
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 14th June 2006

SUBJECT: : Primary Review: Proposals for Meanwood Primary Planning Area

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of the further discussions that have taken place since the formal consultation that took place in Summer 2005. It recommends that the proposed closure of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools and the establishment of a one and a half form of entry primary school on the Potternewton site in September 2007 be confirmed, and authority is sought to publish statutory notices to that effect.

2. Background

- 2.1** The Meanwood Planning Area comprises Carr Manor, Miles Hill, Potternewton, Meanwood CE and St Urban's Catholic Primary Schools. There is concern over the long-term viability of the current pattern of provision and the impact of low pupils numbers on Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools. In January 2006 the two schools had only 134 and 98 pupils on roll and significant surplus places. Current and projected intakes are much lower than the schools' admission numbers. The aim of the proposed amalgamation is to provide sustainable schools in the area.

3. Main Issues raised during Consultation

- 3.1** In September 2005 the Executive Board received a report detailing the outcomes of the formal consultation on a proposal to close Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools and to establish a new school on the Potternewton site. The report summarised the issues raised together with Education Leeds' responses. In summary, the main issues raised were
- why this proposal differed from those earlier consulted upon (the closure of Potternewton and an amalgamation of the two schools on the Miles Hill site).
 - Opposition to the closure of Miles Hill Primary School:
 - Impact on the partnership with North West SILC:

- Impact on Standards:
- Access to the Potternewton site:
- Impact on the community and future use of Miles Hill site

Following careful consideration of the views expressed during the consultation period, Education Leeds considered that there were two options to consider – either a) proceeding with the amalgamation proposal or b) retaining provision on the existing sites, by establishing a Federation of the two schools which would address some of the concerns regarding the educational viability associated with small schools. Education Leeds recommended proceeding with the proposal. The Executive Board instructed Education Leeds to undertake further work to explore the viability of establishing a federation between or involving the two schools.

4. Outcome of further work exploring the viability of a federation

4.1 The option of a federation between or involving the Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools was discussed in a series of meetings with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of schools in the area and in discussion with local Ward Councillors, in the context of the advantages and disadvantages. Consideration was given to a federation of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primaries and a wider federation including other schools. None of the other schools within the immediate geographic area perceived joining a federation as an appropriate or beneficial way forward for their development. The discussion therefore developed to focus on a federation between Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary.

4.2 A federation would offer the advantage of maintaining provision on two sites. However, it would be very difficult for the two schools to continue to provide quality provision from both sites if the number of pupils continued to fall or did not improve. The federation would want to gain maximum benefit from the opportunity to pool resources, but it would be difficult to do so if the federation was restricted by a need to continue to operate both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 provision from both sites. Pupil numbers could stabilise if parents felt reassured that provision on both sites would continue to be delivered. However, demographic projections continue to suggest that there would be many more places available than demand and Potternewton and Miles Hill will both continue to feel the impact of this. In summary, it was felt that a federation would not address the fundamental issue of demographic decline in the Meanwood area.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Education Leeds remains of the view that to proceed with the amalgamation of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools is the most appropriate way to tackle concerns with the viability of educational provision in the area. A federation would secure the retention of public services on both sites and would ease the difficulties that schools face when there are falling rolls and low demand. However, it would not ensure that provision is sustainable or guarantee a long-term solution in the context of projected demand. This could be achieved by the amalgamation which would consolidate provision into four schools in the Meanwood area, offering future parents the choice of the school on the Potternewton site, Carr Manor Primary, Meanwood CE Primary and St Urban's Catholic Primary. This pattern of provision would secure quality education for the local community.

