

Joint Report of Director of Children’s Services and Director of Environments and Neighbourhood

Report to Executive Board

Date: 17 October 2012

Subject: Basic Need Programme – Outcome of competitions to create two new primary schools

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, Gipton and Harehills, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill		
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
Statutory deadline for decision is 20 October 2012		
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:		

Summary of main issues

1. Leeds City Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The basic need programme represents the Council’s response to the demographic pressures in primary school provision. Through this programme it has delivered 705 new reception places since 2009. Public consultation was held in September and October 2011 on the need for new primary schools at Florence Street in Harehills and on the site of the former South Leeds Sports Centre. Executive Board confirmed these specifications, including the use of the sites, and agreed to proceed with the competitions in January 2012. This entailed publishing two statutory notices, one inviting interested parties to submit bids to run the schools, and the second publishing details of the bids and inviting comments. The second notice expired on 20 August 2012. This report details the outcome of those notices, and makes recommendations as to the next steps for each proposal.

Recommendations

2. Executive Board is asked to:

2.1. Approve The Co-Operative as the preferred bidder to open the new 420 place primary school with 26 place FTE nursery at Florence Street, Harehills to open in September 2013 and serve families in that area.

2.2. Approve The Learning Trust South Leeds as the preferred bidder to open the new 420 place primary school with 26 place FTE nursery on land at the former South Leeds sports centre to open in September 2014 and serve families in that area.

2.3. Approve the closure of the Stanley Road Household Waste Sorting Site and agree to the site's incorporation into the Harehills school design (in accordance with section 3.10 of the main report).

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report describes the outcome of two competitions held to establish new primary schools in Harehills and South Leeds, and makes a recommendation on which of the preferred bidders should run the new schools. A final decision must be made by the Executive Board no later than 20 October 2012.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has a statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. The basic need programme represents the Council's response to the demographic pressures in primary school provision. As part of this programme in July 2011 Executive Board initially approved consultations on the need for two new primary schools at Florence Street in Harehills and the former South Leeds sports centre. It earmarked the sites for this use, and the consultations ran from 12 September to 21 October 2011.
- 2.2 On 4 January 2012 Executive Board considered the outcome of the consultation. It approved the need for the schools and their specifications including site location, communities they would serve, number of pupils, age range, gender, SEN and early years provision. Executive Board approved moving to the formal stage, which entailed publishing two statutory notices for each proposal, one inviting interested parties to submit bids to run the schools based on the approved specifications, and the second publishing details of the bids and inviting comments.
- 2.3 The first 'Invitation to Bid' notices were published on 20 January 2012 and expired on 18 June 2012. Six responses were received for the Harehills school, and four for the South Leeds School. The second 'Summary of Bids' notices were published on 9 July 2012 and expired on 20 August 2012, and invited people to express their views on the various bids. Summary documents were provided and public meetings were held where the public could talk to the bidders. Seven written responses were received for Harehills, and 114 for South Leeds. In addition, the proposers were invited to discuss their proposals with officers from the Learning, Skills and Universal Services team in Children's services, and with ward members.
- 2.4 Leeds City Council Executive Board is the decision maker for proposals relating to school organisation. It has set up the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) to consider proposals and make recommendations when objections to a statutory notice are received. They duly considered the matter on 13 September 2012, and their recommendation is appended to this report. This report details the responses received, and makes recommendations as to the parties to run the new schools.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The statutory notices all complied with all legislative requirements applicable at that time, and with local good practice. The invitation to bid notice resulted in six academy bids for Harehills; Academies Enterprise Trust (AET), The Co-Operative Trust, Lilac Sky Schools, LEAF Academy Trust, Leeds Muslim College and Rainbow Schools. The South Leeds invitation to bid resulted in four bids; academy bids from Academies Enterprise Trust, Lilac Sky Schools and Rainbow Schools, and a foundation school bid from The Learning Trust South Leeds. A brief summary of the proposers can be found in Appendix 1. Lilac Sky schools subsequently withdrew from both competitions, stating their lack of resources as the reason. The authority is

pleased to have received such significant interest and strong bids from a diverse range of proposers.

3.2 The Department for Education have indicated that they are willing to enter a funding agreement with The Co-Op, AET and LEAF for the Harehills proposal, and with AET and Rainbow for the South Leeds proposal.

3.3 The summary of bids notices were published over 4 full pages of the Yorkshire Evening Post, and in the Yorkshire Post. For each proposal, a daytime and evening public meeting were held, with informal consultation in between. These meetings allowed the public to meet all the proposers and ask questions. Information was also distributed widely including through local schools, early years providers and websites, post offices, libraries, doctor's surgeries, community groups and area management officers. Briefings were also provided for local ward members and lead members. Copies of the bids themselves, notes from the meetings, and the written responses received can be found at:

<http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org/content.aspx?ref=HTMLFiles/educationinleeds/harehillsconsultation.html>

<http://www.thefamilyhubleeds.org/content.aspx?ref=HTMLFiles/educationinleeds/southleedsconsultation.html>

or requested from the school organisation team on 0113 2243867 or via educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk

3.4 The invitation to bid and bid responses content is prescribed by law, and uses a template format. All bids are assessed against this published set of requirements ensuring transparency, In addition to the core requirements for the invitation to bid, a number of local considerations which emerged from the initial consultation were included:

Harehills

- Describing how the buildings and play area would be made available for community use
- Including single sex changing facilities for community use
- Describing how the school would offer local employment opportunities
- Describing how it would serve the local community through its admissions policy.

