

Wednesday 5 January to
Friday 18 February 2011

Public consultation

**Proposals to expand Bracken Edge
and Wykebeck primary schools**
from September 2012

Introduction

We have to make sure there are enough places in the city's schools for every child who wants one.

We have already experienced a large rise in the number of children wanting to attend our primary schools in 2010 and 2011. We expect this to continue and are now planning the extra places we believe will be needed from September 2012.

As part of the planning process, we have identified two schools which we believe are in the right areas and are able to provide extra places. We need to ask you about these proposals before Leeds City Council makes a final decision.

We have tried to give you all the information you need to understand and be able to comment on the proposals. Here are some explanations of key phrases and terms which are referenced in this booklet.

Net capacity or useable space

This means the space which is in a school available for classrooms as well as essential non-teaching activities, such as hall, storage and staff rooms. It is expressed in terms of the number of pupils this space is suitable for.

Admissions limit

The maximum number of children a school plans to accept into each year group.

Form of entry (FE)

School sizes are planned on a basis of 30 children per class (or form); a school with an admissions limit of 30 is a one form of entry (1FE) school, 45 pupils is one and a half forms of entry (1.5FE), 60 pupils is two forms of entry (2FE) and so on.

Number on roll

Number of children registered at a school.

Statutory notice period or statutory notice

A period of time required by law to inform the public that the local authority is proposing to do or change something. The statutory notice is published with the proposal details, and invites comments. It follows a period of consultation like this one, allowing the local authority to adapt the proposals based on the views raised in the initial consultation.

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1. What are we asking you about?

This consultation is to ask for your comments on proposals to create extra space to permanently increase the size of Bracken Edge and Wykebeck primary schools in Leeds from September 2012.

The proposals would involve some changes to the 'net capacity' of these schools. This means making sure the school has the right amount of space available for classrooms as well as essential non-teaching activities, such as hall, storage and staff rooms. Increasing the net capacity means either changing the way the school facilities are used at the moment, or adding extra accommodation on school grounds, or both.

Where extra rooms are needed we would provide modern, high-quality modular accommodation. This has all the facilities children need and is built to last for decades. They are built off-site meaning they can be put up quickly on school grounds. This consultation does not replace the normal planning process, which would still be followed before any extra accommodation was placed on site.

2. Why are we asking you?

Leeds City Council has a legal duty to provide school places for every child in the city who wants one, taking into account where those children live and may want to attend school.

We have been planning and delivering extra places due to a rise in the number of children aged five and under in the city, and now we are consulting on proposals to create extra places for the school year starting September 2012.

Your views are very important to us and therefore we need you to read this booklet or attend the public meetings and give us any comments you have on the proposals mentioned in **section 3 – What are the proposals?**

Details of how to comment are in **section 6 – How to comment on the proposals.**

3. What are the proposals?

At **Bracken Edge Primary School**, to increase the maximum number of children on roll to 420 by:

- increasing the admissions limit from 45 to 60; and
- increasing the net capacity of the school from 315 pupils to 420 pupils by providing additional buildings and/or some internal changes to the buildings.

At **Wykebeck Primary School**, to increase the maximum number of children on roll to 420 by:

- increasing the admissions limit from 45 to 60; and
- increasing the net capacity of the school from 315 pupils to 420 pupils by providing additional buildings and/or some internal changes to the buildings.

It is also important to understand that the changes do not mean that the schools would increase their number on roll to the full capacity immediately. In both proposals, the increase would apply to children joining Reception class only each year from September 2012.

These proposals are independent of each other and not related. Any decision on one does not affect the other.

4. How have the proposals been developed?

When finding the right schools, we had to address:

- our legal duties, which include making sure there are enough places, families are offered choice and diversity, and to consider the expansion of popular and successful schools;
- the areas where the extra places are needed;
- the need to develop proposals in a timely manner so that families expressing a preference for places for Reception class in 2012 have all the information they need next summer/autumn;
- the practical reasons why many schools can't be expanded;
- availability of other council owned land and whether any of this land could contribute to the need for places; and
- how expanding one school might affect the other schools in the area.

First, we had to identify how many extra places would be needed and where. This is done through our 'pupil projections', which predict where places would be needed based on birth rates and past patterns of where children are born compared with where they attend school. More information on this can be found in **section 8 – Supporting information: demographics and data tables**. We also compared the predictions with the information available from the latest admissions round, which told us how many children applied and which schools families wanted them to go to.

In the areas that these two schools are located there is clearly a need for more school places. We have looked at all schools in these areas to determine how and where we can expand provision and identified Bracken Edge and Wykebeck as schools that could realistically expand in time for 2012.

Initial exploratory discussions were held with the headteacher and governing bodies, and in December 2010, the Executive Board approved this present consultation on increases to the 'net capacity' of both Bracken Edge and Wykebeck primary schools on a permanent basis.

5. Will there need to be any more proposals to expand provision?

We are planning for a continued rise in the population, and a growing demand for places in Leeds schools. We are working with all schools in the city to plan together how to meet the ongoing needs of every child in every community in the medium and long term. You will have your opportunity to comment on any further proposals as they are brought forward.