- 5.2 However, for this proposal to successfully proceed, there will need to be very careful management of the transition period to support parents, staff and pupils. Education Leeds will engage with other local agencies and Council departments to plan implementation to minimise the negative impacts on the community. An important element of this will be to consider how current facilities can continue to be accessible to all members of the community. Options for consideration include continued use of the Miles Hill site and use of other facilities within the locality. Education Leeds will also work with all schools in the area, including the new school, to provide extended school provision that can be tailored to the community's needs.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There would be an annual revenue saving of approximately £120,000 from this amalgamation proposal.
- 5.2 The Miles Hill Primary School site would be declared surplus to educational requirements if this proposal proceeds. There is a potential for the building to be retained by the City Council for public service provision and/or community use. If, however, there is a capital receipt generated from the site, this would be used to fund primary review works, including improvements at Potternewton Primary School.

6. Recommendation

Executive Board is asked to approve that a statutory notice is published to:

- close Miles Hill Primary School on 31st August 2007
- close Potternewton Primary School on 31st August 2007
- establish a 1.5 FE primary school on the Potternewton site on 1st September 2007.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS

EXECUTIVE BOARD: 14th June 2006

SUBJECT:

<p>Electoral wards Affected: Chapel Allerton Moortown</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Ethnic Minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled People <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>
--	--

Eligible for Call-in

Not Eligible for Call-in

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of the further discussions that have taken place since the formal consultation that took place in Summer 2005. It recommends that the proposed closure of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools and the establishment of a one and a half form of entry primary school on the Potternewton site be confirmed, and authority is sought to publish statutory notices to that effect. The proposal would be implemented in August 2007.

2.00 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Meanwood Planning Area comprises Carr Manor, Miles Hill, Potternewton, Meanwood CE and St Urban's Catholic Primary Schools. A review of provision in the area was undertaken in 2003 and this resulted in the closure of Bentley Primary School in August 2004. A request was made by the Executive Board at their meeting on 15th October 2003 for a further report from Education Leeds during the 2004/5 academic year on the sustainability of continued provision at Potternewton Primary School. This triggered a further review of provision in the Meanwood Planning Area.
- 2.2 On 18th May 2005, the Executive Board considered a report which outlined options for the future pattern of primary provision in the Meanwood Primary Planning Area. At this

meeting, the Executive Board granted Education Leeds permission to undertake public consultation on a proposal to close Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools and establish a one and a half form of entry primary school on the Potternewton site. A six week period of public consultation ran from 6th June until 18th July. On 21st September 2005 the Executive Board received a report summarising the results of the consultation. The Board asked that Education Leeds undertake further work exploring the viability of a federation involving the two schools as an alternative to the recommendation to proceed with the proposed closure.

3.0 MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1** There is continuing concern over the long-term viability of the current pattern of provision in Meanwood. We have some popular, thriving schools in Carr Manor and Meanwood CE Primary Schools, a popular Catholic school in St Urban's and two smaller schools in Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools. Based on the January 2006 pupil count, with only 98 pupils on roll, Potternewton Primary School has the second highest percentage of surplus places of all of the schools at 58%. Miles Hill Primary School has only 134 pupils on roll, although up to an additional 15 pupils are on site from NW Special Inclusive Learning Centre (SILC). The school also has a high percentage of surplus places at 44%. Intakes into both Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools are significantly lower than the schools' admission numbers of 40 and 50 respectively – for September 2006 only 13 children were allocated into Reception at Potternewton and 19 into Reception at Miles Hill. Projections do not suggest that future intakes will be adequate to maintain both schools.
- 3.2** The closure of Bentley Primary School in August 2004 has not had a significant impact on the number on roll at either school. First preferences for both schools remain low, compared to the other four schools in the Meanwood planning area. Current analysis indicates that Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools attract only around 20% of their local population, compared with a citywide average of just over 50%.
- 3.3** The long-term vision for primary provision in Meanwood is for all local schools to be sustainable, well resourced schools that offer an inspiring education for pupils. The aim of the proposed amalgamation of Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools is to ensure all children in the area have access to a high quality of education, with the reassurance that schools have sufficient pupils and resources to be sustainable into the future.

3.4 Summary of main issues raised during Public Consultation

A detailed analysis of the issues raised during consultation was submitted to Executive Board in September 2005. Those issues are summarised below.

