



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Report

Report of: Executive Director of Children, Young People & Families

Date: 15th January 2014

Subject: School Places in Sheffield: Consultation feedback

Author of Report: Joel Hardwick (ext 35476)

Summary: The report provides an update following consultation on providing additional school places in six areas of the city. It seeks permission to take the next steps in bringing forward proposals to increase places where necessary.

Reasons for Recommendations: Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live.

Recommendations:

- (i) Approve the publication of statutory notices with regard to the proposed increases in places at Acres Hill (temporary), Greystones Primary, Hallam Primary and Wybourn Primary schools for September 2015. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in March/April 2014.
- (ii) Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposals to bring together Tinsley Nursery Infant and Tinsley Junior Schools on the Tinsley Recreation Ground site to create a through school, through an increase to the age range of Tinsley Junior School and the closure of Tinsley Nursery Infant School. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in March/April 2014.
- (iii) Defer a final decision on additional places in the Firth Park area until a further review in autumn 2014.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Paul Schofield
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
All
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Cllr Jackie Drayton
Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee if decision called in
Children & Young People
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
YES/NO

SCHOOL PLACES IN SHEFFIELD

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report provides an update following consultation on providing additional primary school places. It seeks permission to take the next steps in bringing forward proposals to increase places in five areas of the city.

2. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Providing sufficient school places is essential to the Council's focus on enabling children to have the best start, achieve their full potential and contribute to the success of the city. This programme is aimed at providing enough primary school places for all Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond in the area of the city in which they live.
- 2.2 At the heart of the vision for increasing primary school places in Sheffield is the council's role in guaranteeing excellent education outcomes and equitable access for all.

3. OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The outcome would be to provide enough primary school places in the right areas to meet demand in 2014 and beyond. This includes an assessment of whether the solution is sustainable in the long-term.

4. CONTEXT

- 4.1 Since 1977 birth rates in Sheffield have fluctuated, with a more recent peak of 6,805 in 1990/91, followed by a steady decline to 5549 in 2001/02. This downward trend was reversed in 2002/03 as Sheffield saw an increase in births, rising steadily to 6,602 in 2009/10, in some areas the increase in births rate is much higher than the City average. Recent data suggests the birth rate in Sheffield is, for the time being, sustained at this higher level. In addition to the population growth there has been a more recent rise in the number of pupils applying for places mid-year, after the normal point of entry. The local schools are usually full so this has led to an increase in children allocated to out of area schools and families with siblings split across different schools.
- 4.2 Over the last five years the Council has taken steps to address the growth in demand with the addition of over 2,500 places to the primary system to date, with approved plans for a further 1,000. All targeted at areas of the highest demand.

- 4.3 The Council approved the most recent of those proposals in November 2012 with a decision to create two new primary schools in the north east of Sheffield. Following a successful capital bid the Council is also in the process of commissioning a new 2-16 school in the Darnall/Attercliffe area. Overall, Sheffield is now operating in a tighter system as the reduced number of surplus places means reduced flexibility. This means that local population rises are more likely to require action to provide additional places.

5. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In each area local discussions took place between October and December 2013. There were a wide variety of opportunities for local people to learn more about the issues and make comments through newsletters, discussions with parents and carers at the school gates, local drop-ins, and meetings with individual stakeholder groups. In each area a preferred solution was identified to allow for an informed discussion and opportunities to input alternative options were offered. **Appendix A** lists all events per area and gives a fuller account of the consultation responses, in addition copies of all responses received have been made available in the members' library.

Wybourn

- 5.2 Our starting point was that an additional 15 places per year are needed to answer the increased demand from within the Wybourn Primary catchment. The preferred option for discussion was therefore an increase to Wybourn Primary from 45 to 60 places per year.
- 5.3 Most people who responded understood and agreed with the overall proposal to provide additional places at the school. Many responses on the school gates and drop-ins agreed that if the local population is growing it makes sense to increase the number of places available at the local school. The one area of concern that was common to a number of responses was the impact on class sizes. At the moment the school is able to organise so that classes are below the normal size of 30. Some respondents felt that this was an important part of the school's current success. Taking 60 children in each year group is likely to mean the school organises on the basis of two classes per year with 30 children each. This means class sizes would increase, but would not go above 30 which is the norm for most schools. Some responses, including from some staff, proposed building extra classrooms in order to allow for the smaller classes to continue.
- 5.4 The school currently manages to organise on smaller classes within the resources for 315 children (7 year groups of 45). The extra 105 children (7 year groups of 60 = 420 pupils) would bring extra funding into the school. It would be for the school leadership to decide how this is spent, but we would anticipate that whilst class sizes may

increase, there would be an increase in staffing levels to match this that should ensure the school is able to continue offering the current level of support to each individual child. No alternative proposals were put forward during the process as respondents were generally supportive of the principle of providing the additional places locally.

