

Moor Allerton Hall Consultation Summary of Questions and Answers Session 19 April 2018

On 19 April 2018 a questions and answers session was held as part of the public drop-in event relating to the current consultation. This was attended by members of the public. Senior officers from Leeds City Council along with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors were on the panel. Questions were organised around themes and a summary of the questions and answers is provided below. This is not intended to be a verbatim record.

Highways related

Has Leeds City Council (LCC) considered a different entrance for traffic to the Moor Allerton Hall PS site to distribute traffic differently? Are we considering the impact on residents of the proposed pick up/drop off? Will there be a walk-way through to Talbot Road? Will LCC be considering air quality?

The proposals are still at an early stage but if the expansion was to progress Highways would do a full traffic assessment and a transport statement would be produced for any planning application. This would include looking at what the traffic and associated issues are currently and modelling what the impact would be of additional traffic in the area. LCC encourages sustainable travel so we would look at things like enhancements to or new crossing points. We would also look at the school's travel plan to consider percentages of children who walk or drive. We would also ask for an air quality survey to be carried out. The pick-up/drop off is an idea that has come about to try to take some of the traffic off the road and manage it within the site and as part of that there would be dedicated parking bays to allow drop off to happen whilst still allowing flow of traffic. Again the position of this is something that we would look at. It would be difficult for us to introduce an entrance onto Talbot Road as this would effectively be encroaching on the Allerton Grange School land, which isn't part of this proposal. There is also the potential to create a 'Park and Stride' facility, making use of the car park available at the New Highwood Pub site.

Learning Improvement

How will an expansion impact on the school and its Ofsted judgment? Will there be some funding available to help the school to manage this? What happens if the space from the community and children's centre isn't available-how can a good learning environment be guaranteed in those circumstances?

When LCC expands schools it's not just about bricks and mortar but about providing good learning places. Senior officers within LCC are very clear that Moor Allerton Hall PS is a good school and confident that when Ofsted returns that the school will be able to demonstrate this. The Learning Improvement Service within LCC have supported and will continue to support the school through additional funding to ensure that the school can manage the expansion whilst continuing on its improvement journey if the proposals go ahead. That is a conversation that LCC would have directly with the school to look at what they felt they needed. The Headteacher would be involved in the expansion and the school has a strong senior leadership team (SLT) to support the learning improvement journey and the Governing Body and SLT have developed clear systems and processes in school to drive the ethos and culture within school and to monitor impact. The funding for the build (capital funding) would be paid for out the allocation that LCC gets from central government. Conversations with the Community Centre Trustees and Children's Centre colleagues have been constructive and positive and those conversations are continuing. It is possible to expand the school without use of the land on which the Community Centre sits, however using it would give us more options for play space. We have secured the former New Highwood pub site and so that is also available to us to use in some way to achieve what we want to.

School Admissions/sufficiency related

Does LCC consider it fair that children have to walk over 2 miles to get school? Did LCC consider expanding Wigton Moor PS? Could LCC ring-fence Moor Allerton Hall PS for Talbot nearest? How does 1 form of entry (FE) at Moor Allerton Hall PS solve the problem-what about the other 1FE? What is being done to address the issues at Khalsa Science Academy?

The 2 miles walking distance relates to successive Education Acts dating back to 1944 in reference to School Transport which consider it reasonable for children under 8 years old, and 3 miles walking for children aged 8 and over. Although the 2 miles isn't defined in Admissions we use it as a proxy, as do Appeal panels.

Over the next 6 months LCC will be modelling the impact of introducing catchment areas for primary schools across the city and the areas could be the same as existing polygons or could change shape. If we wanted to progress then we must consult, and there is a set consultation timetable in the Admissions Code that we would have to follow. In order to implement any changes that could apply from September 2020, we would need to have consult in the Autumn 2018. Not everything that LCC consults on goes ahead such as the consultation with parents and other stakeholders about the sibling rule which was conducted a couple of years ago where parents clearly told us that they didn't want it to change. In terms of the other 1FE, we have done some modelling that looked at what would have happened if all of the Talbot nearest had preferred Moor Allerton Hall PS as one of their preferences. The result was that all of the Talbot nearest would have received an offer of a place at Moor Allerton Hall PS based on preferences. Not all of the Talbot nearest preference Talbot. What we are unable to do is to predict parental preferences but we do have to ensure a broad supply of places. We know that there is not an equal supply of places and factors such as popularity, Ofsted etc. can have an impact. We also know that children travel in and out of the area and that also has an impact on numbers. As part of further modelling we'll also be looking at what the impact would have been if all of the Moor Allerton Hall nearest as well as the Talbot nearest had preferred Moor Allerton Hall PS.

In terms of expanding other schools such as Talbot or Wigton Moor, we established bulge places at Talbot but due to restrictions on the site we wouldn't be able to permanently expand it. Wigton Moor is a very difficult site which we have already bulged but due to significant highways and site issues we wouldn't be able to permanently expand it without completely rebuilding the school from scratch due to its positioning on the site. LCC wants and needs every school in the area to be available to the community, although we don't have any control over free schools such as Khalsa, so we are limited in what we can say in a public forum. We will continue to review demand, births, NHS data and so on. At this stage the question we are asking is 'is it a good idea to expand Moor Allerton Hall Primary School by one form of entry?'

