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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS  
REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
DATE: 21 September 2005**

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

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1** The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of consultation undertaken on 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 2006.

### **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 2005 the two schools had only 177 and 115 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** **The Proposal:** Education Leeds was questioned on the reasons for the current proposal and why it differed from those earlier consulted upon (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.

- 3.2** **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.

- 3.3 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.

- 3.4 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.

- 3.5 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.

- 3.6 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.

## **5. The Way Forward**

Following careful consideration of the views expressed during the consultation period, Education Leeds considers that there are two options to consider – 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 is 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.

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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006
- close Potternewton Primary School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006
- establish a 1.5 FE primary school on the Potternewton site on 1st September 2006.

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF EDUCATION LEEDS  
REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD  
DATE 21 September 2005**

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

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Chapel Allerton, Moortown

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People


**Please indicate that the following have been addressed within the report:**

**Resource Implications:**

Finance

Personnel

Accommodation/Buildings

✓
✓
✓

**Policy Implications:**

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Executive Board Decision

✓
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Eligible for Call-in

✓
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Not Eligible for Call-in

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**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1** The report informs the Executive Board of the outcome of consultation undertaken on 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 2006.

**2.00 Background**

- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> June until 18<sup>th</sup> July.

- 2.3** There is 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 2005 pupil count, with only 115 pupils on roll, Potternewton Primary School has the highest percentage of surplus places of all of the schools at 52%. Miles Hill Primary School has only 177 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 26%. Intakes into both Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools are significantly lower than the schools' admission numbers of 40 and 50 respectively – for September 2005 only 9 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.
- 2.4** 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%.
- 2.5** 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.

### **3.0 The Issue**

- 3.1** Public consultation on the proposal to amalgamate Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools on the Potternewton site commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> June and ended on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2005. A consultation document was widely distributed to parents, staff, governors and agencies working in the area and was made available through a number of outlets including the local library. The consultation document included a pro-forma response form to encourage written responses. During this period, meetings were held with a range of stakeholders and minuted for the purposes of recording the views expressed. A copy of all written responses and the minutes from the consultation meetings are available in the Members' Library.

#### **Timetable of Consultation Meetings**

- 14<sup>th</sup> June Miles Hill Staff
- 14<sup>th</sup> June Miles Hill Governors
- 15<sup>th</sup> June Potternewton Staff
- 15<sup>th</sup> June Potternewton Governors
- 21<sup>st</sup> June Public meeting at Carr Manor High School
- 27<sup>th</sup> June North East Area Committee
- 12<sup>th</sup> July North East District Partnership
- 14<sup>th</sup> July Meadow Valley Sure Start Management Board
- 15<sup>th</sup> July Beckhill Implementation Group

**3.2** A total of 279 written responses have been received, from parents, staff, governors, pupils and other stakeholders, including Meadow Valley Sure Start, the District Partnership, the Beckhill Implementation Group and the Beckhill Tenants and Residents Association. Around 70 responses supported the proposal, in the belief that it would secure sustainable provision in the area. The majority of respondents, however, were associated with Miles Hill Primary School (174) and opposed the proposal, most of which (115) were from pupils. 61 respondents did not state which school they were associated with. In addition the Miles Hill Action Group submitted results from a survey of the views of 70 families, which indicated opposition to the proposal and concerns that Education Leeds would not do the best for pupils. A petition with 3675 signatories, which opposed the closure of Miles Hill Primary School, was also received.

**3.3** All of the written responses received have been analysed in detail. The following section provides an overview of the key issues raised during consultation and Education Leeds' response. It should be noted that this is a summary and there is therefore an inevitable loss of detail.

### **3.4 Main issues raised during Public Consultation**

#### **3.5 The proposal**

The reasons why Education Leeds and the City Council had come forward with a further proposal to rationalise provision and one that differed from those earlier consulted upon (the closure of Potternewton and an amalgamation of the two schools on the Miles Hill site) has been questioned. Concerns were also expressed that the proposal would remove parental choice.