Greystones

- 5.5 Greystones Primary has had a temporary increase with four out of the last five intakes being 90 places, compared to the historic norm of 60. The additional demand is now well established so our starting point was that 30 permanent additional places per year are needed to answer the increased demand from within the Greystones Primary catchment. The preferred option for discussion was therefore to permanently increase Greystones Primary from 60 to 90 places per year.
- 5.6 The majority of responses focussed on concerns about increasing the number of pupils and the size of the buildings on the site. This was familiar from the consultation on the temporary expansion. Some responses, particularly those from families with pre-school aged children, were positive about the proposal and the principle of increasing places within the catchment of population growth. There was a concern from some about the overall size of the school meaning that pupils could feel lost or not get the individual support they would currently. A further concern was about the practical aspects of increased buildings meaning that playspace could reduce, dining space may not be adequate, and other general spaces would be increasingly tight, and that ultimately this could have a negative impact on teaching and learning.
- 5.7 Some parents, whilst raising concerns, acknowledged that their children had continued to thrive since the temporary increase that means that four out of seven year groups are already at 90. We do not believe that teaching and learning have been adversely affected by the current additional pupils and that a permanent solution could offer a better overall environment that would minimise the impact on playspace. Some parents offered practical suggestions for how this might be managed, such as softening the outdoor space with planting and considering the use of the space currently occupied by the pre-school. Such suggestions would be considered at the next stage of design if going ahead.
- 5.8 The main alternatives that came forward during the process were to build a new school elsewhere within the local area or to expand the Ecclesall schools. Most people who put this forward understood that the Council were not in a position to afford to purchase a new site in the area and do not own a suitable local site. The only Council-owned site mentioned was the Bannerdale site. This is not within the immediate area of population growth, which is centred around Greystones Primary School. The Ecclesall Junior site is a small site

and already offers 90 places per year.

Crosspool

- 5.9 Our starting point was that an additional 30 places per year are needed to answer the increased demand from the Lydgate Infant/Junior and Hallam Primary catchment areas. The preferred option for discussion was therefore an increase to Hallam Primary from 60 to 90 places per year.
- 5.10 The response from parents was largely positive. Some parents were keen to ensure their younger children would be able to access a local school place so were supportive of the proposal. There were also positive responses about the potential improvements to the building. Some parents, and a number of local residents, had concerns over the current and future traffic issues at the start and end of the school day as well as the preservation of community green space. In terms of the traffic, the site has two main access points off neighbouring residential roads. It was felt that this is an existing issue with too many cars on small residential roads and that extra pupils would increase the problem. Some residents suggested parking restrictions could be one measure to ease this issue, along with any measures that might help encourage pupils to walk to school. The overall tone of consultation responses were supportive of the proposal but keen to ensure it was done sympathetically to pupils and local residents alike.
- 5.11 Most respondents understood the need for places and the concerns raised were not in objection to the principle of expansion, nor did alternative options come forward during the process. Those that did ask about alternatives understood the lack of available, Council-owned sites in the area and that the neighbouring Lydgate schools would not offer a better option.

Tinsley

- 5.12 Our starting point was that 90 places per year are needed to answer the increased demand from within the Tinsley area. The preferred option for discussion was to replace the existing Nursery Infant and Junior schools with a new 'through' primary school offering 90 places per year. The preferred site option stated was to expand the Tinsley Green building on Tinsley Recreation Ground.
- 5.13 Overall responses were very supportive of the principle of a new 90-place primary school for Tinsley. This came through in responses from parents and other local residents. Some parents, and a majority of the local residents that responded, had concerns over the use of Tinsley Recreation Ground. [This included a petition against using the Recreation Ground with 327 signatures.](#) The main concern was around losing this local amenity that is seen as a key green space for the local community. Most people understood that the site options were limited. One part of the discussion locally was around the Junior school site being turned to community green space should open green

space be lost on Tinsley Green. Some respondents noted that the air and noise pollution issues faced by the school would also apply to open green space. Some responses, mainly from local residents, stated a preference for using the Junior school site for the new school as a way of retaining Tinsley Green. Traffic was raised by some as another issue and there would need to be some consideration of the access points to a new school, were it to go ahead on the proposed site, to consider the impact of traffic on Norborough Road.