- 3.5 Change of proposal:** Education Leeds was questioned on the reasons for the current proposal and why it differed from those consulted upon earlier (the closure of Potternewton and an amalgamation of the two schools on the Miles Hill site).

Education Leeds response: Some action is necessary to tackle the vulnerability of some of the schools serving the area. The aim of the current proposal is to provide a sustainable pattern of provision for the future, with a good geographic distribution of schools in relation to where pupils live. This proposal responds to many of the concerns raised during consultation on earlier proposals. The Potternewton site is the preferred site for an amalgamated school as it is very centrally located in relation to the population

served by both schools.

- 3.7 Opposition to the closure of Miles Hill Primary School:** A number of reasons were provided for why Miles Hill Primary School should be retained as a one form of entry school. The school is valued by parents and pupils, and is considered to be the community hub of the Beckhill estate.

Education Leeds response: Reviews of school places do not focus on individual schools but consider the pattern of primary provision across a geographic area. There are not currently, nor projected to be, sufficient pupils for both Miles Hill and Potternewton to be retained as one form of entry schools. An amalgamation would be founded on the strengths of the existing schools, with as much continuity preserved as possible. The new school presents the opportunity to establish a sustainable, extended school to serve the local area with similar facilities to those that currently exist in both schools.

- 3.8 Partnership with North West SILC:** Concern was expressed on the impact of the loss of the inclusive partnership that Miles Hill currently operates with the North West Special Inclusive Learning Centre.

Education Leeds response: Education Leeds would work closely with the families of children at the NW SILC affected to secure suitable alternative inclusive opportunities. A similar partnership could be considered with the new school.

- 3.9 Impact on Standards:** Concern was expressed that larger classes and mixed age groups which would be detrimental to children's education and the Potternewton building would not be sufficiently large to accommodate all pupils or to offer the same range of opportunities as currently.

Education Leeds response: Schools that have low enrolments and falling pupil numbers do not necessarily have smaller classes due to the way in which formula funding is allocated. How the new school chooses to organise pupils would depend on the number of children at the school. The Potternewton building is sufficiently large to accommodate an intake of up to 45 pupils per year (315 in total). The building is large and light and has the potential for additional facilities to be provided.

- 3.10 Access to the Potternewton site:** Concern has been expressed that the Potternewton site is difficult for pupils currently at Miles Hill to reach. Families would have longer journeys to school and children would have to cross busy roads, in particular Potternewton Lane.

Education Leeds response: Some children currently attending Miles Hill School would have a slightly longer journey to school, although for some the journey to the new school would be shorter. The new school would be supported in developing a school travel plan and safe walking routes.

- 3.11 Impact on the community and future use of Miles Hill site:** Concerns regarding the impact of the proposal on local communities focus on the loss of Miles Hill to the Beckhill Estate and the view that the communities served by the two schools would not easily integrate. Suggested proposals included retaining Miles Hill Primary School as an extended school or, if the proposal were to proceed, that the site was retained as a community facility.

Education Leeds response: The transition and implementation phases would need to be very carefully managed to support the families affected if the amalgamation proceeds. With regards to council service provision, one option would be for the City Council to consider retaining the Miles Hill site for community facilities to support continued regeneration of the Beckhill estate.

3.12 Federation

The option of a federation between or involving the Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools was discussed in a series of meetings with the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of schools in the area and in discussion with local Ward Councillors, in the context of the advantages and disadvantages. Consideration was given to a federation of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primaries and a wider federation including other schools. None of the other schools within the immediate geographic area perceived joining a federation as an appropriate or beneficial way forward for their development. The discussion therefore focused on a federation between Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary.

3.13 A federation can take a range of different formats. In this context, a formal federation was considered that would bring the two schools together under one governing body. The benefits of such a federation could include a range of opportunities to support the sharing of resources and best practice, a potentially stronger senior and middle management team, a stronger teaching team through the appointment of shared staff, better support and development opportunities for governors and some savings in planning and administration time. In a federation the schools would remain as separate institutions and therefore the funding that the schools receive would be delivered as it is currently, via the funding formula and determined by the number of pupils in the schools.