#### **Education Leeds response:**

In October 2003 the Executive Board of the City Council requested 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. Through the review process it became clear that the number of surplus places and the vulnerability of some schools in the area remained a problem. A number of options were considered and reported to the Executive Board in May 2005, with a recommendation to consult on the current proposal.

The aim of the proposal to amalgamate the two schools on the Potternewton site is to provide a sustainable pattern of provision for the future, with a good geographic distribution of schools in relation to where pupils live. In bringing forward this proposal, Education Leeds and the City Council responded to some of the concerns raised during consultation on earlier proposals, specifically that the Miles Hill site would not be accessible for some of the pupils at Potternewton Primary. Education Leeds has proposed the use of the Potternewton site for the amalgamated school as it is very centrally located in relation to the population served by both schools (see attached map). It is acknowledged that this proposal is likely to affect a shift in preference patterns. For example, many parents who live near to Miles Hill choose to send their children to Carr Manor Primary and in future this number may increase. The new pattern of provision would offer parents in the future the choice of Carr Manor to the north or the new school to the south.

#### **3.6 Opposition to the closure of Miles Hill Primary School**

The majority of responses focused on Miles Hill Primary School, highlighting a number

of reasons why the school should not be closed. Many staff at the school have worked with the local community for years and have experience of working with local families. They are clearly highly valued by parents. In terms of demographic numbers, the view was expressed that low pupil numbers has resulted from years of uncertainty and that the school is a viable one form of entry school and as such it should be retained. Other reasons for retaining the school include the loss of valued facilities that the school offers, such as the nurture group, access to Sure Start and wrap around care. Play areas at the school are also accessed by the wider community – for example, a local rugby club has a partnership with the school.

**Education Leeds response:**

That Miles Hill School is clearly valued by parents and pupils is acknowledged. However, reviews of school places do not focus on individual schools but consider the pattern of primary provision across a geographic area. In the case of Meanwood, there are some popular, thriving schools in Carr Manor, Meanwood CE and St Urban's Catholic Primaries and two smaller schools in Miles Hill and Potternewton. Neither of these schools are full one form of entry schools and intakes in recent years have been under 30. It is acknowledged that Miles Hill Primary School has a higher number on roll than Potternewton Primary. However, there are not currently nor projected to be sufficient pupils for both schools to be retained as one form of entry schools. Current projections suggest a maximum of around 40 pupils across the two schools and less than 30 between the two are expected in Reception for the 2005/6 academic year.

The proposal is not a closure of Miles Hill Primary School, but an amalgamation of the school with Potternewton Primary School, with the intention that the new school is founded on the strengths of the existing schools. Through an amalgamation as much continuity as possible is retained – the intention being that the majority of pupils in the two schools transfer to the new school and posts in the new school (apart from the headteacher and deputy head posts) are ring-fenced to staff in the existing schools. If this proposal proceeds there will be opportunities to establish similar facilities to those that currently exist in both schools in the new school. Education Leeds would work closely with the temporary governing body of the new school (formed from governors of both schools) and other agencies during the transition period to plan for the development of an extended school that serves the local community. The City Council may wish to consider retaining the Miles Hill site or part of the site for specific community facilities should this proposal proceed.

**3.7 Partnership with North West SILC**

Particular concern was expressed regarding the loss of the inclusive partnership that Miles Hill currently operates with the North West Special Inclusive Learning Centre. Up to 15 pupils from the SILC attend Miles Hill at different times during the school week and this is valued by all children. A classroom has been specifically modified for these pupils and this investment would be lost if the school closed.

**Education Leeds response:**

Education Leeds acknowledges the value of the inclusive partnership with the NW SILC and that investment in appropriate facilities at Miles Hill serves the pupils accessing them very well. If this proposal proceeds, the temporary governing body of the new school and the NW SILC may wish to consider establishing a similar partnership. The school building is sufficiently large for a designated specialist space to be provided. During the transition period Education Leeds would work closely with the families of children at the NW SILC affected to secure suitable alternative inclusive opportunities.

