

Annex 1

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: PRIMROSE

Introduction

This booklet contains information about the challenge to raise standards for young people in the inner North East of Leeds. It includes a proposal to close Primrose High School and replace it with an academy sponsored by the Co-operative Group with Leeds City College as educational partner. We are holding a public consultation between 7 January 2010 and 5 March 2010 to find out what you think about this proposal. This public consultation will help the Executive Board of Leeds City Council make a decision about the proposal.

Please read this booklet. You can also attend the public meeting. We want to know what you think about this proposal. Details of how you can tell us your views are at the end of this booklet.

What is the proposal?

To close Primrose High School in August 2011 and replace it with an academy sponsored by the Co-operative Group, opening in September 2011 on the same site.

What are Academies?

“Academies are all-ability, state-funded schools established and managed by sponsors from a wide range of backgrounds, including high performing schools and colleges, universities, individual philanthropists, businesses, the voluntary sector, and the faith communities. Some are established educational providers, and all of them bring a record of success in other enterprises which they are able to apply to their Academies in partnership with experienced school managers.

Academies are set up with the backing of their local authority, which also has a seat on the academy's governing body. Academies are not maintained by the local authority, but they collaborate closely with it, and with other schools in the area. Academies are funded at a level comparable to other local schools in their area.

Sponsors challenge traditional thinking on how schools are run and what they should be like for students. They seek to make a complete break with cultures of low aspiration which afflict too many communities and their schools.”

Source: Department for Children Schools and Families website 2009

The academy proposed here

It will be sponsored by the Co-operative Group with Leeds City College as educational partner. The Co-operative Group is widely recognised across the UK as a family of businesses, democratically run by its members, to meet common needs and aspirations. The Co-operative Group's businesses include food, banking, insurance, travel, farming, funerals and healthcare.

The Co-operative has a strong presence in Leeds and is already sponsoring projects in Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent. The Group is working with schools across the UK, developing co-operative approaches to providing young people with the skills and understanding they need for their futures.

The Co-operative Group will use its cooperative structure; ethos, values & principles to engage the local communities that Primrose serves and work with other academies and sponsors to ensure the benefits of its cooperative way of working are shared.

It also aims to use the co-operative solutions to improve the educational attainment of the school, build community engagement, and ensure that co-operative values are embraced by every pupil for their time at school and in their adult lives.

The Co-operative Group wants to develop a strong co-operative curriculum and use its values and principles to drive improvements within the school. This will lead to the organisation's eventual aim of creating a future network of all co-operative schools, colleges and academies.

Why do we want to close Primrose High School and replace it with an Academy sponsored by the Co-operative Group?

Primrose High School faces significant challenges; the standards achieved by the school are low compared with those achieved in similar schools in Leeds. This means that not enough young people are succeeding and reaching their potential at present.

In 2008, the Government launched the National Challenge. This means that the minimum standard expected of every secondary school is that 30% of their young people achieve five good GCSEs including English and Maths. At present Primrose is not supporting enough young people to achieve this.

Education Leeds and the school have been working together and some things have improved recently. However, we are not confident that the leadership; attendance; standards; achievement; and the budget: can improve quickly enough to benefit the young people in the school now and those likely to attend the academy in the future.

With the input from the Co-operative Group we are confident that all these issues will be addressed and continuous improvement will be secured by:

What will this mean for young people in inner North East Leeds?

Primrose pupils will transfer to the academy automatically. Primrose High School will close on 31 August 2011. The new academy will open on 1 September 2011. Parents of Year Six children who want to choose the academy will be able to apply through the normal admissions process starting in 2010.

What happens to staff?

The Co-operative Group will appoint a new leadership team and establish a shadow governing body for the new academy. Once this has been done, they will develop a staffing structure for the academy. Throughout the transition staff will be encouraged and

supported to continue the development of their career within the academy and to support the process of change. All staff permanently employed at Primrose High School will benefit from employment protection legislation and will automatically transfer into the new academy.

What other options have been considered?

The other options we have considered are:

- Close Primrose High School and expand provision at other schools in the area.

Primrose High School is a new, purpose-built school serving this part of inner North East Leeds. If we close Primrose High School and do not replace it on the same site there will not be enough secondary school places in this part of the city. Transferring young people to other schools in the area would be unnecessarily disruptive.

- Leave Primrose High School unchanged.

There is a need to act quickly so that Primrose High School delivers high quality education - both now and in the future - and effectively meets the needs and aspirations of the community it serves. Leaving the school unchanged means that not enough young people will succeed and reach their potential.