South Leeds

- Describing how the site could also provide sports usage, in particular a swimming pool
- Describing how the school would facilitate ongoing community access to the sports pitches
- Describing how it would serve the local community through its admissions policy

3.5 Local Authorities are also free to apply their own local context, intelligence and priorities in assessing the bids and choosing a preferred bidder. The key considerations in reaching a conclusion on the preferred bidder are detailed below, and include the issues raised through the public meetings and written responses.

3.6 Local experience and knowledge; evidence of partnership working in these localities.

- 3.6.1 Schools in the areas are members of local clusters, which also involve other stakeholders. These deliver the extended services which are outside individual partner's remits, but which collectively provide all the wrap around services essential to meeting the needs of the Children's and Young People's Plan. Each area has its own highly specific needs, and relationships with local schools and clusters will be essential in ensuring comprehensive but non overlapping services are provided which meet those needs. The bidders were invited to describe what their contribution to such clusters would be, and which clusters they envisaged working with.
- 3.6.2 There was a range of experience on understanding the specific needs of these communities. The Co-Operative and LEAF already operate schools in the immediate vicinity of Harehills, and The Learning Trust South Leeds already operate schools in the inner south. Leeds Muslim College are already heavily involved with families in the immediate vicinity of the new Harehills school through their work with existing schools, providing facilities such as adult learning classes and study clubs. Academies Enterprise Trust is working with Leeds City Council to sponsor academies in Leeds, and although not yet operating in either immediate locality they evidenced considerable research into the areas including walking the sites and localities. Rainbow acknowledged they do not have in depth knowledge of either local area, but have worked in other inner cities which face similar contexts of high levels of deprivation, EAL and mobility.
- 3.6.3 All the bids described a need to consult and engage with local stakeholders on how the school would operate, and what extended services would be offered. The Florence Street site sits on the cusp of two clusters, and Leeds Muslim College have been active within the cluster most likely to be associated with the new school. The Co-Operative has worked closely with the other local cluster in their role at the former Primrose High School. The Learning Trust South Leeds schools membership is based around their local cluster. LEAF indicated that they would work with the local school clusters, but were clear that they also needed to protect their own identity and ethos as a Trust. Their schools are currently outside of either of the clusters immediately local to the school. Academies Enterprise Trust and Rainbow indicated a commitment to working with the local clusters.

3.7 Local accountability, ethos and governance.

- 3.7.1 The bids are all for Academies, with the exception of The Learning Trust South Leeds bid which is for a foundation school. Whilst not a maintained school, its foundation status requires a significant role for the local authority in its accountability, which is unlikely to be the case for an Academy. Academies Enterprise Trust, The Co-Operative, LEAF and Rainbow all have established governance structures. Academies Enterprise Trust emphasised a need for local membership on governing bodies, and gave assurances that they would not seek to run the school according to a national model, or over-run the governing body with Trust members. The Co-Operative proposes to manage the new school alongside three others in Leeds under an executive headship, but with each school having its own governing body. This would provide leadership capacity freeing individual heads to deal with their own specific issues, whilst providing accountability and

challenge. There would be local representation on the governing body. LEAF propose an interim governing body derived from existing governing bodies and Trust members, which would then evolve into its own governing body with local representation. Similarly they would have the support of the trust overarching the individual schools. Leeds Muslim College would follow national guidelines and aim to mimic a maintained school governing body. Rainbow proposed to consult on the precise details of their governing body, and would include teachers, staff and local authority representatives.

3.7.2 Academies Enterprise Trust emphasised strongly that despite their size they do not have a one size fits all model which they wish to impose, but would work with local stakeholders to develop how their own values and ethos could be applied in the local context. A consultative approach was also described by the other bidders. The Co-Operative had a particularly strong and readily identifiable ethos easily recognised and understood by the public. LEAF made clear their own ethos of multi faith provision, welcoming those of all faiths and of none, as did Leeds Muslim College. The Learning Trust South Leeds have clearly established local connections but also appreciated the need to adapt to the particular locality of the new school through consultation. Rainbow's bid described considerable detail about the model they sought to provide, and gave more of a sense of ready made identity, although talked about how local consultation would adapt some details.