### **3.8 Impact on Standards**

Concern was expressed that the new school would have larger classes and mixed age groups which would be detrimental to children's education. In addition concern was expressed that 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. Schools are funded through a formula which is largely determined by how many children attend each school. The available budget tends to determine how governing bodies decide to organise classes. How the new school chooses to do so would depend on the number of children who attend the new school and this could therefore involve single or/and mixed age classes. Many schools in Leeds operate mixed age classes and class sizes of up to 30 and there is no verifiable evidence that this impacts negatively on attainment.

The Potternewton building is sufficiently large to accommodate an intake of up to 45 pupils per year (315 in total). The school's current capacity reflects the redesignation of some spaces not currently used for teaching, which are therefore not counted in the net capacity formula. The building is large and light and has the potential for additional facilities, such as a breakfast club, after-school club and wrap around care, to be provided.

### **3.9 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 longer journey to school, although for some the journey to the new school would be shorter. The average distance from home to school would increase by less than 200 metres (5 minutes walk). The new school would be supported in developing a school travel plan and safe walking routes. If appropriate, agencies such as the City Council's Highways department would be asked to undertake an assessment of the need for pedestrian crossing facilities. If this proposal proceeds, we could find in the future that families living nearer to Carr Manor than Potternewton who might have attended Miles Hill, will choose to send their children to Carr Manor Primary School.

### **3.10 Impact on the community and future use of Miles Hill site**

Several responses raised concern over the impact that the amalgamation would have on local communities. The North East Area Committee expressed concern at the loss of a local school. Many local agencies working in partnership with Miles Hill Primary School felt that the closure of the school would have a devastating effect on the community it serves, which is characterised by severe deprivation. For example, the Sure Start Management Board expressed particular concern that the service they provide worked best delivered alongside primary provision and the local Miles Hill Community would lose out if the current pattern of provision was not retained.

It was suggested that the loss of Miles Hill Primary School could leave the Beckhill Estate, which is a priority neighbourhood of the North East District Partnership, in an extremely vulnerable position. As the only local public building, the school serves as a hub for the community. An alternative proposal was made to retain Miles Hill Primary

School, with the suggestion that Education Leeds should work with other agencies to secure more creative use of the school for and by residents of the Beckhill estate. The Beckhill Implementation Group, a multi-agency partnership set up to address deprivation on the estate, has been working closely with the local community to support regeneration. The group expressed concern that the confidence of the local community to participate in joint action, which has taken some time to secure, would be corroded if this proposal were to proceed.

A number of stakeholders suggested that the populations of the schools would not easily integrate as they live as different communities and there are clear divides between the areas served by the two schools. There is concern that some tensions within the local communities could escalate if this proposal proceeds. It was suggested that managing the instability that could result would be costly to other services, such as the Police and Education Welfare.

The District Partnership expressed similar views about the impact of the proposal on the resources that local communities can access, acknowledging that all schools are valued by the local communities they serve. However, if this proposal was to proceed, the Partnership strongly believes that a community resource should be retained on the Miles Hill site and requested that serious consideration was given by the City Council to securing this in partnership with other agencies and council departments.

#### **Education Leeds response:**

This proposal has been largely driven by concerns around demographic demand and the sustained educational viability of primary schools in the Meanwood area. Education Leeds has listened carefully to the views expressed during consultation and in particular those expressed by the agencies working in the localities served by the schools. Any reorganisation proposal undoubtedly has a disruptive impact on local people. It is clear, however, that we are dealing with some particularly vulnerable communities in those served by Miles Hill and Potternewton. They clearly value the services that the schools provide and benefit from local access to facilities.