3.14 A federation would offer the advantage of maintaining provision on two sites. However, it would be very difficult for the two schools to continue to provide quality provision from both sites if the number of pupils continued to fall or did not improve. The federation would want to gain maximum benefit from the opportunity to pool resources, but it would be difficult to do so if the federation was restricted by a need to continue to operate both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 provision from both sites. Pupil numbers could stabilise if parents felt reassured that provision on both sites would continue to be delivered. However, demographic projections continue to suggest that there would be many more places available than demand and Potternewton and Miles Hill will both continue to feel the impact of this. In summary, it was felt that a federation would not address the fundamental issue of demographic decline in the Meanwood area.

3.15 An amalgamation as a split site school

A further option that has been considered is an amalgamation as a split site school. This could be an initial step in bringing the two school communities together, but would not provide a suitable long-term solution. Like a federation, this would not address the issue of demographic decline. Whereas in a federation, the schools would continue to be funded as presently this would not be the case in one school operating from two sites. The school's budget would be less than the schools currently receive as individual schools. A split-site school would receive a split-site allowance within the funding formula. However, some funding is allocated on a school basis (such as standards funds) and where currently both schools benefit from an allocation, the new school would receive only one amount. The schools currently receive small school funding which protects them to some degree from falling pupil numbers, but as one school this amount would also reduce.

3.16 The operation and maintenance of two school buildings would put pressure on the

school budget. The Governors of the split-site school would be more than likely to realise within a short period of time that it would be beneficial to consolidate onto one site in order to secure value for money and to maximise the funds that are spent directly on the delivery of quality education.

4. IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

4.1 Planning primary school places is relevant to a number of key priorities identified in the Children and Young People's Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan, in terms of managing the supply and demand of school places and school improvement. It is also relevant to the Closing the Gap agenda, with the planning of school places taking consideration of wider socio-economic factors and regeneration.

5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial implications

There would be annual revenue saving of approximately £120,000 from the closure of Miles Hill Primary School and a saving of £123,000 from the closure of Potternewton Primary School. This would be reduced by approximately £120,000 due to the establishment of the 1.5 FE primary school to accommodate existing pupils, and potential costs incurred during the transition period, for example to protect staff at closing schools.

5.2 The Miles Hill Primary School site would be declared surplus to educational requirements if this proposal proceeds. As indicated above, there is a potential for the building to be retained by the City Council for public service provision and/or community use. If there is a capital receipt generated from the site, this would be used to fund primary review works, including improvements at Potternewton Primary School.

5.3 Legal implications

The review of primary provision fulfils the LEA's statutory requirement to keep under review the supply and demand of school places.

5.4 The recommendation of this report to proceed with the proposal initiates the required statutory process. If objections are received during the representation period of the statutory notice, the proposal will be forwarded to the School Organisation Committee for consideration.

5.5 Timescale

The envisaged timescale for the statutory process is as follows:

June 2006 Publish notices giving 6 weeks for representations.

End July 06 Notice expires

August 06 Exec Board for permission to refer to School Organisation Committee, if there are objections otherwise for Executive Board to determine

End Oct 06 Deadline for SOC decision

Sep 2007 Implementation

5.6 Equality Implications

The proposals have been subject to equality impact assessment. There are no anticipated significant differential impacts on the basis of ethnicity, disability or gender associated with the proposals. The five schools in the area have a variety of ethnic composition and the percentage of White/British pupils ranges from 44% to 85% White/British pupils. Carr Manor has the greatest ethnic mix. Miles Hill is predominantly White/British. Potternewton has 60% White/British pupils and 20% Black pupils. The reorganisation proposal could shift the ethnic balance in local schools, but this is not likely to cause significant issues or impact on pupils' attainment.

