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## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD: 14 October 2009**

**SUBJECT: Proposal for statutory consultation for the expansion of primary provision for September 2010**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### **PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1 In July 2009 Executive Board approved plans for an increase in the admissions limit at 14 primary schools with effect from September 2010. It was noted that further statutory process would be required where expansion of a school's physical capacity is required. This report seeks the permission of the Executive Board to commence that consultation.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2 In June 2009 the Executive Board received a report which identified significant demographic changes in the city and a need to plan for additional primary school places in response to the increasing pre-school population and further projected growth. This population growth has since received much national attention and has resulted in the DCSF identifying further funding for basic need pressures.
- 3 In July 2009, the Executive Board approved plans to change admissions limits at a number of primary schools across Leeds in order to meet increasing demand for primary places for September 2010. The applications have been acknowledged by the Schools Adjudicator, but no final determination has yet been received.
- 4 As identified in the July report, in most cases a further statutory process is required where expansion of the school's physical capacity is required. This report seeks permission to commence the consultation stage of that process.

#### **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of schools for 2010, including the schools outlined in this report, will be funded through the Education Capital Programme. The estimated costs are £12.2m at this stage, and will be subject to review and development. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board.

A bid has been submitted to the DCSF for additional funding to support this.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6 The Executive Board is asked to;
- i) approve statutory formal consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand the primary schools identified in 3.3 of this report
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- ii) To agree to formal consultation on a proposal at New Bewerley Primary School, in addition to the proposed expansion within 5.1 above, to add community specialist provision for up to 14 pupils with complex medical, physical needs.
  - iii) note that a report detailing the outcome of these consultations will be brought back to Executive Board in Spring 2010.
  - iv) note that proposals for further primary school expansions from 2011 onwards are being developed which will be the subject of further reports to the Board

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### Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

### Specific Implications For:

Equality & Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in  
(Details contained in the Report)

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## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 1.1 In July 2009 Executive Board approved plans for an increase in the admissions limit at 14 primary schools with effect from September 2010. It was noted that a further statutory process would be required where expansion of a school's physical capacity is required. This report seeks the permission of the Executive Board to commence the statutory consultation process.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.2 In July 2009, the Executive Board approved plans to change admissions limits at a number of primary schools across Leeds in order to meet increasing demand for primary places for September 2010. Applications for new admission limits have been submitted to the Schools Adjudicator, but no final determination has yet been received.

- 2.2 As identified in the July report, there is a further statutory process where expansion of the school's physical capacity is required. This report identifies that requirement in detail and seeks permission to commence the consultation stage of

that process.

### 3.0 THE MAIN ISSUES

3.1 Under The Education and Inspections Act 2006, the enlargement of the premises of a school which would increase the physical capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser) constitutes a prescribed alteration. This requires a statutory process to confirm the change and make it permanent. The requirement is not dependent on the addition of physical buildings and covers the requirement for the redesignation or remodelling of existing rooms to increase the capacity of the school.

3.2 All of the schools for which expansion is planned for 2010 will meet this requirement for a statutory process. Some will require additional buildings whilst others will be able to meet need purely from remodelling and redesignation of existing space. The school capacity changes are listed in the table below.

3.3

Primary School	Current Admission Limit	Planned Admission Limit	Current Capacity	Required capacity
Ireland Wood	30	60	210	420
Iveson	30	45	210	315
Mill Field	45	60	258	420
Blenheim	30	60	210	420
Brudenell	40	45	239	315
Ingram Road	30	45	210	315
Greenmount	45	60	343	420
New Bewerley	45	60	315	420
Beeston	60	90	420	630
Hugh Gaitskell	75	90	525	630
Ebor Gardens	30	60	210	420
Victoria	50	60	318	420
Highfield	45	60	315	420
Moor Allerton Hall	45	60	315	420
Swarcliffe	30	45	210	315
Whitkirk	45	60	315	420
Thorner CE	20	30	156	210

3.4 This statutory requirement also applies to the schools for which an increase in the admission number had already been planned through the normal admissions consultation cycle, and they are included in this paper. In these two schools (Moor Allerton Hall and Whitkirk) no further additional building is required, although some internal remodelling or redesignation of space may be required.