- 5.14 The key concern in the area was around the use of Tinsley Recreational Ground. Plans were discussed and developed through the consultation process in order to show the extent of the community green space that could remain alongside a school. There would be further work to do in this area to both develop a creative design for the new school that protects as much as possible the green space fully and maximises the use of shared school/community play areas and open space. Any future plans need to reassure members of the local community who feared that the new school would mean the entire park would be fenced off for a school, and to learn from the way the new Sharrow Primary School was built on the existing park. The alternative option of using the Junior site, whilst feasible from a building perspective, does not address the noise and air pollution issues of school sites next to the motorway. The Junior site would be returned to open green space, but the impact of noise and air pollution would not be equal to the current issues for pupils and staff at schools who are on the site for the entire school week.

Acres Hill

- 5.15 Due to population growth in the Darnall/Attercliffe area a new primary and secondary 2-16 school is to open in September 2015. In order to support access to local places in the meantime, parents and residents around Acres Hill Primary school were consulted on a temporary increase in places. The school has already taken an additional class into Reception in both the 2012/13 and 2013/14 school years (current reception and Y1 year groups). This has allowed more of the younger children in the area to go to school locally. An increase in applications into upper year groups locally means we now need to consider the possibility of making extra places available in upper year groups, from Year 2 to Year 5.
- 5.16 The overall response to consultation in this area was concern about the potential impact on the school and local roads. The concerns were raised by parents and carers at the school gate discussions and from a small number of people who attended the drop-ins. There was a general issue raised around the current traffic issues and the safety of pedestrians, particularly at pick up and drop off times. A number of parents were also worried about the potential impact on the existing pupils, for example if resources were stretched or diverted to the new pupils. A key concern for some parents was the perception that additional pupils would have low levels of English and this would divert

support and attention away from current pupils. The school has recently been inspected by Ofsted and was judged as requiring improvement. Some parents raised this as evidence that the school would not be able to manage the impact of the new pupils.

- 5.17 A small number of parents did accept the need for additional places and were reassured that the proposal at Acres Hill is a temporary solution in advance of the new school that is due to open in September 2015.

Firth Park

- 5.18 Population growth suggested additional primary school places may be needed in this area to meet local demand. The starting point for discussion was to provide extra places through a new primary school offering 30 places per year.

- 5.19 Most comments received supported the idea of a new school. The response from parents and the local community was generally low in Firth Park and very few responses were received from families other than those connected to Hucklow Primary or its catchment. Responses did not form any general themes, often being particular to the individual's circumstances. Those that did attend drop-ins had often been able to access a local school place although almost all saw a benefit in increasing the choice by adding a new school. The issues raised therefore often appeared to be more to do with the choices available to families and issues at the local schools rather than an overall lack of places due to population growth.

- 5.20 Those respondents that did see a need for more places relating to population growth were generally from the Hucklow catchment. Some mentioned the perception that it was harder for other families to get a local place, the difficulty in accessing nursery provision, and the increase in numbers in the Page Hall area. A number of questions and comments raised other subjects, for example individual issues at the local schools, the perception of a changing local population, provision for children with special needs, and nursery places.

6. RESPONSES TO ISSUES RAISED & NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The following section describes the next steps proposed in each area.

Expansion Proposals (Wybourn, Greystones, Crosspool)

- 6.2 The overall response was supportive of the principle of providing additional school places. Concerns were raised in each area during consultation, although the majority of issues raised were around the practical arrangements and building works and these would need to be considered fully through the design process. Were a decision to proceed taken at the next stage, traffic and highways issues would also need to receive further consideration. This is particularly

important in the proposal relating to Hallam Primary School where the response from local residents strongly advocated action to alleviate their problems. These issues would also be picked up formally through the planning application process.

- 6.3 We believe that in each case there remains scope to alleviate the pertinent issues through the design process and, in the case of highways/traffic issues, through further consultation during the planning process. The next step therefore would be to publish legal notices stating details of each of the final proposals. Notices would be published at the individual school gates and in the local area. Publication triggers a 4-week period for the public to make written representations on the final proposal. Any representations received would then be reported back to inform a final decision by Cabinet (expected in March/April 2014).