5.7 Potternewton Primary School is an accessible school, but would require some minor additional work to ensure full accessibility in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 Education Leeds remains of the view that to proceed with the amalgamation of Potternewton and Miles Hill Primary Schools is the most appropriate way to tackle concerns with the viability of educational provision in the area. A federation would secure the retention of council service provision and community use on both sites and would ease the difficulties that schools face when there are falling rolls and low demand. However, it would not ensure that quality provision is sustainable or guarantee a long-term solution in the context of projected demand. This could be achieved by the amalgamation which would consolidate provision into four schools in the Meanwood area, offering future parents the choice of the school on the Potternewton site, Carr Manor Primary, Meanwood CE Primary and St Urban's Catholic Primary.

6.2 However, for this proposal to successfully proceed, there will need to be very careful management of the transition period to support parents, staff and pupils. Education Leeds will engage with other local agencies and Council departments to plan implementation to minimise the negative impacts on the community. An important element of this will be to consider how current facilities can continue to be accessible to all members of the community. Options for consideration include continued use of the Miles Hill site and use of other facilities within the locality. Education Leeds will also work with all schools in the area, including the new school, to provide extended school provision that can be tailored to the community's needs.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 Executive Board is asked to approve that a statutory notice is published to:

- close Miles Hill Primary School on 31st August 2007
- close Potternewton Primary School on 31st August 2007
- establish a 1.5 FE primary school on the Potternewton site on 1st September 2007.

Demographic Data

Table 1. Current Provision

	Type of School	Nurse ry Roll Jan 06	Ad Limit	Rec Jan 06	Number on Roll (Jan 2006)	NET Capacity	Surplus Places (Jan 06) (%)
Carr Manor	3-11 primary	46	60	54	417	420	3 (1%)
Meanwood CE	5 - 11 primary		30	30	217	210	-7 (-3%)
Miles Hill	3-11 primary	38	50	14	134	240	106 (44%)
Potternewton	3-11 primary	18	40	8	98	233	135 (58%)
St Urban's Catholic	5-11 primary		30	30	206	210	4 (2%)

Miles Hill Primary School has up to an additional 15 pupils from the NW SILC on site.

Table 2: Reception Projections

School	2006	2007	2008	2009	Admission limit
Carr Manor Primary	63	58	60	63	60
Meanwood CE Primary	28	28	28	28	30
Miles Hill Primary	22	20	21	22	50
Potternewton Primary	11	11	11	12	40
St Urban's Catholic Primary	30	30	30	30	30
Area totals	154	147	150	155	210

Standards

The DfES published Primary School Performance Tables in December 2005, which indicate the improvement of schools at the end of Key Stage 2 from 2001 to 2005, based on pupils with Level 4+ SATs scores. Table 4 compares the results to the Leeds and national average.

Table 3: Improvement Measure - Key Stage 2 combined SATs results

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Carr Manor Primary	275	269	265	271	274
Meanwood CE Primary	290	297	271	300	297
Miles Hill Primary	161	163	126	153	169
Potternewton Primary	192	173	217	214	253
St Urban's Cath Primary	274	278	294	268	300
LEA Average	234	236	238	238	241
England Average	233	234	234	237	240

Table 4: KS2 SATs data summer 2005

	% Free School Meals (whole school)	KS2 percent Level 4+						
		English	Maths	Science	No. Pupils Tested	Value Added	SEN (cohort) %	
							With statements	Non-statemented SEN
Carr Manor Primary	21	90	89	95	61	101.9	0%	14.8%
Meanwood CE Primary	6	97	100	100	31	101.3	0%	12.9%
Miles Hill Primary	62	67	44	58	36	99.0	2.8%	8.3%
Potternewton Primary	65	82	76	94	17	100.0	5.9%	11.8%
St Urban's Catholic Primary	11	100	100	100	33	102.2	3%	3%
LEA Average		79	76	85		100.3	2 %	15.5 %
National Average		79	75	86		100.2	3.3 %	18.9 %