3.7.3 During the consultation stage and again in the statutory notice period some respondents queried whether the authority had submitted a bid and why, as they felt this offered the greatest local accountability. The legislation under which these proposals were brought forward required local authorities to seek permission from the secretary of state to submit a proposal, and if granted the authority would cease to be the decision maker. The law changed in February 2012, and when seeking to establish a new school authorities must first seek an academy provider. It was therefore unlikely that permission would be granted, and retaining the right to make a local decision on who ran the school ensured greatest local accountability.

3.7.4 Some respondents also challenged how promises made in the bid process could be enforced, such as their admissions policy. In addition to being bound by the same national admissions code and legislation, the bidders all indicated a willingness to include local authority governors, and also work closely with clusters. This combination of governance and local partner relationships will provide that reassurance.

3.8 Experience and track record in primary education.

3.8.1 Academies Enterprise Trust has primary experience, and their portfolio includes some outstanding schools. Their experience is based in converter academies rather than new schools. The Learning Trust South Leeds includes several local primary schools with good and outstanding features. LEAF has two local primary academies, which in their most recent Ofsted reports one was satisfactory with good features, and one good with outstanding features. Their secondary head is a national leader of education. Co-Operative is working with the authority to become the sponsor of three very local primary sponsored academies, and has other schools in Manchester and Stoke. Rainbow has been leading a primary school for 18 months, but they have established a new primary school. Leeds Muslim College do not currently run any schools.

3.9 Management, partnerships and infrastructure capacity to support the new school.

3.9.1 Academies Enterprise Trust has through their size a good capacity to support any new school, and a strong network of contacts and support. They include ex heads and inspectors amongst their members. Trinity College formed a prominent part of The Co-Operative's bid, describing at the public meeting how their trainee teachers would provide additional capacity through classroom support for children, and challenge to existing teachers. They also have a strong wider national and international organisation outside of education to bring additional support. LEAF's partnership with Leeds Metropolitan University is significant in bringing best practice to the Trust, although they were not prominent in the bid process. The Learning Trust South Leeds has a good capacity through their existing schools and partners, particularly the teaching school. Leeds Muslim College are a relatively small and inexperienced team in primary education. Rainbow has support through a network of ex heads and inspectors in the trust.

3.10 Site considerations

3.10.1 The site at Harehills presents considerable challenges and will not be ready for opening in September 2013. All the bidders indicated a willingness to work with the authority to secure short term accommodation until the site became available. In order to alleviate highways and access pressures for the school site, to reduce noise and disruption to the school, and to add to the site area available for school use (thus addressing comments and concerns raised during the early project design work), the Council's Waste Management team has been requested to consider the impact on the service of closing the adjacent Household Waste Sorting Site (HWSS) on Stanley Road in order to make it available for incorporation into the school design.

3.10.2 A subsequent review of City-wide HWSS provision has demonstrated that the Stanley Road HWSS has the lowest recycling performance of all the sites, with a recycling rate of just under 52% against the current target of 70%. In terms of alternative HWSS provision for local residents, the heavy and bulky nature of waste materials taken to these sites mean that virtually all users access HWSSs by car or van. The Council's Strategic Review of HWSS provision considered by Executive Board in June 2010 established a policy of providing access to an HWSS within a 20 minute drive time for all residents. The main alternative site to be promoted for use by these residents is expected to be the newly redeveloped East Leeds HWSS in Seacroft which is substantially within the 20 minutes drive time, and has significant spare capacity and superior recycling and re-use facilities. The Meanwood Road and Kirkstall Road HWSSs are also available within similar drive times.

3.10.3 As stated, the closure of the HWSS will address concerns about the compatibility of the two neighbouring land uses, and benefits the school by removing a potential source of noise, traffic, dust, wind-blown litter and odour. It will also enable improved access, car parking and play space facilities to be incorporated into the school project. Closure of the Stanley Road site would also result in financial savings of around £250,000 per annum relating to its current operational costs. It should be emphasised that the Council remains committed to providing a strong

city-wide network of HWSSs, and Environment and Neighbourhoods intend to bring forward plans for the redevelopment of the Kirkstall Road HWSS. As well as addressing the negative visual impact of the Kirkstall site through removing the existing fire-damaged structures, this would see the only remaining HWSS not redeveloped to modern standards converted into a model recycling facility, and would provide enhanced HWSS capacity in an area of the City where there is currently less provision.