The amalgamation would contribute to community cohesion by bringing communities together. However, if this proposal was to proceed, it must be recognised that the transition and implementation phases would need to be very carefully managed to support the families affected. This could require additional resources. In particular attention would need to be given to ensuring that the facilities at Miles Hill that benefit local families continue to be accessible, whether through other primary provision or through retention of specific facilities on the site. In view of this possibility, City Council officers would consider options for council service provision and/or community use on the site to support continued regeneration of the Beckhill estate. A further report would then be submitted to Executive Board later in the civic year if the proposed amalgamation proceeds.

### **3.11 Early Years**

The closure of Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary schools would see the loss of 39 FTE and 26 FTE nurseries respectively. However, there is currently insufficient demand for either facility. A 39 FTE nursery with capacity for Fully Integrated Provision in the proposed 1.5 FE school would be sufficient to accommodate the demand for places in the area. Opportunities would also be explored to expand Children's Centre provision in the area.

### **3.12 SEN**

Careful management of the impact of this proposal on pupils with Special Educational

Needs would be built into the implementation phase, should it proceed. 15 children from NW SILC who currently attend Miles Hill Primary would be offered alternative inclusive opportunities in consultation with parents and staff.

### **3.13 The Way Forward**

Following careful consideration of the views expressed during the consultation period, Education Leeds considers that there are two options to consider. The first would be to proceed with the amalgamation of Miles Hill and Potternewton Primary Schools. A thriving, extended primary school could be delivered, which, alongside Carr Manor Primary, Meanwood CE Primary and St Urban's Primary, would achieve sustainable primary provision in the Meanwood area in the context of demographic demand.

However, during the consultation period many concerns have been raised about the impact of the proposal on local communities in an area of considerable deprivation. In particular parents of pupils at Miles Hill Primary School and agencies working in the Beckhill Estate have presented a case that closure of the school would have a negative impact on regeneration achievements to date and their continued progress.

The second option to consider is retaining educational provision on both sites. Education Leeds does not feel that there is sufficient pupil demand for both schools to remain as viable one form of entry schools. However, a possible solution to addressing some of the vulnerabilities associated with low pupil numbers would be for the schools to federate. In a formal Federation, the schools would remain as separate institutions, but would be under linked management and governed by one governing body. The governing body would have the flexibility to share resources across the schools to manage the impact of falling budgets on curriculum delivery. A Federation would generate closer collaboration between the schools and in so doing contribute to community cohesion. It would not, however, address the issue of surplus places or the economic viability of maintaining two school buildings that have excess capacity.

**3.14** Education Leeds is 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.

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.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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. A business case would be developed to identify how the potential costs of spending in advance of a capital receipt would be funded.

## 5.0 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The review of primary provision fulfils the LEA's statutory requirement to keep under review the supply and demand of school places.
- 5.2 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.

### 5.3 Timescale

The envisaged timescale for the statutory process is as follows:

Late Sep 05	Publish notices giving 6 weeks for representations.
Early Nov	Notice expires
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> 05	Exec Board for permission to refer to School Organisation Committee, if there are objections otherwise for Executive Board to determine
Mid Jan 06	Deadline for SOC decision
Sep 2006	Implementation

## 6.0 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.

- 6.1 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.

## **7.0 LINKS TO KEY PRIORITIES**

**7.1** Proposals under the Primary Review reflect key priorities identified in the Education Development Plan, the Asset Management Plan and the Corporate Plan by contributing to the target to reduce primary surplus places, the raising achievement agenda and improving the school estate.

## **8.0 CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

**8.1** Proposals for the establishment, alteration or discontinuance of schools and the determination to implement such proposals remain a function to be performed by the Council under the arrangements involving Education Leeds.

**8.2** The arrangements require that the Council have regard to advice and draft plans where appropriate from Education Leeds when carrying out this function.

**8.3** Capital receipts from the release of sites arising from the Primary review are being ring-fenced to support the funding of new building requirements arising from the review. It will be important to ensure that all of the required capital is in place if any proposals move to the School Organisation Committee stage.

