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Report of the Director of Children's Services

Executive Board

Date: 18 May 2011

Subject: Basic Need Programme 2012 - Outcome of consultation on proposals for primary provision for 2012.

Electoral Wards Affected:
Roundhay, Moortown, Woodhouse

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

1.1 This paper provides the outcome of further work following consultation on proposals to expand primary provision at three schools in Leeds from September 2012, and seeks permission to publish statutory notices for one of those proposals.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 At its meeting of 30 March 2011 the Executive Board considered a paper detailing the outcome of consultation on six proposals for the expansion of primary provision in the city from September 2012. These six proposals would create a total of 240 reception places. At that meeting the Board agreed to publish statutory notices on three of the proposals, and agreed further work be undertaken before receiving recommendations on the other three. This paper contains the outcome of that work.

2.2 The three proposals are for the significant expansion of one existing primary school, and for primary expansion to be delivered through changes to the age ranges of two existing secondary schools. Together they would create 180 reception places. Under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, these changes all constitute prescribed alterations, and each requires a statutory process to make

the permanent changes. Public consultation is the first stage of this process. The consultation period ran from 5 January to 18 February 2011.

3 **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 At its meeting on 30 March 2011, the Executive Board authorised the expenditure of £839,000 to progress the design, up to stage 1 costs. This represents nearly 5% of the high level cost estimate for all six schemes (£17,364,000) to deliver 240 places. This estimate excludes site acquisition costs or site specific risk or abnormals. The three schemes to which this report refers total £13,290,000 for 180 places, and the one for which it recommends proceeding for 2012 totals £4,430,000 for 60 places.

3.2 Having agreed to earmark the use of three Council sites the Executive Board has also already agreed to a loss to the Council's capital programme of £2.675m.

4 **RECOMMENDATIONS IN RELATION TO BOTH PARTS OF THIS REPORT**

Executive Board is asked to

1) individually approve publication of statutory notices to:

- **Proposal two:** Change the age range of Roundhay School Technology and Language College to 4-18, with a reception admission limit of 60, and use land off Elmete Lane for the primary provision.

2) Note that further work will be done by officers before bringing forward a recommendation on:

- **Proposal three:** Change the age range of Allerton Grange School to 4-18, with a reception admission limit of 60, and use land next to the school for the primary provision.
- **Proposal six:** Expand the capacity of Little London Primary School from 210 to 630 using land off Cambridge Road.



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all constitute prescribed alterations, and each requires a statutory process to make the permanent changes. Public consultation is the first stage of this process. The consultation period ran from 5 January to 18 February 2011.

3 THE MAIN ISSUES

3.1 During consultation a range of issues were raised. Whilst the majority of these were addressed in the March report, it was agreed that before recommending how to proceed, some further work be conducted to address some specific issues regarding three of the proposals as follows.

3.2 **Proposal two:** Change the age range of Roundhay School Technology and Language College to 4 to 18, with a reception admission limit of 60, and use land off Elmete Lane for the primary provision.

3.3 Given the concerns expressed by two neighbouring primary schools about the effect the proposal may have on their future numbers, it was agreed to wait and review the most recent round of preferences and allocations for reception in September 2011 to inform the recommendation. The schools with concerns were Grange Farm Primary School, and Roundhay St John's Church Of England Primary School. The concerns assumed the new provision would be highly popular and take pupils otherwise happy to attend those schools.

3.4 The preferences show Grange Farm Primary School to be full in 2011, with 47 first preferences for 60 places. It is in the Seacroft planning area, where the birth cohort for that year was 260 children. The five schools in that planning area offer 225 places, and allocations were made for 205 places. Parklands Primary is the only school with any spare places. The pre school cohorts with Grange Farm as their nearest school are: 94 4-5 year olds, 96 3-4 year olds, 109 2-3 year olds, 74 1-2 year olds and 109 0-1 year olds.

3.5 Roundhay St John's was full with 69 first preferences for 30 places. The Roundhay planning area has filled all 480 places for reception for 2011. Eight of the nine schools were oversubscribed, with a total of 154 first preferences refused, and two schools refused places to children for whom it was their nearest school. Birth cohorts for the planning area increase in size for every successive year.

3.6 Further analysis was conducted on preferences and allocations for September 2011 for the children living in what would be the nearest polygon for the new Roundhay reception admissions point. These children would gain priority for the new school reception places, and changes to their behaviour would therefore have the greatest impact on other schools. There were 59 children living in this area who applied for a reception place this year.

3.7 Within this area six children were allocated Grange Farm; three as one of their preferences and three placed where their preferences could not be met. If all six of the children in the new polygon preferred the new provision and were allocated it the impact on the school would be a reception cohort of 54 instead of 60. There are likely to be late applicants who would add to this number. This compares to existing cohorts of between 56 and 53 in Key Stage 1, and between 42 and 52 in Key Stage 2. These larger numbers in Key stage 1 is common in many schools where the higher birth rate is impacting on numbers.

3.8 Within the polygon 32 children had Roundhay St John's as their first preference

school, while 37 children from outside the polygon had it as their first preference. It is reasonable to assume that many of the parents asking for the school do so because it is a faith school, and would continue to do so, on that basis. Even if all of the children living in the polygon for the new provision asked for it as their first preference, Roundhay St John's would still have been oversubscribed from those living outside of the priority area. Whilst there may be a change in the pattern of preferences that could result in Roundhay St John's with fewer first preferences and more second preferences it is probable that it would remain very popular and oversubscribed.