- 3.10.4 The precise footprint of the school building and layout of the site remains the subject of the ongoing design work and are therefore not yet finalised. It is necessary for agreement to the closure of the HWSS, and the scope of any land decontamination works required, to be finalised in advance of building works for the school starting. A significant allowance has been made in the project costs for these works. All bidders were content that they would be involved at the earliest possible stage in decisions about the school design, but this process would continue and so they may have limited input. The Council's Asset Management Board has considered this proposal and has recommended agreement in principle to the required areas of the site being allocated for school use, and land surplus to requirements being used as green space for community use. Consultation has taken place with the local Ward Members and MP on the potential closure of the HWSS. Whilst reservations were expressed about the potential loss of local amenity, Environment and Neighbourhoods believe that there is sufficient alternative provision as set out in 3.10.2 above. Subject to Executive Board approval to this proposal, Waste Management will implement a communication plan to publicise the site closure to local residents, highlighting the alternative sites available.
- 3.10.5 All bidders for the Harehills school noted the desire of the local community to be involved in the school through employment, use of extended services, use of facilities and external play areas. All indicated a willingness to consult on how this could be delivered.
- 3.10.6 Some respondents continued to challenge the demographic evidence of the need for the schools and expressed concerns about what would happen should pupils not materialise, or later demographic changes result in lower numbers, and also over any proposed accelerated opening programme. The decision on the need for the schools, their size and sites was effectively determined through the earlier consultation, and was considered thoroughly at that stage. This stage was a consideration of the bids received. The authority does wish to reassure schools that no change to the opening programmes will be implemented without full consultation with existing schools. Current admissions pressures continue to demonstrate the need for both schools in those localities, and that data would be shared as part of any decision making.
- 3.10.7 All bidders for both schools indicated a willingness to include a nearest criterion in their admissions policy to ensure it served the immediate local community.
- 3.10.8 The bidders for South Leeds all indicated their willingness to work with the authority on delivery of sporting provision on the site. Academies Enterprise Trust indicated they have some expertise in managing such provision. None offered capital contributions towards such provision. At present no viable bids have been received for separate sporting provision to be co-located on the site, and there is no new

council funding identified for new sports provision on the site. The authority have committed that the current users will continue to have access to sports pitches when the new school is built.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The competition process and statutory notices all complied with all legislative requirements applicable at that time, and with local good practice. The summary of bids notices were published over 4 full pages of the Yorkshire Evening Post, and in the Yorkshire Post. For each proposal, a daytime and evening public meeting were held, with informal consultation in between. These meetings allowed the public to meet all the proposers, and ask questions. Information was also distributed widely including through local schools, early years providers and websites, post offices, libraries, doctor's surgeries, community groups and area management officers. Briefings were also provided for local ward members and lead members. Consultation undertaken in relation to the Stanley Road HWSS closure is discussed at 3.10.4 above.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 The EDCI assessments were completed and are available from the Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team, as included in Appendix 3.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The proposal is brought forward to meet the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. In providing places close to where the children live the proposals will allow improve accessibility of local and desirable school places, and thus reduce any risks of non attendance.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 The high level estimated cost of delivery of the proposals is £20.6m, which will be funded through the education capital programme. This has increased from the initial estimates due to the inclusion of nursery provision in the two new school proposals and has been informed by very early project development work. This estimated cost is based on traditional construction and will be subject to significant development through detailed design. It includes only high level estimates for the Harehills remediation and all other site specific conditions, risk or abnormal costs.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The competition process and statutory notices all complied with all legislative requirements applicable at that time, and with local good practice. The summary of bids notices were published over 4 full pages of the Yorkshire Evening Post, and in the Yorkshire Post. For each proposal, a daytime and evening public meeting were held, with informal consultation in between. These meetings allowed the public to meet all the proposers, and ask questions. Information was also distributed widely including through local schools, early years providers and websites, post offices, libraries, doctor's surgeries, community groups and area management officers. Briefings were also provided for local ward members and lead members.

- 4.5.2 One version of the notice for the South Leeds proposal contained an error in the opening date of the school. All bidders were contacted to clarify. All confirmed they would still bid on the basis of 2014 opening. This is a matter that can be varied at the time of making the decision.
- 4.5.3 It is a legal requirement that the published notice draws attention to any variation from the specification. These do not preclude bids from being considered, but the decision maker must have regard to them, and so the issues were clarified. All proposers confirmed that their responses in regard to SEN provision had been intended to describe their overall approach to inclusion, and they did not expect dedicated SEN provision to be part of the schools. LEAF clarified that whilst they had described a particular opening programme in their bid, this was in response to the authority's own recognition of the potential need to accelerate the opening in agreement with all local schools. They confirmed would respect the original proposed opening schedule, and agree any other plan with the authority and other local schools.
- 4.5.4 The authority has set up the School Organisation Advisory Board to consider proposals where representations have been received, which duly sat on 13 September 2012. The SOAB recommended the Co-Operative as the preferred bidder for Harehills, and The Learning Trust South Leeds as the preferred bidder for South Leeds. Minutes of their meeting containing a full consideration of all the bids are contained in Appendix 2.
- 4.5.5 A decision must be made within two months of the end of the 'summary of bids' notice period, ie no later than 20 October 2012. It is not possible to take this paper to an earlier executive board meeting than 17 October due to the timescales involved. This report cannot therefore be subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 In the case of the Harehills proposal the most significant risks surround the decontamination costs, and resolution of the design including traffic and access issues within a relatively constrained site, and may incur some expenditure at risk ahead of any final decision being taken. An allowance for these risks has been included within the overall budget estimate in section 4.4.1, however there will be a need to refine these estimates based on the findings of site surveys that are scheduled for the next stage of project design development. In the case of South Leeds they surround marrying the timing of any future proposals to reopen the site for any sports use with the timing of any school proposal. Detailed risk registers for each project have already been started. Investigations to date indicate the decontamination works are deliverable.
- 4.6.2 The proposals have been brought forward in good time to allow places to be delivered for 2013 and 2014. Any delay in the process may increase the amount of detailed planning work required to be done at risk of the proposal not ultimately proceeding.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Overall the authority was extremely pleased with the number and quality of the bids received. The bids from Academies Enterprise Trust, The Co-Operative, LEAF and The Learning Trust South Leeds are all particularly strong.