Tinsley

- 6.4 There remains work to be done to address the main concerns around the proposed site. We need to develop a creative design for the school that uses as little of the open space as possible and maximizes the use of “shared” play space and facilities. The overall vision of a new school for Tinsley did gain widespread support. Further work to address the concerns will be continued during the next phase, prior to a final decision, and throughout the design process in order to realize that overall vision.
- 6.5 During the consultation period a Health Impact Assessment was commissioned to consider the potential impact of moving the schools to the Recreation Ground site. The findings were clear on the two key issues of air and noise pollution. The report states that, “the proposed new site is likely to experience a reduction in noise levels of up to 10dB, a subjective halving of current noise levels” and further, “it is likely that children attending the new school site will be exposed to lower levels of air pollution than children attending the current schools”. The Cabinet Member wrote to the Transport Minister to ask for support for the new school, creating noise and green barriers next to the motorway and to ensure local needs and issues are understood particularly in relation to any changes around the motorway.
- 6.6 Given the overall support for a new larger replacement school, the findings of the Health Impact Assessment, the recent Air Quality Monitoring of Nitrogen Dioxide for November 2013 (Appendix B) and the lack of viable alternative sites the recommendation is to proceed with the proposal on the Tinsley Recreation Ground site. The next steps in the legal process would be to publish proposals to create one new through primary school for Tinsley through an increase to the age range of Tinsley Junior School and the closure of Tinsley Nursery Infant School. The publication of proposals signals the start of a six-week period for written representations. Any representations received would then be reported back to inform a final decision by Cabinet

(expected in March/April 2014).

Acres Hill

- 6.7 The issue around traffic is currently being picked up and assessed through the planning permission process. The outcome of this, including whether any mitigating action is required, would be known and reported to Cabinet prior to the final decision. The confidence in the school to retain and continue improving teaching and learning is already being addressed. The school has drawn up a clear and effective action plan to address the issues raised by Ofsted and further to plan effectively for an increase in pupils. The Local Authority has supported this work through a number of measures. This has included the appointment of additional governors, support around individual elements of the action plan, brokering school-to-school support such as staff mentoring, and termly review meetings with the Local Authority. The school has also started working with the Tinsley schools to develop and learn from best practice around supporting a new intake, training has taken place on meeting the needs of bilingual learners, and the school is planning workshops for parents to help them understand and support the school's work.
- 6.8 The need for places remains if we are to offer local primary school places to children in this area ahead of the new school opening in 2015. There is confidence in the school leadership to manage the scale of the proposal and any requirements from the planning permission process around highways would be picked up following that process. A further update on both of these key issues would form part of the decision-making process at the next stage and therefore the recommendation is to proceed with the proposal.

Firth Park

- 6.9 The consultation response in Firth Park was very mixed. Although there was support for a new school, particularly from the Hucklow area, the responses did not indicate a major issue with families accessing local school places in the remainder of the area. Where population growth was raised this appeared to be towards the south around Hucklow and towards Fir Vale. The conclusion from consultation is that the number of school places in Firth Park remains tight and there is a link and crossover with the places shortage in Fir Vale, highlighted by the responses from Hucklow catchment families.
- 6.10 The new primary school is due to open in Fir Vale in September 2014. The new school will open with 60 Reception places and 15-30 places per year across upper year groups. Places in upper year groups could be increased to the full capacity of 60 per year if the demand is there from opening. The current proposal around admissions arrangements would be for the southern part of the Hucklow catchment to form part of the catchment for the new school. The recommendation therefore is that, whilst additional places in Firth Park are likely to be advisable, this should be reviewed in Autumn 2014 once the impact of the new

school in Fir Vale can be properly judged. A new school would therefore be delayed for opening in 2016 should the decision be taken to proceed following the review.

7. IMPLICATIONS

Legal

- 7.1 Local Authorities have a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient primary schools are available for their area. The proposals to reorganise school provision to meet this requirement, such as expansion, are governed by the procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended. New school proposals are governed by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 as amended by the Education Act 2011 and the Academies Act 2010. The Council also has a duty to have regard to the statutory guidance.

Financial Implications

- 7.2 Capital: The Council receives an annual capital allocation from central government to provide school places known as 'Basic Need'. Most recently Sheffield has been allocated £13.2m to cover 2013/14 and 2014/15. The schemes described in this report would be funded as follows:

2013/14 / 2014/15

	Estimated Cost (000s)	CYPF Capital (000s)	TBN ¹ (000s)	S106 ² (000s)
Greystones	£2,500	£2,500		
Hallam	£1,400	£1,400		
Wybourn	£600	£450		£150
Acres Hill	£485	£485		
Tinsley	£6,500	£4,800	£1,700	
<i>Firth Park</i>	<i>£2,500</i>	<i>£2,500</i>		

¹ S106: a contribution towards local infrastructure from developers of new housing as a condition of planning permission

² Targeted Basic Need programme: as a result of a successful bid from the Council to this central government funding stream to support the increase of places in Tinsley

- 7.3 The latest school population projections, and consultation feedback, show a need to build 1 new school, with a possibility to add a second at Firth Park subject to review, and capacity extensions at 4 other schools. The estimated cost of this work is just under £14m.
- 7.4 The Council is already committed to a substantial programme of capital spending in schools. Assuming that current central government funding is not reduced, the Council can only balance the programme by delivering the forecast savings of £1.5m against the

Approved Budget and a small saving of less than £0.1m on the maintenance programme. This is a very difficult workload to predict because of the reactive nature of the work (e.g. responding to boiler breakdowns).