- 3.9 To further understand any likely impact, analysis was conducted on the 42 year 7 applications from that polygon. No nearest children were refused a place at Roundhay for 2011. Eight went to a faith based school, and two to Leeds Grammar. 16, of the 42, had Roundhay as their nearest school, 12 of these wanted and got Roundhay, four did not request the school as their first preference. 26 did not have it as their nearest school, 17 of these wanted Roundhay and five got it. Of the 42 children living in the polygon half would have gained places at Roundhay School without any connection with primary provision. There were 12 other children who had a first preference for Roundhay but were unsuccessful and would benefit from gaining access to the new primary provision.
- 3.10 On this evidence, whilst the areas that each school draws from might be impacted by the proposals, there is sufficient demand for these additional places without any adverse impact on the existing schools.
- 3.11 The authority remains in dialogue with Roundhay School regarding the detail of ongoing funding and design of the school. There are two issues which the governing body has requested but the authority has been unable to agree to: the funding of the appointment of a primary leader for two terms full time prior to opening rather than one term, and the insistence on full cooking kitchens at the school. The authority's position is that any change to this would set an unreasonable and unaffordable precedent, and that past experience shows these are not essential.
- 3.12 Based on the outcomes of the consultation, including this additional work, it is recommended that a statutory notice be published to proceed with this proposal.
- 3.13 **Proposal three:** Change the age range of Allerton Grange School to 4-18, with a reception admission limit of 60, and use land next to the school for the primary provision.
- 3.14 Based on the responses received, it was agreed that a traffic impact assessment be commissioned with regard to the proposal for Allerton Grange prior to any recommendation being made. Initial findings of the report raise a number of issues which would add to the expense of the scheme, and that relate to local planning regulations. These may make it undeliverable. Further analysis of the report and its impact is needed before a recommendation can be made.
- 3.15 Due to this delay, the earliest any scheme could be delivered would be 2013. To mitigate this deferral, discussions will be held with schools to progress alternative measures which would be required to meet the anticipated resultant shortfall of places in 2012.
- 3.16 **Proposal six:** Expand the capacity of Little London Primary School from 210 to

630 using land off Cambridge Road.

- 3.17 A recommendation on the proposal to create an additional two forms of entry using land off Cambridge Road was delayed to allow consideration of an alternative proposal put forward by Little London Community School governors. The original proposal would expand Little London Community School to three forms of entry using two sites. The governors counter proposal would limit the expansion of the school to two forms of entry using their current site and a piece of adjacent community land. This counter proposal would require re-consultation preventing delivery of the additional places by 2012. Further consultation would also be required to establish a new one form entry school on the land off Cambridge Road to meet the identified need for a total of three forms of entry.
- 3.18 There are a number of issues with the land comprising Little London school site and the adjacent community land including flood risk, contamination risks, different levels, sewers and underground cellars. There is no clear option for providing sufficient teaching space for two forms of entry without demolishing the existing buildings on the school site, and temporarily relocating the staff and pupils during the period of the build. In addition a further form of entry would still be required off Cambridge Road.
- 3.19 Emerging legislation is requiring local authorities to consider afresh how additional school places are provided. In many cases new schools will be necessary and these will need to be developed as academies, or potentially by Free school proposers. Discussions around partnership and Trust arrangements are also shaping future proposals. Whilst the headteacher has been clear about the ability of the school to manage the split site arrangement the concept of a single primary school operating an infant and junior school model on a split site has raised questions with some stakeholders, and led to the counter proposal by the governing body.
- 3.20 Whilst it is necessary for us to ensure there is one additional form of entry for September 2012 it is not until September 2013 that the second form of entry is expected to be required. Given this position, and the wide ranging debate this proposal has generated, we will create a single additional temporary form of entry at Little London Primary school for September 2012 on its existing site. This does not require a statutory process and no additional accommodation would be required. It is recommended that we explore further options arising from the discussions around this proposal and bring forward a proposal for further consultation to the July Executive Board, along with the other proposals that will be necessary for additional primary places in 2013.

4 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The consultation process and full details of the responses are in the report previously considered by Executive Board in March. They are in line with all legal requirements.

5 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO BOTH PARTS OF THE REPORT

- 5.1 These proposals are necessary to meet the authority's statutory duty to ensure sufficiency of school places. If approved they would deliver 60 reception places, making a total of 9390 reception places in the City in 2012. Projections suggest a need for at least 9570 places. Actions required to address any shortfall will be

agreed once the consultation process is complete and outcomes are known.

- 5.2 The Executive Board has already authorised the expenditure of £839,000 to progress the design up to stage 1 costs. This represents nearly 5% of the high level estimate for all six schemes of £17,364,000 to deliver 180 reception places. This estimate excludes site acquisition costs or site specific risk or abnormalities. The three schemes to which this report refers total £13,290,000 for 180 places, and the one for which it recommends proceeding totals £4,430,000 for 60 places.
- 5.3 There are three sites included in the proposals (the former Braimwood site; land adjacent to the Carr Manor site; and the Blenheim centre site,) which were earmarked when the decision to proceed to public consultation was made in December 2010, and constitute a loss to the Council's capital programme of £2.675m

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Executive Board is asked to

1) individually approve publication of statutory notices to:

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7 BACKGROUND REPORTS

7.1 Executive Board Reports

17 June 2009 Expanding Primary Place Provision

22 July 2009 Proposed increases in Admissions Limits for September 2010

19 May 2010 Outcome of statutory notices for changes to primary provision for September 2010, 2011 and 2012

21 July 2010 - Outcome of statutory notices for proposals for expansion of primary provision for September 2011, and

Outcome of statutory notices for changes to primary age provision in Horsforth for September 2011

15 Dec 2010 Primary provision for 2012

30 March 2011 Basic Need Programme 2012 – Part A Outcome of consultation on proposals for primary provision for 2012 and Part B Request for Authority to spend.

Officer reports

21 May 2010 and 5 November 2010 SIB reports

7 May 2010 and 17 September 2010 AMB reports

April 2011 Initial Transport Assessment