- 5.2 The Co-Operative is recommended as the preferred bidder for The Harehills school. It has strong local knowledge and partnerships in the area, and is working positively as a local secondary Academy sponsor. They are a strong organisation with a clear and appropriate ethos, bringing support from a wide ranging organisation nationally and internationally, and this brings the structure and capacity to support the new school. They bring particular strengths through their partnership with Trinity College, a nationally recognised centre of excellence in primary education. The role of the executive head teacher may add capacity, but may also affect applications for the headship.
- 5.3 The Learning Trust South Leeds is recommended as the preferred bidder for the South Leeds school. It has good local knowledge, a good track record, and links to the teaching school. They repeatedly described a vision for strong 0-19 pathways. They bring the strongest local accountability with a unique bid for a non academy proposal, and displayed a passionate commitment to local collaboration.
- 5.4 Academies Enterprise Trust has the largest number of Academies at present, and through that would bring strong support for any new school. They are known to the authority, and did demonstrate that they had proactively been out to those communities and displayed an appreciation of the issues they faced a result, however they currently have no schools in the north of the country, and lacked local knowledge and relationships in the specific locations of the city,
- 5.5 LEAF's bid is strong particularly in educational terms, with good leadership and capacity. They also offer choice and diversity through a unique multi faith offering. LEAF do operate in East Leeds, but acknowledged the differences between the Harehills area of the proposed school and their own area further out from the city centre around Seacroft and Manston, raising some questions about how this would translate into collaboration with the other clusters. The proposal to open with existing staff and governors might affect the quality of applicants later in the process.
- 5.6 The bids from Leeds Muslim College and Rainbow were felt to be weaker. Leeds Muslim College have some excellent strengths, with very good very local networks and in depth knowledge of the local community. They are however the only bidder without experience of running a primary school, and there is a concern about their overall capacity at this time. Rainbow have a clear vision and model, but there was concern about how much this would genuinely be adapted for the specific local communities these schools would serve. They are a relatively young organisation.
- 5.7 Leeds City Council wishes to thank all the bidders, and hopes to continue to work with all of them as it continues its basic need programme to meet demand for places in the future.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is asked to:

- 6.1 Approve The Co-Operative as the party to open the new 420 place primary school with 26 place FTE nursery at Florence Street, Harehills to open September 2013 and serve families in that area.

- 6.2 Approve The Learning Trust South Leeds as the party to open the new 420 place school with 26 place nursery on land at the former South Leeds sports centre, and to open September 2014 and serve families in that area.
- 6.3 Approve the closure of the Stanley Road Household Waste Sorting Site and agree to the site's incorporation into the Harehills school design (in accordance with section 3.10 of the main report).

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 There are no relevant background documents associated with this report.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Appendix 1 – Short summary of bidders.

Academies Enterprise Trust. A national organisation with a large number of schools across the country, both primary and secondary. Mainly based as far as the midlands to date. Currently working with the authority on academies at Swallow Hill and Cottingley. They do have the infrastructure to support further expansion, and will assess each new opportunity on a case by case basis.

The Co-Operative. A national and international organisation already operating with the authority at the former Primrose High School. Also working with the authority on proposed academies at Woodlands Primary, Oakwood Primary and Brownhill Primary. Although education is not the Co-Operative's core function, it has a core central role in their overall values and ethos, and they are gradually taking on more schools. A key partner in the bid is Trinity and All Saints College, which has a national reputation for excellence in primary education. The links to the teacher training programme forms a significant part of their bid.

LEAF Academy Trust. A local trust comprising the Diocese of Ripon and Leeds, Leeds Metropolitan University and schools in the Seacroft and Manston area. The bid was fronted by David Young Community College, Manston Primary, and Seacroft Grange Primary. Whilst not seeking to expand significantly, they are a new Trust committed to developing outstanding provision in the area. Their bid is for a multi faith provision which would welcome those of all faiths and none.

Leeds Muslim College. A local organisation already very active in the Harehills area and working with local schools to deliver extended services. They have no current experience of managing a school, but a clear ambition to build on their existing experience to do so in future. Their bid is for a secular provision, which would welcome those of all faiths and none.

Lilac Sky Schools. Withdrew.

