
- d) 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.