

Statutory proposals for a prescribed alteration

School and Local Authority details:

School: Moor Allerton Hall Primary School, Lidgett Lane, Leeds, LS17 6QP.

Local Authority: Leeds City Council, The Director of Children and Families, PO Box 837, Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families, Leeds, LS1 9PZ

Description of alteration:

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School (PS) from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from 1 September 2019. The current admission number for the school is 60 into Reception each year (aged from four) and the proposed admission number for Reception each year is 90 (aged from four). This permanent increase would apply to Reception classes from September 2019 and it would therefore take several years for the school to reach its full capacity. It should be noted that the school has already admitted additional children into its reception class in 2017 and 2018 and therefore is already part of the way towards the upper limit of 630 pupils that this proposal recommends.

The school will expand on its existing site and some additional building and/or remodelling of existing buildings will be required. This will be phased in agreement with the school, and be subject to the normal planning permission process. In addition to this an option being considered is the potential to utilise the former New Highwood pub site. The freehold for the pub site is owned by Leeds City Council and the leasehold for the building was recently purchased. The site has been allocated to support the proposed development of Moor Allerton Hall PS and curriculum requirements necessary to expand to 3 forms of entry (FE). Our preferred option is to relocate the Children's Centre which sits currently within the existing school building and the Community Centre which is located next to the existing school building, onto the pub site. Although agreements have not been formalised, positive conversations are ongoing with the Trustees of the Community Centre and the Children's Centre to seek their views, and we are working in partnership to deliver a proposal that meets the needs of the community.

Evidence of demand:

Since 2012 several schools within the Roundhay ward and surrounding wards have either permanently expanded or have had additional accommodation added to their sites by way of temporary/bulge increases. Leeds City Council (LCC) has created an additional 630 permanent primary school places (90 places per year group) in the Roundhay area to address an ongoing demand for places. Demographic data indicates that there is an ongoing need for additional permanent provision due to significant and sustained population growth within this area and localised pressure on places.

One of the main issues in this area is that there are not enough places at Talbot Primary School (PS) for all of the children who live closest to it. A number of the other local schools are filled with siblings and their own 'nearest' children making it difficult for some families living nearest to Talbot PS to access a place either at Talbot PS or at most of the other local schools.

Moor Allerton Hall PS is situated within a reasonable distance of this area of pressure and would be well placed as an Admission Point to address additional demand. The Sufficiency and Participation Team has recently modelled what the impact would have been if families

living nearest to Talbot PS had chosen to preference a place at Moor Allerton Hall PS as one of their preferences. Places were modelled using 2017 admissions data based on a published admission number of 90 at Moor Allerton Hall PS and it should be noted that not all of the families living nearest to Talbot PS chose to preference a place at Talbot PS. The modelling demonstrated that all of the Talbot PS 'nearest' children would have received a reasonable offer of a school place within 2 miles of their home address. If more families were to preference Moor Allerton Hall PS, fewer offers would be made to children living outside of the Moortown/Roundhay area and the sibling impact would be reduced.

Effect on other schools:

The Roundhay area has a range of existing types of primary places including Community, Church of England and Catholic provision.

The council has a duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice. Creating 30 additional permanent places each year at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School will provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing demand for places. Based on the expected demand for school places within the Roundhay area and the more localised pressure nearest to both Moor Allerton Hall and Talbot Primary Schools, Leeds City Council would anticipate that an increase in places at Moor Allerton Hall PS school will not have any negative impact on other local schools.

Objectives:

The council has a duty under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice. It also has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places. Providing places close to where children live allows improved accessibility to local and desirable school places, is an efficient use of resources and reduces the risk of non-attendance. Creating 30 additional permanent places each year at Moor Allerton Hall Primary School will provide more choice for local families and help ease the ongoing demand for places.

The Governing Body of Moor Allerton Hall PS has indicated that it has a continued commitment to welcoming all new children to its school where all pupils can progress and thrive. It feels that the proposal could allow the school to do this even more effectively than it currently does and could enhance their children's experience. Should the proposals go ahead, it looks forward to working in collaboration with the Council to making a success of the expansion.

This proposal contributes to the city's aspiration to be the best council, the best city in which to grow up and a child friendly city. The delivery of pupil places through the Learning Places Programme is one of the baseline entitlements of a child friendly city. By creating good quality local school places we can support the priority aim of improving educational achievement and closing achievement gaps. In turn, by providing young people with the skills they need for life, these proposals provide underlying support for the council's ambition to produce a strong economy by compassionate means. A good quality school place also contributes towards delivery of targets within the Children and Young People's Plan such as our obsession to improve behaviour, attendance and achievement. It is important when bringing any proposal forward that there is a degree of certainty that any change would not have a negative impact on teaching and learning. The Headteacher and Governing Body are confident that they can manage the expansion of the school whilst continuing to demonstrate improvements in relation to the school's learning improvement journey.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation:

The proposal is to permanently increase the capacity of Moor Allerton Hall Primary School, a voluntary controlled school, from 420 to 630 pupils with effect from 1 September 2019. The current admission number for the school is 60 into Reception each year (aged from four) and the proposed admission number for Reception each year is 90 (aged from four).

The school will expand on its existing site and some additional building and/or remodelling of existing buildings will be required. This will be phased in agreement with the school, and be subject to the normal planning permission process. In addition to this an option being considered is the potential to utilise the former New Highwood pub site. The freehold for the pub site is owned by Leeds City Council and the leasehold for the building was recently purchased. The site has been allocated to support the proposed development of Moor Allerton Hall PS and curriculum requirements necessary to expand to 3 forms of entry (FE). Our preferred option is to relocate the Children's Centre which sits currently within the existing school building and the Community Centre which is located next to the existing school building, onto the pub site. Although agreements have not been formalised, positive conversations are ongoing with the Trustees of the Community Centre and the Children's Centre to seek their views, and we are working in partnership to deliver a proposal that meets the needs of the community.

Project costs:

A feasibility study has been commissioned to determine options and ensure we proceed with the most effective solution, financially and educationally. Any scheme would be subject to relevant consultation at the appropriate juncture as informed by the key stakeholders and local ward members and any design/proposals would be drawn up in full consultation with the school based on area schedules provided by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Planning permission would be required prior to the commencement of any construction.

This expansion would be funded from the Learning Places Programme through Basic Need Allocations. The precise funding packages would be confirmed at the design freeze stage, and detailed in the relevant Design and Cost reports.

The proposal to increase primary provision in the Roundhay area has been brought forward in time to allow places to be delivered for 2019. Bulge places will be required to ensure a sufficiency of places in 2018 and a decision not to proceed with regard to this revised proposal may result in a fresh consultation on new proposals, and there is a high risk that places will not be delivered in time. The LA's ability to meet its statutory duty for sufficiency of school places in the short and longer term may be at risk. There is also a corporate risk associated with failing to provide sufficient school places in good quality buildings that meet the needs of local communities.

Support, objections and comments:

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, i.e. by 4pm on 30 July 2018 any person may submit comments, support or objections on the proposal to PO Box 837, Sufficiency and Participation Team, Children and Families, Leeds, LS1 9PZ or email educ.school.organisation@leeds.gov.uk