- 7.5 Although the programme would be balanced, the spend would need to take place ahead of receiving the grant. The maximum exposure the Council would be faced with is £6.9m in 2014/15. This is described in the table below, which includes the figures outlined above as well as all other capital spending in schools:

	2013/14 £k	2014/15	2015/16
b/fwd		(8,709)	6,910
Expenditure		39,407	5,152
Funding		(23,788)	(12,000)
Cumulative Exposure/ (surplus)	(8,709)	6,910	62

- 7.6 In making the above projections there are a number of risks and assumptions:

- The additional capacity can be built at the estimated cost;
- The Basic Need Formula Funding remains unchanged;
- The Basic Need Grant is £7m (broadly similar to today's level of £6.6m).
- The Capital Maintenance Grant is £5m (broadly similar to today's level of £5.1m)

- 7.7 In the event that the above assumptions were proved untrue and the risk did materialise, the Council would have to seek alternative funding by prioritising other capital expenditure or diverting other income streams.

Equality of Opportunity

- 7.8 The overall aim of this programme is to ensure that access to quality primary school provision is available to all children of primary school age across Sheffield.

Environmental & Sustainability

- 7.9 Providing additional local school places will increase the number of families who are able to go to their local school. This will reduce the number of longer journeys and should therefore increase the number of pupils who are able to travel to school in a sustainable way.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The consultation process allowed for alternative proposals to come

forward. These are described in section five under the consultation responses for each area.

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2014 and beyond will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 Cabinet are requested to:
- (i) Approve the publication of statutory notices with regard to the proposed increases in places at Acres Hill (temporary), Greystones Primary, Hallam Primary and Wybourn Primary schools for September 2015. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in March 2014.
 - (ii) Approve the publication of statutory notices on the proposals to bring together Tinsley Nursery Infant and Tinsley Junior Schools on the Tinsley Recreation Ground site to create a through school, through an increase to the age range of Tinsley Junior School and the closure of Tinsley Nursery Infant School. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in March/April 2014.
 - (iii) Defer a final decision on additional places in the Firth Park area until a further review in autumn 2014.

APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION PROCESS & RESPONSES

In all areas newsletters were distributed through the local schools and in local venues. The newsletters described the issues, the context, the preferred options, and all routes for feedback including the timings of local consultation events. This included email and postal addresses for responses.

The individual events are listed under each area in this section. The school gates meetings involved two or more officers on the school gates talking to parents and carers as they dropped children off at the school and noting down comments and questions. The drop-ins were chances for stakeholders to call in and talk one-to-one or in small groups with officers. Schools local to each area had a session with pupils usually through the school council, were offered a session with the Governing Body, and letters were distributed to local Councillors, MPs, trade unions and other stakeholders.

A representative sample of points raised is included under each project area. The issues raised are direct quotes taken from conversations, emails, and letters.

WYBOURN

Meetings/events:

- Wybourn Primary School Gates (19th November from 2:45pm)
- Wybourn Primary Drop-in (23rd October 3:00 to 6:00pm)
- Wybourn Primary Drop-in (21st November 9:00 to 10:00am)
- Wybourn Primary Staff (19th November)
- Wybourn School Pupil Council (21st November)
- Wybourn Primary Governors (26th November)

In response to further discussions with the school leadership a consultation update newsletter was sent to parents at the mid-point in the consultation. This re-advertised the remaining consultation activities, updated on the response so far, and clarified an issue particular to Wybourn around the impact on class sizes.

Although there were some individual responses, there were broadly two themes during consultation, summarised as follows:

- Support for the proposal and the premise of providing good local school places
- Concern about the impact on class sizes and to a lesser extent the practical impact of the proposal on spaces within the school

The overall tone of responses was positive. Many parents on the school gates thought it was a good idea, were happy with the school at the moment, and had few, if any, concerns over the proposal. The Wybourn Primary governing body, school council, and staff all raised questions about the practical aspects such as dining, the size of spaces, and the current organisation into smaller classes.