6. How to comment on the proposals

This consultation runs from Wednesday 5 January 2011 to Friday 18 February 2011. If you want the council's Executive Board to consider your views, we must receive your comments no later than 4pm on Friday 18 February 2011.

We are holding meetings to gather the views of schools, families and carers, young people, governors, and the general public, where you will have the opportunity to debate the proposals and ask questions. There will be two public meetings:

**Thursday 20 January 2011, 6pm
at Wykebeck Primary School,
Brander Street, Wykebeck, LS9 6QH**

and

**Thursday 27 January 2011, 7pm
at Bracken Edge Primary School,
Newton Garth, Newton Road, LS7 4HE**

The information is also available on the Education Leeds website:

www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation, and in public libraries, and has been widely distributed to interested parties including local councillors, MPs, the Catholic and Church of England dioceses, and unions.

Responses need to be made in writing (see below) or verbally at the public meetings listed above. We minute all public meetings and place the minutes on our website. 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, 10th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds, LS2 8DT; or
- by email to: **educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk**.

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

Please remember that this consultation is to gain your views on proposals to create extra space at Bracken Edge and Wykebeck primary schools. We cannot consider your views on any other subject as part of this process.

7. What happens to your comments and what are the next steps of the process?

All your views will be summarised and presented to Leeds City Council's Executive Board, who will then decide whether to proceed with the proposals or to change them in any way. Your comments are treated with equal weight, whether you put them in writing or say them at the public meetings.

It is expected that they will make this decision at their meeting on 30 March 2011.

If they decide to proceed, a statutory notice confirming the details of the final proposals will be published in the Yorkshire Evening Post and on the Education Leeds website at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation in summer 2011.

The notice will give details of how to make representations or comments on the final proposals. Even if your comments are the same as you have contributed to this consultation, you will need to make them again if you want the Executive Board to consider them when making their final decision. The board must make their final decision within two months of the end of this statutory notice period.

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

The Executive Board is likely to make a final decision in summer 2011.

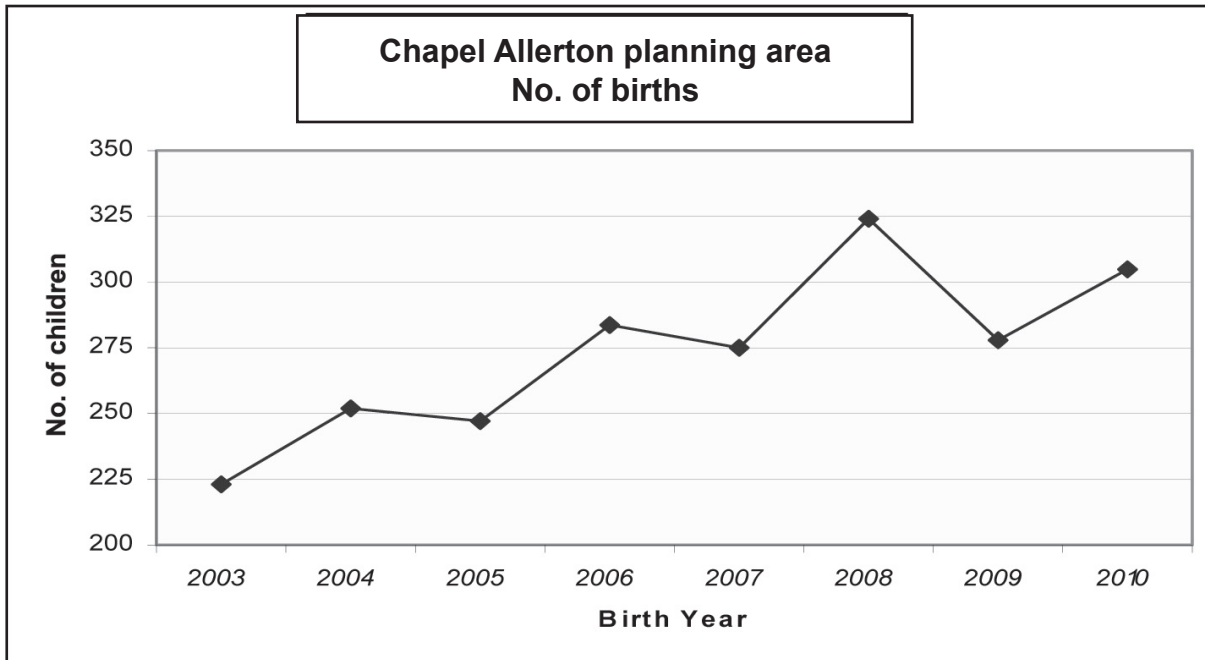
8. Supporting information: demographics and data tables

The table below shows the combined places available in Reception at all schools within the planning area, along with the projections up to and including 2014.