3.5 Brudenell Primary already has an admission limit of 40 but does not have sufficient existing capacity to sustain this size of cohort as they move through the school. Additional accommodation is necessary which meets the criteria for a prescribed alteration. In providing the additional accommodation it is intended to increase the admission limit to 45.

3.6 At New Bewerley Primary School it is proposed, in addition to the proposed expansion, to add further community specialist provision for up to 14 pupils with complex medical, physical needs. The school already provides for 8 pupils with complex medical, physical needs as a partnership school with the South SILC and

already has appropriate specialist provision for up to 14 pupils.

- 3.7 The proposal for Whitkirk Primary will be managed alongside the proposal to add community specialist provision for children with complex physical difficulties. Both proposals can be accommodated within the current physical footprint of the building.
- 3.8 There are planned increases in admission numbers for 2010 at two further schools (Brownhill Primary and Calverley Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School) and these are occurring through the normal cycle. These do not require a statutory process.
- 3.9 Should these proposals proceed following consultation, then Education Leeds will work with individual schools to ensure that they have sufficient accommodation to admit to their higher admission number by September 2010.

### **Consultation**

- 3.10 The proposed consultation will run during the second half of the autumn term, from 2<sup>nd</sup> November to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2009. A single consultation document will be produced which describes the city-wide context, the changing demographics and future pupil projections, then describes each of the individual proposals in turn within its local context. This will be widely circulated and available to all of the schools and communities affected to include pupils and parents, ward members and other stakeholders.
- 3.11 A series of public meetings will be organised in affected communities. Where there are clusters of schools a single meeting will be arranged within that community. For those schools without close neighbours in these proposals, for example Thorner CE Primary, individual meetings will be arranged. Ward members will be fully briefed and consulted with on these proposals. The document will make clear how anyone can respond during the consultation and will describe the subsequent processes that would be followed and further opportunities to comment or influence decisions prior to a final determination.

## **4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The capital works required to deliver the expansion of schools for 2010, including the schools outlined in this report, will be funded through the Education Capital Programme. The estimated costs are £12.2m at this stage, and will be subject to review and development. Further reports, seeking financial approval for the fully costed specific schemes will be brought to the Board. Phasing of some schemes may result in expenditure over two or more financial years.
- 4.2 Proposals for further expansions in 2011 and in 2012, in response to the rising birth numbers, are being developed which it is envisaged will be brought to Executive Board in January 2010 for permission to consult. A series of informal consultation meetings with all heads and chairs of governors during October, in local clusters, will share the current local context, existing proposals and projected need and significantly contribute to the shaping of further proposals. The anticipated need for places is expected to be on a similar scale in 2011 and 2012 to those for 2010, potentially a further 11 to 15 forms of entry in each year. It is likely that our ability to respond to this need through expansion on existing school sites will become more challenging to deliver and new schools will be needed. This would significantly increase the resource requirements
- 4.3 A bid for additional basic need 'safety valve' funding has been submitted to the

DCSF to support the capital delivery in 2010 and 2011 but this would not meet the full costs. The Education capital programme will need to be significantly reprioritised to deliver this statutory responsibility whatever the success of this request.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

5.1 The Executive Board is asked to;

i) approve statutory formal consultation on the prescribed alterations to permanently expand the primary schools identified in 3.3 of this report

ii) agree to formal consultation on a proposal at New Bewerley Primary School, in addition to the proposed expansion within 5.1(i) above, to add community specialist provision for up to 14 pupils with complex medical, physical needs.

iii) note that a report detailing the outcome of these consultations will be brought back to Executive Board in Spring 2010.

iv) note that proposals for further primary school expansions from 2011 onwards are being developed which will be the subject of further reports to the Board

## **6.0 BACKGROUND REPORTS**

22 July 2009 Proposed increases in Admissions Limits for September 2010

17 June 2009 Expanding Primary Place Provision

17 June Proposal to add specialist community provision at Whitkirk Primary School for pupils with complex physical difficulties and medical needs.