



**Report of Chief Executive, Education Leeds**

**Meeting: Outer North West Area Committee**

**Date: 8th February 2010**

**Subject: Consultation on changes to Horsforth primary age range schools**

<p><b>Horsforth</b></p>          <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report presents the Area Committee with the consultation document on proposals for changes to primary age school provision in Horsforth.

The consultation document appended forms the basis of the report. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider this and comment on the expansion proposals.

## **Purpose of This Report**

1. The consultation document appended forms the basis of this report.
2. The consultation document asks for comments on proposals to permanently expand West End Primary school from 210 to 315 pupils (an admissions limit of 30 to 45), and to change both Featherbank Infant and Newlaithes Junior Schools into through primary schools to create a further 30 reception places and 210 places in total.

## **Background Information**

3. Leeds City Council has a legal duty to provide school places for every child in the city taking into account where those children live and may want to attend school. Pupil projections for the Horsforth area show around 285 reception places may be needed for entry in 2011, and there are currently 240 places available. These proposals will create an additional 45 places, ie a total of 285.
4. The consultation period runs from Monday 11 January 2010 to Friday 26 February 2010. Education Leeds are holding meetings to gather the views of schools, families, young people, governors, and the general public to create opportunities to debate the proposals and ask questions. The findings from the consultation will be presented to the council's Executive Board.

## **Main Issues**

5. All the issues are described in full in the consultation document. In addition, the following points should be noted:
6. Detailed plans for the buildings schemes are not yet available. Education Leeds is in the process of procuring a framework to deliver the design and build of the accommodation necessary to realise these expansions, and has to wait until the proposals have been approved before committing to the delivery of those schemes. Any schemes involving building works will be subject to the normal planning permission process, allowing any interested parties to comment, and meaning any traffic and access issues will receive due consideration. Schools are fully involved in the design of the building schemes. At present it is anticipated that the scheme at West End could be delivered by providing some additional modular units, possibly also with some internal remodelling work. The scheme at Featherbank could potentially be delivered through some internal remodelling, and the scheme at Newlaithes would be primarily through additional modular buildings.
7. The proposals describe the principle of changing Featherbank and Newlaithes into through primaries, and also a proposed transition plan. Both aspects are being consulted on as part of this process. The transition plan includes Featherbank becoming a 1FE infant school (ie 90 children in total) before it expands to become a 1FE primary. Both Newlaithes and Featherbank have raised concerns about this. Whilst those concerns are very real, within the authority we have had experience of growing a school from just one reception class all the way to a through primary, and believe that although challenging, the plan is achievable. Alternatives have been explored, however so far we have not found a way of making these deliverable in legal terms. We are continuing this dialogue through the consultation period, and will continue to consider any other suggestions which emerge.
8. The demographic data and information on likely significant new housing developments suggests further provision may be needed beyond these proposals, and

this is unlikely to be solved purely through the traditional approach of expanding existing schools. Long-term planning for the city and area is ongoing, and whilst some options are still at an exploratory stage, this includes

- working with council officers to consider the impact of new housing.
- identifying sites / other buildings and interested parties to run new schools or split site / federated schools.
- collaboration with all primary, Early Years and secondary providers to optimise overall use of space.
- secondary planning for when the increased numbers work through to high school – this needs to be linked for changes to the 14-19 provision, and BSF plans.

We are establishing a new process for working with all schools and other stakeholders on an area by area basis to respond to trends and to plan and deliver a place at a local school for every child in the city. Ongoing engagement with Area Committees and ward members will be essential to this process.

### **Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

9. All the issues are described in the Executive Board report considered in January 2010, which gave permission to consult on the proposals. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. In planning that capacity, they need to take into account where those children live and where they might want to attend school.

### **Legal and Resource Implications**

10. All the issues are described in the Executive Board report considered in January 2010, which gave permission to consult on the proposals.

### **Recommendations**

11. The Area Committee is requested to
  - Note and consider the report appended
  - Consider any response they wish to make as a part of the consultation

### **Background Papers**

12. Executive Board Report January 2010 Proposal to change primary provision in Horsforth