

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to the Inner South Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 26th September 2012

Subject: Consultation on expansion of primary school provision for September 2014

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Middleton Park	
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report presents the Inner South Area Committee with an update on the work being undertaken across the city to ensure the authority meets its statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places in the context of an increasing birth rate. This includes formal consultation on four proposals, for which members comments are sought, and a more general update on issues directly affecting the inner south area.

Recommendations

2. Members of the Area Committee are asked to consider the consultation information and comment on the proposals. Individual ward briefings will be arranged as required to discuss issues directly affecting members specific wards in more detail.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report is intended to ensure members are fully briefed on the proposals being brought forward in response to rising demand for reception places city wide and are able to comment on them, in particular those impacting on the inner south area. It is also intended to provide a general update on place pressure issues in the inner south.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The local authority has a legal duty to ensure there are enough school places to meet the needs of its children and families. We are now planning to create the extra places we believe will be needed from September 2014 onwards. At its meeting on 18 July 2012 Executive Board considered the report 'Primary Basic Need Programme - Permission to consult on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2014', and approved consultation on the following proposals:
 - Expansion of Little London Primary School from 210 places to 630 places, by increasing the admission limit from 30 to 90
 - Expansion of Rufford Park Primary School from 210 places to 315 places, by increasing the admission limit from 30 to 45
 - Expansion of Tranmere Park Primary School from 315 places to 420 places, by increasing the admission limit from 45 to 60
 - **Expansion of Sharp Lane Primary School (Middleton Park ward) from 420 places to 630 places, by increasing the admission limit from 60 to 90**
- 2.2 Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 these require a statutory process, and this consultation forms the first part of that process. Consultation documents are available for these proposals which outline the demographic need and background to the development of the proposals.
- 2.3 The consultation period runs from Monday 10 September 2012 to Friday 19 October 2012. Children's Services are holding meetings to gather the views of the community and enable them to debate the proposal and ask questions. The findings from the consultation will be presented to the Executive Board, who will decide whether to proceed to the next stage of the process.

3 Main issues

3.1 Consultation on proposals.

- 3.1.1 The details of the proposal are described in full within the consultation document. In addition, the following points should be noted:
- 3.1.2 Any new school buildings are subject to the normal planning permission process, allowing any interested parties to comment, and meaning building related non educational issues do receive proper consideration. The two processes are independent and the outcome of one does not presuppose the outcome of the other. Based on our experience to date we have started to progress consultation with planning colleagues much earlier, although we remain mindful of how much can be done whilst still at risk of the proposal not proceeding.

3.1.3 Long-term planning for the city is continuing with the help of other stakeholders which includes:

- working with the core strategy team on the impact of long term housing growth, and planning on individual planning applications to plan for the impact of new housing on both a strategic and detailed level;
- Working with city development to identify sites of potential use in pressure areas, and ensure a holistic approach to planning for the total infrastructure needs of the city;
- Working with existing providers and other stakeholders to find solutions to needs for places;
- Evaluating competing needs for primary, secondary, early years and inclusion provision to make best use of council assets;
- Consultation with members to develop proposals, and throughout the process, using area committee meeting and specific ward member briefings.

3.1.4 The opportunity to comment on the bids received for the new primary schools proposed for Florence Street in Harehills and Beeston Road, Beeston / Holbeck closed on 20 August. Ward member briefings were offered in August, and a final decision on who will run these schools will be made at Executive Board on 17 October 2012.

3.2 September 2012 admissions and other capacity planning issues

3.2.1 **Primary.** The inner south is one of the most pressured areas in the city for primary provision. This year we achieved 84% first preferences for reception places city wide; despite the pressure the inner south area was not far below with this, with 80% first preferences achieved. Parents are advised that the best way to maximise their chances of securing a local place is to include their local school, but some 47% of all primary applications from people in this area failed to do so. Support and advice on how we can better encourage families to follow this advice would be welcomed.

3.2.2 **Secondary.** The smallest cohorts have now entered secondary, and pressure has not yet been felt for secondary places, and as a result only three children from the inner south wards were placed more than two miles from their home. Parental choice plays a different role for secondary places, with families often choosing to access schools out of the area they live, and preferencing on very different criteria to those which they preferenced primary schools.

3.2.3 The Admissions team has been fully integrated to the Capacity Planning Team in recognition of the inter related nature of their work. Although the data above is reported by planning areas, it is intended to move this to ward based reporting over the coming year. As pressure begins to rise we would welcome members views on the data they would like officers to report on admissions data.

3.2.4 **New Housing.** New housing for the area is monitored, and officers welcome more detailed briefings on an individual ward basis on the best way to deal with particular developments in their area.

- 3.2.5 **Free Schools.** The Department for Education have approved four new free schools to open in 2013. These are the Khalsa Science Academy (Primary) in Chapeltown, The Free School Leeds (Primary) no fixed site, Leeds Jewish Free School (Secondary) at Brodetsky site, and The Leeds Retail and Financial Services Academy (14-19) at Leeds City College buildings in Hunslet. This is in addition to the Lighthouse Free School (Special School, Secondary) for children with autism, which opens in September 2012 in temporary accommodation on the City Of Leeds School / Derek Fatchett site.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Any proposal to create additional school places requires engagement with a wide variety of stakeholders, and is managed in accordance with the relevant legislation. This occurs before a proposal has been developed as well as during the consultation period. All members have had copies of all 4 consultation documents supplied via hard copy and electronic copy. Further copies are available on www.leeds.gov.uk.
- 4.1.2 Papers have been provided to all area committees city wide to ensure all indirect as well as direct impact on all wards is considered.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 This report does not have a particular impact on any of the following groups: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual Orientation, Pregnancy and Maternity, Religion or Belief.
- 4.2.2 For the proposals an Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening form has been completed, which determined that it is not necessary to carry out a formal impact assessment. We will however continue to consider how these proposals impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The proposals are brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 The projects will be funded from the education capital budget.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The authority has a legal duty to ensure sufficiency of provision. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 the proposed expansions and new schools are prescribed changes, requiring a public consultation in the first instance.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Should these proposals be approved, the delivery risks will be managed through a risk register by the project officer.

4.6.2 Should these proposals not be approved, alternative measures will need to be identified to ensure the council meets its statutory duties. This work is being developed in parallel with the proposal.

5 Conclusions

5.1 These proposals are brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is requested to:

- Note and consider the report
- Consider any response they wish to make as a part of the formal consultations

Background documents ¹

Executive Board report of 18 July 2012: Primary Basic Need Programme – Permission to consult on proposals for expansion of primary provision in 2014.

Consultation documents: Proposal to expand Sharp Lane Primary School from September 2014; Proposal expand Tranmere Park Primary School from September 2014; Proposal expand Rufford Park Primary School from September 2014; Proposal expand Little London Primary School from September 2014

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.