**8.4** The contents of this report have been discussed with the Chief Education Officer. The Chief Education Officer feels that the report includes all the analysis and considerations that he would wish to be drawn to the Executive Board's attention in considering this matter.

## **9.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

- close Miles Hill Primary School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006
- close Potternewton Primary School on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006
- establish a 1.5 FE primary school on the Potternewton site on 1st September 2006.

## Appendix

### Summary of concerns raised by individual responses to the proposal to close Miles Hill Primary School and Potternewton Primary Schools and to establish a 1.5 form of entry primary school on the Potternewton site in September 2006.

		Number of responses
<b>Early Years</b>	Concerns over losing Sure start facilities	42
	MH provides wraparound care	29
<b>Access</b>	Pupils will have to cross busy roads	26
	Increase in traffic will cause problems	15
	The MH pupils will have much further to travel to school	17
	MH parents will have a steep hill to climb, many with prams	26
	Potternewton site more accessible for bus routes	1
	No zebra or pelican crossing for the children	11
<b>Site &amp; Buildings</b>	Make Miles Hill a 1FE primary school	34
	Make Potternewton a 1FE primary school	1
	Potternewton site geographically best placed to establish school in area	22
	Potternewton not large enough	6
	Should merge both schools on MH site	7
	Drainage at MH is not a problem	6
	Potternewton very old building	4
	Improve/extend facilities on MH site instead	14
	MH provides safe play space	20
	MH is a new, modern light building	3
	No spare capacity at MH	4
	Potternewton has an After School club facility	4
	Potternewton has a breakfast club	4
	Potternewton building large enough to take MH pupils	3
Miles Hill would lose their breakfast and after school clubs	5	
<b>Community</b>	Small community schools are beneficial to the children	1
	MH is at the heart of the community	64
	MH site should be kept for community use	5
	Don't want to lose facilities	105
	Concerns regarding consultation with other agencies	41
	Develop community cohesion by keeping MH and Potternewton as separate schools	17
	Keep MH open and improve community resources in the area	6
	Potternewton already a multi-cultural school	1
	Communities will not benefit from merger	34
	Established links with other agencies and voluntary organisations	22
The diverse communities will not mix	31	
<b>Disruption to children</b>	Disruption will be detrimental to children's' future	29
	For some pupils their school is the only stability in their lives	6
	More disruption for ex Bentley pupils	23
	Pupils will be separated from their friends	43
	Loss of good relations with staff	55
	Vulnerable children at risk if close MH	4
	Transition process easier with staff appointed from both schools	2
Do not trust Education Leeds to do best for children	5	
<b>Finance</b>	Closure is based on financial measures, not educational plans	9
	Would have to buy new uniform	1
	Commitment to substantial funds to ensure smooth transition	2

	Money invested on facilities wasted	81
	Additional transport costs	4
<b>Parental Choice</b>	Parental choice is being taken away	51
	Parents choosing MH even though live nearer Potternewton	4
	Parent will not send child to Potternewton	7
	More parents preferencing MH than Potternewton	3
<b>Process</b>	Ed Leeds promised no review in area for at least 3 years	35
	Plan is short-sighted and will fail	2
	A long term solution needs to be achieved this time	21
	Proposal has a negative affect on MH school	1
<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	Accepts numbers issue	23
	Are SEN children being taken into account when admission numbers are been looked at	10
	Potternewton has less pupils than MH	24
	Has consideration been given to number of pupils who may go to Shakespeare	7
	Falling roll at Potternewton will not be solved	4
	Proposal has already led to parents taking children out of MH	1
	Does the proposal provide provision for future families	1
<b>SEN issues</b>	SEN children need smaller classes to support their needs	16
	Miles Hill provides well for SEN children and those with emotional difficulties	45
	MH link with NW SILC will be lost	55
	MH being punished for having successful partnership with NW SILC	4
	Concerns over future of SEN pupils	26
	Potternewton building able to provide NW SILC partnership	4
<b>Staffing</b>	Staff will lose their jobs	23
	Staff will lose close relationship with the children	1
	Staff at MH very supportive of children with problems	9
	More partnerships created with less staff	1
	The high standards MH staff have taken time to achieve will be wasted	6
	Increase of staff required for larger classes	2
	Dedicated staff at MH	6
<b>Standards</b>	Small classes are better than large classes	41
	Inner city children deserve small class size - better for their particular needs	9
	Potternewton has excellent KS2 results	4
	MH is a level 3 Healthy School	1
	Concerns regarding mixed year groups	3
<b>Other</b>	Against proposal	200
	Supports proposal	67
	Would rather educate at home if proposal goes through	1
	Would support option of amalgamation rather than closure of one school	1
	New developments in the future will need school places	4