How to comment on these proposals

This consultation runs from Thursday 7 January 2009 to Friday 5th March 2010. If you want the council's Executive Board to consider your views, we must receive your comments no later than 4pm on Friday 5th March 2010.

We will be consulting with the Inner North East area committee at the meeting on 1 February 2010 at 4pm

We are holding a public meeting on 11 February 2010 at 7pm, at Primrose High School, where you will have the opportunity to debate the proposal and let us know your views.

Responses need to be in writing, or verbally at the meeting. We minute all public meetings and place the minutes on our website: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It is important that, if you can, you give reasons for agreeing or disagreeing with the proposals so that as much information as possible is available to the Executive Board when making their decision.

Written responses can be made:

- Using the form in this booklet, which includes details of where to send it.
- By letter, to school organisation team, 9th Floor West, Merrion House, Merrion Way, Leeds LS2 8DT,
- By email: educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses can be anonymous, but if you require an acknowledgement please include your name and address.

In addition further copies of this booklet and the response form are available on the Education Leeds website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. It has also been widely distributed to many interested people and groups, including local councillors, MPs, the Catholic and Church of England Dioceses, and trades unions.

What happens to your comments?

All your views will be summarised and presented to Leeds City Council's Executive Board, which will decide whether to proceed with the proposal or to change it in any way. We expect the Board to make this decision at their meeting on the 7th April 2010.

Your comments are treated equally, whether you put them in writing or say them at the public meetings.

If the Executive Board decides to proceed a statutory notice confirming the details of, and inviting comments on, the final proposal is likely to be published after Monday 12 April 2010 in the Yorkshire Evening Post, and at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation.

If you want to make sure the Executive Board considers your comments when making their final decision, you should make them again at this stage. This applies even if the comments are the same as you have contributed to this consultation.

The Executive Board must make its decision within two months of the statutory notice period, so the final decision on this proposal is likely to be made at their meeting in June 2010.

The School Organisation Advisory Body is made up of representatives from the area's education community. It has been established by the council's Executive Board to consider responses and make recommendations on the final decision regarding any proposals to change the size or organisation of schools. If objections are received, the School Organisation Advisory Board will sit ahead of the Executive Board meeting to make its recommendation on the proposals.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSE FORM

Please read the consultation booklet on the proposals and tell us what your views are. The questions on this form are provided to help you do so, but you do not have to respond to all of them. If you prefer not to use this form, you can also put your views in a letter. Letters and forms should be sent to the address at the bottom of this form. Extra copies of this booklet and response form are available at www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. You may also respond by e-mail to educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk

Responses must be received by 4pm on Friday 5th March 2010. All responses will be reported to a meeting of the Executive Board of Leeds City Council on 7 April 2010..

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PROPOSALS

1. What are your views on the proposed closure of Primrose High School in August 2011?

2. What are your views on the proposed Academy? For example, do you have any views on the sponsor or its proposal?

3. Have you found this booklet useful?

4. Have you found the consultation process useful?

5. Do you have any other comments or views?

Your personal details (if you would like your response can be formally acknowledged):

Name:

Address:

e-mail address:

Parent/Carer of present pupil(s)
Parent/Carer of primary school child
Other adult relative
Pupil
Governor

Member of staff
Local Resident
Elected Member
Community Representative
Other

Data Protection Act 1998

Under the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998 we must inform you of the following. Education Leeds and Leeds City Council are seeking your views to help inform the decision on this proposal. Your personal information will be used only for this purpose, and may be shared with other agencies who are involved in the consultation, however only to address any issues you raise. If you do not wish to provide personal details your views will still be considered, but we will not be able to acknowledge your response personally.

Please send your reply to:

The Chief Executive, Education Leeds, FAO School Organisation Team
9th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT

Appendix 1 – Facts about Primrose High

Capacity 765

Numbers on Roll

Year	No on Roll	% surplus
2005	704	8
2006	720	6
2007	872	17
2008	877	16
2009	917	13

Parental preference

Year	Capacity	First pref	Second pref	Third pref	% 1 st pref of capacity
2007	180	149	19	12	82.7
2008	180	144	24	12	80
2009	180	135	26	4	75

Achievement

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
5A*-C incl English and maths	10.7	16.8	23.0	19.0	15.3
5A*-C	23.0	26.9	30.0	31.0	38.2
5 A*-G	70.0	75.6	78.0	82.0	75.7
1+ A-G	90.0	88.0	91.0	97.0	88.9

Attendance

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Attendance	83.8	84.30	85.75
Authorised absence	5.8	8.75	8.21
Unauthorised absence	10.4	6.95	6.04