The Learning Trust South Leeds. A local foundation trust including Cockburn High School and 6 local primaries in the Beeston / Middleton / Cottingley area. Other partners include a teaching school, and the bid seeks to build on their 0-19 offering. The trust have successfully delivered improvements at the high school in particular. Whilst not seeking to significantly expand they have shown commitment to their local community and the development of provision there.

Rainbow Schools. An organisation which has focussed on Free Schools to date, with one primary school opened in Bradford in 2011, and a further primary school approved in Nottingham in 2013. They have run one secondary academy for 8 years.

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2012

PRESENT: Mr I Garforth in the Chair

Ms T Hagerty - Roman Catholic Church
Diocese
Mr D Kenny - Schools Group

IN ATTENDANCE Mr P Brennan - Children's Services
Ms L Savage - Children's Services
Mrs A Oldroyd – Legal Services – Legal
Adviser to the Board
Mr S Robinson – Governance Services –
Clerk to the Board

1 Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Mr I Garforth was elected as Chair.

2 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Reverend C Sedgewick, Diocesan Board of Education for the Diocese of the Church of England and Ms J Taylor, Further/Higher Education Establishment Group.

4 Declaration of Interests

Mr I Garforth informed the meeting that he was a trustee of the South Leeds Academy Trust and a Director of the Sponsor of Cross Flats Academy. Under the terms of reference these were not interests that would require him to withdraw from the discussion and take no part in the making of any recommendations.

5 School Organisation Advisory Board (Leeds) - Terms of Reference

A copy of the terms of reference for the School Organisation Advisory Board (Leeds) was submitted.

Mrs A Oldroyd, Legal Adviser to the Board informed the meeting that the terms of reference had been slightly amended to incorporate the following revisions:-

- to remove as a member the Learning and Skills Council;

- to amend paragraph 3.4 which deals with declarations of interest; and
- to alter the quorum for meetings increasing it from 1 group to 2 groups

Mr I Garforth made reference to the use of the term "governor" contained within the terms of reference and the Legal Adviser to the Board agreed to revisit this issue.

RESOLVED – That the amended terms of reference for the School Organisation Advisory Board (Leeds) be noted and approved.

6 Report on School competition process for new schools in Harehills and South Leeds

The Board considered a report by the Legal Adviser to the School Organisation Advisory Board explaining the role of the Board in considering the school competition bids and to make recommendations to the Executive Board to assist the Executive Board in reaching a decision in relation to the following new school proposals:

Public consultation took place in September and October 2011 on the need for new primary schools at Florence Street in Harehills and the site of the former South Leeds Sports Centre. The Executive Board agreed to proceed with competitions for new schools in January 2012. This entailed publishing two statutory notices, one inviting interested parties to submit bids to run the schools, and the second publishing details of the bids and inviting comments. The second notice expired on 20 August 2012.

The invitation to bid notices resulted in six academy bids for Harehills and four academy bids for South Leeds.

The bids for Harehills were Academies Enterprise Trust, The Co-operative Trust, Lilac Sky Schools, LEAF Academy Trust, Leeds Muslim College and Rainbow Schools.

The bids for South Leeds were Academies Enterprise Trusts, Lilac Sky Schools, Rainbow Schools and the Learning Trust South Leeds.

Prior to discussing the proposals, the Board noted that the Lilac Sky Schools bid for both Harehills and South Leeds had been withdrawn.

The Board considered the following background information:-

- Copies of the invitation to bid, bids received, and responses received
- Report from Children's Services in relation to recommendation on the preferred bidder in competitions for new primary schools

In addition to the above, the Board received representations from the following representatives who responded to Board Members' questions and comments:

Mr P Brennan – Deputy Director of Children's Services (Learning, Skills and Universal Services) and Ms L Savage – Senior Planning and Bids Manager, Capacity Planning and Sufficiency Team, Children's Services

Board Members discussed the report from Children's Services and, in summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- Clarification if the DfE had been asked to exclude any bidders and on the validation process
- Clarification if another site had been identified in South Leeds
- Concern that the Harehills site would not be ready and the issues around car parking and access
- Clarification of how Children's Services viewed the role of Academies
- The need to commend the Learning Trust South Leeds's bid to build on their 0-19 offering in the area and to welcome their strong vision in this respect
- The need to use existing practices within the School Improvement capacity
- The need to acknowledge that the Co-operative had strong values with links to the Trinity University College which would result in a closer relationship
- Clarification of the aims of a Foundation School
- Clarification of the value of a Trust and concerns expressed about their future aspirations
- The personal view expressed by the Roman Catholic Church Diocese that you cannot operate a multi faith system in view of the many elements and that such a system needed competition
- Clarification of how Children's Services perceived 0-19 provision

Following a summing up process from the representatives in attendance, the Chair thanked the representatives and asked them to withdraw so that the Board could consider the new school proposals.