#### Summary of other responses:

1. Petition signed by 3675 people opposed the closure of Miles Hill
2. Results from a survey of 70 families at Miles Hill carried out by Miles Hill Action Group: the majority said that they would not send their children to the new school, the community would not benefit from the merger, that the two schools should remain and 1FE schools and they did not trust Education Leeds to do the best for children.

## Demographic Data

**Table 1. Current Provision**

	Type of School	Nurse ry Roll Jan 05	Ad Limit	Rec Jan 05	Number on Roll (Jan 2005)	NET Capacity	Surplus Places (Jan 05) (%)
<b>Carr Manor</b>	3-11 primary	42	60	53	414	420	6 (1%)
<b>Meanwood CE</b>	5 - 11 primary		30	30	214	210	-4 (-2%)
<b>Miles Hill</b>	3-11 primary	38	50	25	177	240	63 (26%)
<b>Potternewton</b>	3-11 primary	23	40	21	111	233	122 (52%)
<b>St Urban's Catholic</b>	5-11 primary		30	30	210	210	0 (0%)

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

**Table 2: Reception Projections**

School	2005	2006	2007	2008	Admission limit
<b>Carr Manor Primary</b>	53	61	57	59	<b>60</b>
<b>Meanwood CE Primary</b>	31	30	30	30	<b>30</b>
<b>Miles Hill Primary</b>	19	26	24	25	<b>50</b>
<b>Potternewton Primary</b>	11	13	13	14	<b>40</b>
<b>St Urban's Catholic Primary</b>	26	28	27	28	<b>30</b>
<b>Area totals</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>210</b>

## Standards

The DfES published Primary School Performance Tables in December 2003, which indicate the improvement of schools at the end of Key Stage 2 from 2000 to 2003, 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**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Carr Manor Primary	237	275	269	265	271
Meanwood CE Primary	297	290	297	271	300
Miles Hill Primary	164	161	163	126	153
Potternewton Primary	189	192	173	217	214
St Urban's Cath Primary	261	274	278	294	268
LEA Average	<b>235</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>238</b>	
England Average	<b>231</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>234</b>	

**Table 4: KS2 SATs data summer 2004**

	KS2 percent Level 4+							
	% Free School Meals (whole school)	English	Maths	Science	No. Pupils Tested	Value Added	SEN (cohort) %	
							With statements	Non-statemented SEN
Carr Manor Primary	19	88	90	93	60	101.3	0%	3.3%
Meanwood CE Primary	5.2	100	100	100	31	101	3.2%	6.5%
Miles Hill Primary	54.2	38	42	73	26	97.5	7.7%	15.4%
Potternewton Primary	67.3	67	60	87	15	99.9	0%	46.7%
St Urban's Catholic Primary	8.5	90	84	94	31	101.2	3.2%	3.2%
<b>LEA Average</b>		<b>78</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85</b>		<b>100.1</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>15.7%</b>
National Average		<b>78</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>86</b>			<b>3.4%</b>	<b>18.3%</b>