Representative quotes from consultation:

- So long as there are extra resources and staff it sounds fine
- Seen the newsletter, looks fine, no problem
- I think the current smaller class sizes work and I would want to see these maintained.
- Any expansion should be done in a way which does not affect community space and break out space, including space for adult learning.
- Having more children at the school would be a good idea because it would give more people the opportunity to learn and we would have more choice of friends.
- There are too many pupils in a year group at the moment and the number of pupils at the school means it is difficult for all of them to get fed and through lunchtimes.
- Class sizes are the main concern and some children have challenging behaviour that can take up all the teacher's time
- So long as class sizes are kept below 30, I know classes have classroom assistants and such like so it shouldn't be a problem
- Better to get children in locally than make them travel

GREYSTONES

Meetings/events:

- Greystones Primary School Gates (24th October from 8:30am)
- Greystones Primary Drop-in (7th November 3:00 to 5:00pm)
- Greystones Primary Drop-in (21st November 6:00 to 7:30pm)
- Greystones Primary Governors (18th November)
- Greystones Primary Staff (21st November)
- Hunters Bar Junior Governors (14th November)

Although there were many individual responses, there were broadly three themes during consultation, summarised as follows:

- Concern about the practical aspects and how these must be addressed through the building
- Support for the proposal, mainly from families with younger children
- Opposition to the proposal on the basis of school size and the site

The school currently has a temporary increase in place with four year groups out of seven offering 90 places (the size proposed through this process). The previous consultation process around the temporary increase brought out a number of issues around the site and space. These issues were brought forward again. Some parents thought the extra children had been managed well by the school and this seemed to give more confidence in the proposal to make the increase permanent. Other parents felt the extra pupils had caused issues and were therefore concerned about the proposal to increase permanently. Governors at Greystones were very keen to get further details around the site plans and impact on space. They welcomed the initial work on this area. They also raised concerns

that Greystones was the only option under consideration and asked whether options around neighbouring schools had been considered fully.

Representative quotes from consultation:

- My concerns are the same as last time – space, both indoor and outdoor. The school is already too big, the sheer number will have an impact on children and may effect teaching and learning
- Enhancements to the playground, providing green areas and not just concrete could help to make it work
- We would definitely be in favour of the proposal to expand the Greystones school reception intake
- I am not convinced that options for alternative sites are limited; Ecclesall for example has lots of space
- Space, both indoor and outdoor is very limited and I would be concerned this will impact on pupils' experiences, particularly at play time and lunchtime.
- If expansion goes ahead I am concerned that there needs to also be investment to improve the existing provision. Worried about limited space. However expansion would benefit me in 2015 as I have now moved out of catchment and a younger sibling will be of reception age in 2015.
- There is increased pressure on teachers accommodating three forms of entry. There is no green space at the school. Children are already having staggered playtime and lunchtime.
- Greystones is already a large primary school. The staff and management do a marvellous job of keeping the school feeling small but it does seem as if this has been stretched to the limit
- There has been a continual aversion from the LA to look at the possibility of re-drawing catchment areas or of providing a new through school at the Ecclesall Infant site and although there has been some discussion in our meetings about this I do not feel that I have ever heard a convincing argument for why it is an impossibility.

CROSSPOOL

Meetings/events:

- Hallam Primary School Gates (6th November from 8:30am)
- Hallam Primary Drop-in (11th November 2:30 to 4:30pm)
- Hallam Primary Drop-in (20th November 6:00 to 7:30pm)
- Hallam Primary Staff (20th November)
- Tipton Family of Schools Meeting (29th November)
- St Thomas Crookes Pre-School (4th December 9:00 and 12:00)

In response to concerns raised early in the process, a letter was sent to residents neighbouring the Hallam Primary site to ensure they were invited to contribute. There was also an issue raised at one of the local pre-schools and additional drop-ins were arranged to talk to these parents.

Although there were a number of individual responses, there were broadly three themes during consultation. These can be summarised as follows:

- Parents seeking reassurances on practical aspects such as the impact on the building, how it could be improved, the potential benefits, disruption during the building period, impact on greenspace.
- Local residents, not generally objecting to the need for places at the school, but very concerned about the current traffic, parking and safety issues and the potential for these to increase with an increase in pupil numbers.
- Parents supportive of the proposal and the need to get extra places in local schools.

The main ideas or suggestions that came through in responses were around the traffic and parking concerns. These included encouraging pupils to walk to school, consideration of parking restrictions on some surrounding roads, a crossing patrol on Sandygate Road, re-opening a gate at the bottom of the site, signage around a voluntary one-way system at start/end of school day, and a number of responses requested the layby on Redmires Road be enhanced to create a drop-off/collection point. There were also requests that consultation with local residents is included in any further developments around the traffic, any impact on the public footpath, and the green space. Some of the local school Governing Bodies responded to consultation. Broomhill were concerned about the transfer arrangements into Year 3 locally and whether this would mean their children could no longer transfer into Year 3 at Hallam. Nether Green Infants thought the option of increasing places at the Nether Green schools should have been given more consideration as part of the consultation.