The Legal Adviser to the Schools Organisation Advisory Board outlined the procedure to be followed and reminded the Board Members that they were invited to comment on the proposals, with any observations on the bids which they felt they could recommend, and any they felt they could not recommend.

The Chair proposed that in reviewing the bids Board Members should consider whether:

- the organisation has the ability to deliver outstanding education; and
- the ability to understand and respond effectively to the local context

The groups entitled to make recommendations, were the Roman Catholic Church Diocese and the Schools Group. Each group considered the bids and made the following comments:

South Leeds bids

Rainbow Schools

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was no knowledge of the application of education in the local area and it was considered that there was no experience

The Schools Group – also considered that there was a lack of experience

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

Academies Enterprise Trust

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was no knowledge of the application of education in the local area and it was considered that there was no experience

The Schools Group – there was a potential to deliver, but also considered that there was a lack of experience in key areas

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

Learning Trust South Leeds

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – the proposals to build on their 0-19 offering was to be highly commended and the bid was responsive to the local circumstances

The Schools Group – the proposals were extremely competent and responsive to the local circumstances and had the ability to provide high quality education

Both Groups decided that they could recommend this bid

Harehills bids

Academies Enterprise Trust

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was no knowledge of the application of education in the local area and it was considered that there was no experience

The Schools Group – also considered that there was a lack of experience

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

The Co-operative Trust

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was the capacity to deliver outstanding education in this area and that the trust had a national reputation for excellence in primary education

The Schools Group – also considered that the trust had a national reputation for excellence in primary education and the ability to deliver outstanding education in this area

Both Groups decided that they could recommend this bid

LEAF Academy Trust

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – had significant concerns with a bid for a multifaith academy and considered that this was unworkable. It was acknowledged that there was a place for secular or faith education, but considered that multifaith was unclear and unworkable

The Schools Group – considered that there was a lack of experience within the local context. It was recognised that LEAF were operating in the general area, but unlike The Co-operative Trust, LEAF were not working in Harehills through what was Primrose High School

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

Leeds Muslim College

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was a lack of experience in the ability to deliver outstanding education

The Schools Group – also considered there was a lack of experience in the ability to deliver outstanding education

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

Rainbow Schools

The Roman Catholic Church Diocese – there was no knowledge of the application of education in the local area and it was considered that there was no experience

The Schools Group – also considered that there was a lack of experience

Both Groups decided that they could not recommend this bid

RESOLVED – It was the view of the Schools Organisation Advisory Board that the Executive Board be recommended to consider the following preferred bids:-

- South Leeds – The Learning Trust South Leeds
- Harehills – The Co-operative Trust

7 **Future Business**

The Legal Adviser to the Board reminded the meeting that the term of office for Members of the Board was a maximum of three years.

The current position as at 13th September 2012 was as follows:-

- Reverend C Sedgewick – three year's term of office to expire on 9th October 2012
- Mr I Garforth - three year's term of office to expire on 9th October 2012
- Ms T Haggerty - three year's term of office to expire on 9th October 2012
- Mr D Kenny - three year's term of office to expire on 9th October 2012
- Ms J Taylor - three year's term of office to expire on 1st July 2013

It was also noted that there remained a current vacancy on the Schools Group.

The Legal Adviser to the Board informed Members that the next time there was a need to convene a Schools Organisation Advisory Board meeting there was a requirement for Members to be nominated by their respective groups and then re elected.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.

8 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

To be arranged as and when required.
(The meeting concluded at 2.45pm)

NEW 2FE PRIMARY SCHOOL – BEESTON/HOLBECK AREA

Service Area: School Access Service	Team: School Organisation
Assessment prepared by: Darren Crawley	Contact number: 0113 2243867
Date of assessment: 27 th August 2011	

1. Summary of project that was assessed:

To create additional primary school provision within the Beeston/Holbeck area, by holding a competition to create a brand new school to open in September 2014. The new school would be located on land at the former South Leeds Sports Centre and would have an admission limit of 60 places.

2. Summary of people/services involved with assessment:

A pupil places operational group meets on a monthly basis to develop and work through proposals to expand school provision across the city, as part of the School Places Strategy – Planning Learning Places in Leeds 2010-2013. This group consists of officers from various services within Leeds City Council. These include: *School Organisation,, PMIT, Estates Management, Inclusion, School Improvement and Early Years.*

3. Research:

As part of the process to develop options, various research work is undertaken including:

- Analysis of under 5s, looking at past trends
- Projections based on births and take-up, to determine whether there are enough school places within a particular area.
- Regular contact with Corporate property management to identify council owned sites that have or are to become surplus,
- Parental preference patterns.
- The types of schools within the area, does this offer choice and diversity?
- Research around BME to ensure these groups are not adversely affected.
- Ensure that we adhere to our legal duty of promoting choice and diversity.
- Communicating with schools and local members to gain a better understanding of the wider community
- Communicating with the community at a later stage of the process to obtain views.