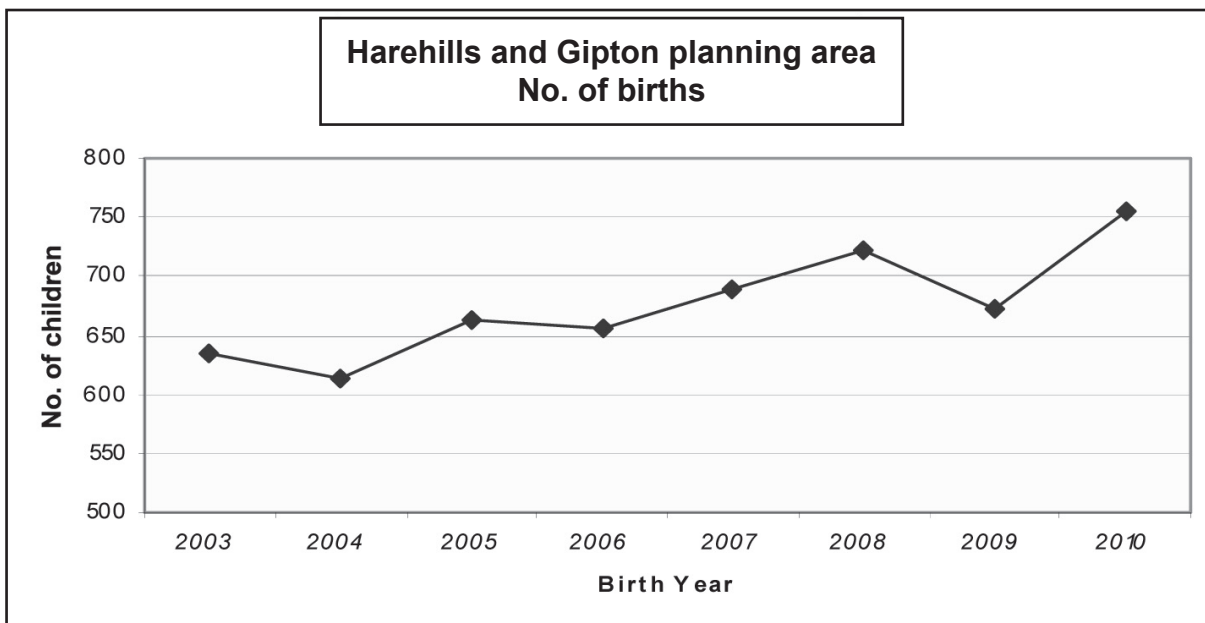
Planning Area	Schools	Reception places available	Reception Projections		
		2010 - 2012	2012	2013	2014
Chapel Allerton	Bracken Edge , Chapel Allerton Hillcrest, Holy Rosary & St Anne's Catholic, St Matthew's CE	255	314	272	307
Harehills and Gipton	Bankside, Harehills, Hovingham Oakwood, St Augustine's Catholic, St Nicholas' Catholic, Woodlands, Wykebeck	505	602	596	646

(Source: Leeds area health authority birth data)

The graphs show the birth numbers in each planning area between 2003 and 2010, with both graphs showing that there are more births in each area than there are school places available.



(Source: Leeds area health authority birth data)



(Source: Leeds area health authority birth data)

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Proposals to expand Bracken Edge And Wykebeck primary schools from September 2012

Public consultation response form

Please read the consultation booklet on the proposal 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, or by email to: educ.school.organisation@educationleeds.co.uk. Extra copies of this booklet and response form are available at: www.educationleeds.co.uk/schoolorganisation. All responses will be reported to a meeting of Leeds City Council's Executive Board in March 2011.

Responses must be received by 4pm on Friday 18 February 2011.

Questions relating to the proposals

Please tick the box for the school that your views relate to:

Bracken Edge primary school

Wykebeck primary school

1. How much do you agree with the following statements? Please tick as appropriate.

1a) I support the proposed increase in primary provision at the school(s) I have ticked above to two forms of entry.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Don't know

Please tell us more about your views and your reasons for them.

Continued overleaf

Please tell us more about your views and your reasons for them.

2. Have you found this booklet useful?
How could we improve the booklet?

Yes No

3. Have you found the consultation process useful?
How could we improve the consultation process?

Yes No

Your personal details (if you want your response to be formally acknowledged)

Name:

Address:

Email address:

Which school are you associated with?

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Parent/carer of present pupil(s) | <input type="radio"/> | Member of staff | <input type="radio"/> |
| Parent/carer of primary school child | <input type="radio"/> | Local resident | <input type="radio"/> |
| Other adult relative | <input type="radio"/> | Elected member | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pupil | <input type="radio"/> | Community representative | <input type="radio"/> |
| Governor | <input type="radio"/> | Other | <input type="radio"/> |

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
10th Floor West, Merrion House, 110 Merrion Centre, Leeds LS2 8DT

Public meetings

Proposals for expansion of primary school provision from September 2012

Leeds City Council is consulting on proposals to expand Bracken Edge and Wykebeck primary schools. The proposals would expand both schools from an admission limit of 45 to an admission limit of 60.

Public meetings will be held to give you a chance to find out more about the proposals and have your say:

<p>Wykebeck Primary School Brander Street, Wykebeck, LS9 6QH</p>	<p>Thursday 20 January 6pm</p>
<p>Bracken Edge Primary School Newton Garth, Newton Road, LS7 4HE</p>	<p>Thursday 27 January 7pm</p>