Representative quotes from consultation:

- My principal concern regarding any further expansion of the school is in regards to the already difficult traffic situation pertaining twice per day as parents arrive and depart with their children.
- I am writing to register my approval for Hallam Primary places to be increased. I currently have a daughter in Year 1 at Hallam Primary as we were unable to get into Lydgate Primary School and I am extremely happy with the education she is receiving.
- Dining provision is not big enough for the increased numbers
- Some days we are at gridlock already and there are some dangerous practices in existence.
- It's a good idea, we need to meet the need locally.
- Some park and leave their cars either partly or fully blocking access to our drives. Selfishness appears to be the order of the day. Our fear is that, if your proposal is accepted, and the project goes ahead, this problem will become many times worse. It is manifestly unfair that we should have to put up with this serious nuisance.
- The school grounds may be large enough to cope with the expansion, but the local area cannot cope with the extra traffic and parking.
- I've a general concern about the management of the building works during construction.
- If the population is growing locally then it's inevitable that the school should be expanded.
- We already have problems with parking, increase in traffic during the school runs, noise and litter, so as you can appreciate that it is a concern that you are proposing to increase these problems.

- The learning environment needs to be maintained during the building works. The impact on children needs to be minimised.
- I'm in favour of the overall proposal as have a sibling who will join the school in 2015.
- As prospective parents ourselves, we think young, primary school age children should attend a school where pupils are known individually, without being intimidated by large numbers of older pupils, and have a sense of community. We do not agree that enlarging the existing school will enable this to be done, but believe it better for new, smaller schools to be created to enable children to have a better, more personal education.
- Parking has always been a problem as it is with most schools and I don't think residents have any problem with this as we chose to live here and obviously like the area very much. However for a variety of reasons this has become a very serious problem over the last two or three years.

TINSLEY

Meetings/events:

- Tinsley Forum Meeting – item on the agenda (22nd October 7.00pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant School Gates (22nd October from 2:30pm)
- Tinsley Junior School Gates (23rd October from 2:30pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Drop-in (5th November 2:30 to 4:00pm)
- Tinsley Junior Drop-in (6th November 2:30 to 4:00pm)
- Tinsley Green Centre Drop-in (13th November 3:30 to 5:00pm)
- Tinsley Library Drop-in (20th November 1:30 to 3:00pm)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Staff (22nd October)
- Tinsley Junior Staff (23rd October)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant & Juniors School Pupil Councils (8th November)
- Tinsley Nursery Infant Governors (12th November)
- Tinsley Junior Governors (14th November)

In response to some of the matters raised around the sites, a letter was sent to residents neighbouring Tinsley Recreation Ground to ensure they understood the proposal and were invited to contribute.

Approximately 50-60 people attended the Tinsley Forum meeting, 50-60 parents/carers commented at the school gates, 30-35 people responded through the drop-ins or by phone/letter/email, and a petition was received opposing the use of the site containing 327 signatures. Although there were a number of individual responses, there were broadly two themes during consultation, summarised as follows:

- Support for the idea of a single local primary school with extra places
- Concerns over the proposal to use Tinsley Recreation Ground, with some opposition.

Of those that had concerns over the site, some put forward a preference for using the Junior School site. There was some discussion about how much of the Recreation Ground would be needed and further indicative site drawings were shared at the meetings and posted to

residents neighbouring the Recreation Ground. Some of the respondents that engaged with these drawings were positive about the potential to minimise the amount of space that would be lost although there were issues around how this would work that would need further engagement locally if the option is pursued. Some people asked about local services and whether these could be included in the new school. One idea was to include a community library service. The Governing Bodies of both local schools responded positively to the overall proposal.

Representative quotes from consultation:

- I strongly object. Where will children play if not in the park? They could end up on the streets. I went to school on those sites and it was fine.
- I think the proposed site is safer and because of this agree with the re-location.
- I wish to object about the proposal of building a new school on the recreation park. Personally I would prefer it to be built next to the junior school as I believe it will take up more of the park than you envisage.
- I'm 50:50, I like the idea of moving the school and think it is really important to keep the school in the centre of Tinsley but I would be concerned about losing space in the park.
- You want to build a school in the park and attract more pollution from cars in the access of over 200, 300 cars in and around the local park on a daily basis, and not to mention the already there, Tinsley green.
- Good idea but some concerns about using the park as a site.
- The current buildings don't have much to offer, a new bigger school will be much better.
- I understand that city council has the duties to provide new school for growing population of Tinsley. This is hugely important for our children's futures. But of equal importance the Park has had a strong influence on the families and children of Tinsley and should be kept as is
- The nursery centre (Tinsley Green) is a good site, away from the traffic and the buildings are nice.
- It frustrates one, to think you have plans to build a school in the park at whatever cost. You use the motorway as an excuse for the people and children being exposed to pollution. This petty excuse of yours was not apparent over 40 years ago or 10 years ago. A park loved by young and old is a symbol of the community and enjoyed as a green space for society.
- I'd like to oppose the proposal. It's taking away the park space and you could use the current school sites. St Lawrence Road is already used as a rat run. The traffic and noise will increase.
- I support in principle the new school plans for the Tinsley Green site, as clearly the best option within the significant constraints we are faced with. We need to do what is right for the children as they are the future of Tinsley
- It's a bad idea, I don't want to lose the park. The park is used by local women for walking and as a meeting place.
- We still need the park.
- I am opposed to the proposal for the new Tinsley primary school to be located at Tinsley Green. I am a local resident and believe that a considerable amount of traffic and pollution will be created.

- Great plan. I have a child at the Junior school as well and it will be much easier to collect from one site.
- Any new school should be built on the current Junior School site.
- This is a good idea and definitely needed.
- It's a good idea, we want the school at Tinsley green because it's closer than the Junior and Infant sites. We also still want our park.

ACRES HILL

Meetings/events:

- Acres Hill Governing Body (21st November)
- Acres Hill School Gates (9th December from 8:15am)
- Acres Hill Drop-in (10th December 6:30 to 7:30pm)
- Acres Hill Drop-in (11th December 2:30 to 3:30pm)
- Acres Hill School Gates (16th December from 2:45pm)

There were two very clear themes in responses to consultation, summarised as follows:

- Concern about the impact on traffic, highways, and safety
- Concern about the impact on current pupils

Representative quotes from consultation:

- Traffic and parking at the school are already an issues and it can be dangerous at the start and end of the school day. The situation is made worse because the road the school is situated on is the only access on or off the estate and this becomes congested at rush hour.
- Not in favour – this proposal will spoil the small school feeling of Acres Hill. It has always been a local community school serving the estate.
- No one locally is in favour of the proposal but they won't speak up. Residents feel they have been ignored and kept in the dark – they do not believe the council will listen even if they object.
- If there are more children in the school the Headteacher won't know them all by name – they will become just faces instead of part of the school community.
- Children already in the school have been crammed into spaces which are not really appropriate – like the IT suite and library.
- Happy for this to go ahead as long as traffic and parking issues are sorted out. Morning rush is awful and dangerous for children who do walk to school.
- I'm concerned about the quality of learning. How will the teachers focus on the English speaking children when they need to spend a large proportion of their time working with pupils who don't understand English?
- I can understand why you are proposing this, it just needs to be properly resourced and class sizes should not get any bigger.
- I feel this expansion would be a negative thing as I feel it may affect the schools ability to deliver an effective Gifted and Talented programme.

- A temporary expansion would feel permanent for my grandson as it would be in place throughout the whole of his school career.
- Ofsted said this school was 'Good' in 2011 but it has now been downgraded to 'Requires Improvement' in all areas except behaviour.
- The school's Ofsted is not very good. If the school expands the accommodation and staffing needs need to be resolved before the new children arrive.
- These proposals will affect younger pupils more and I don't think they should go ahead.

FIRTH PARK

Meetings/events:

- Firth Park Library Drop-in (2nd December 9:30 to 11:00)
- First Start Children's Centre Drop-in (5th December 2:30 to 4:00)
- Firth Park Fair Access Panel – schools meeting agenda item (13th December)

Newsletters went out to every family across all the local primary schools and comments boxes were left in the library and First Start centre. The responses were largely individual and did not fit into any clear themes as the consultation progressed. The views collected at the drop-in sessions, particularly the one at First Start, were from Hucklow catchment families who supportive of the idea of a new school as they were aware places are tight at Hucklow Primary.

Representative quotes from consultation:

- There is pressure at Hucklow (which is the most 'local' school for families here). The new school at Skinnerthorpe Road may alleviate the pressure but the sense is there is a need for new provision at this end of the Firth Park area.
- I think another primary school is needed. I have been in the situation of having children at two different primary schools and found this difficult.
- Potentially [there is a need], I am aware that the local schools seem to be full
- The key focus is around Page Hall/Fir Vale, where there are a very large number of Eastern Europeans, who seem to have very large families. This is having an impact on the needs of the indigenous population.
- I would not want to see an expansion at an existing school. I think the schools in this area are already at capacity.
- Nursery provision is also needed. You need to provide this all in one space.