7. Who may be affected by this project?

Equality characteristics

Age

Carers

Disability

Gender reassignment

Race

**Religion
or Belief**

Sex (male or female)

Sexual orientation

Other

Stakeholders

Services users

Employees

Trade Unions

Partners

Members

Suppliers

Other please specify: *Diocese, Neighbouring authorities*

Potential barriers.

Built environment

Location of premises and services

Information and communication

Customer care

Timing

Stereotypes and assumptions

Cost

Consultation and involvement

Other, please specify

8a. Summary of Impacts:

Equality Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Description
AGE	X			An additional 60 school places would be made available in reception class from 2013 for children within the Beeston/Holbeck area.
DISABILITY			X	School will be built to DDA guidelines to ensure accessibility in and around the building for all.

8b. Summary of stakeholders involvement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial briefing sessions with Headteacher, governing body and ward members. - Members of the assessment team who represent various services and partners are part of discussions and meetings throughout the process. - School employees and trade unions will be met during the consultation stage. - Parents and members of the community will be consulted via a public meeting.

8c. Summary of Potential barriers:		
Type of barrier/Issue	Action needed	Impact
Built environment	DDA guidelines adhered to.	Ensure accessibility for all
Information and Communication	A consultation document and public meeting will be used to convey the aims of the proposal to the wider community.	All relevant parties are able to express their views verbally and in written format.
Consultation and Involvement	Consultation documents available on request in other languages	All communities are consulted and are able to express their views on the proposal.

9. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other (e.g. in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Please provide detail:	
Action required: None	

10. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another?

Yes

No

Please provide detail:

Action required:

11. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person

NEW 2FE PRIMARY SCHOOL – HAREHILLS/GIPTON AREA

Service Area: School Access Service	Team: School Organisation
Assessment prepared by: Darren Crawley	Contact number: 0113 2243867
Date of assessment: 27 th August 2011	

1. Summary of project that was assessed:

To create additional primary school provision within the Harehills/Gipton area, by holding a competition to create a brand new school to open in September 2013. The new school would be located on land at Florence Street and would have an admission limit of 60 places.

2. Summary of people/services involved with assessment:

A pupil places operational group meets on a monthly basis to develop and work through proposals to expand school provision across the city, as part of the School Places Strategy – Planning Learning Places in Leeds 2010-2013. This group consists of officers from various services within Leeds City Council. These include: *School Organisation,, PMIT, Estates Management, Inclusion, School Improvement and Early Years.*

3. Research:

As part of the process to develop options, various research work is undertaken including:

- Analysis of under 5s, looking at past trends
- Projections based on births and take-up, to determine whether there are enough school places within a particular area.
- Regular contact with Corporate property management to identify council owned sites that have or are to become surplus,
- Parental preference patterns.
- The types of schools within the area, does this offer choice and diversity?
- Research around BME to ensure these groups are not adversely affected.
- Ensure that we adhere to our legal duty of promoting choice and diversity.
- Communicating with schools and local members to gain a better understanding of the wider community
- Communicating with the community at a later stage of the process to obtain views.

7. Who may be affected by this project?

Equality characteristics

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age | <input type="checkbox"/> Carers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gender reassignment | <input type="checkbox"/> Race | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion or Belief |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sex (male or female) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | | |

Stakeholders

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Services users | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employees | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade Unions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partners | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Suppliers |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other please specify: <i>Diocese, Neighbouring authorities</i> | | |

Potential barriers.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Built environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Location of premises and services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information and communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Timing | <input type="checkbox"/> Stereotypes and assumptions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cost | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation and involvement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify | |

8a. Summary of Impacts:				
Equality Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Description
AGE	X			An additional 60 school places would be made available in reception class from 2013 for children within the Harehills/Gipton area.
DISABILITY			X	School will be built to DDA guidelines to ensure accessibility in and around the building for all.

8b. Summary of stakeholders involvement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial briefing sessions with Headteacher, governing body and ward members. - Members of the assessment team who represent various services and partners are part of discussions and meetings throughout the process. - School employees and trade unions will be met during the consultation stage. - Parents and members of the community will be consulted via a public meeting.

8c. Summary of Potential barriers:		
Type of barrier/Issue	Action needed	Impact

Built environment	DDA guidelines adhered to.	Ensure accessibility for all
Information and Communication	A consultation document and public meeting will be used to convey the aims of the proposal to the wider community.	All relevant parties are able to express their views verbally and in written format.
Consultation and Involvement	Consultation documents available on request in other languages	All communities are consulted and are able to express their views on the proposal.

9. Does this activity bring groups/communities into increased contact with each other (e.g. in schools, neighbourhood, workplace)?

Yes

 No

Please provide detail:

Action required:
None

10. Could this activity be perceived as benefiting one group at the expense of another?

Yes

 No

Please provide detail:

Action required:



12. Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration action plan

(insert all your actions from your assessment here, set timescales, measures and identify a lead person for each action)

Action	Timescale	Measure	Lead person

