



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Cabinet Report

9

Report of: Sonia Sharp

Date: 14th September 2011

Subject: Population Growth and the Provision of Primary School Places – Feeding Back from Consultation

Author of Report: Joel Hardwick
Tel 0114 27 35476

Summary: The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the outcomes of the recent consultation on options for providing additional primary school places from 2012/13. The report outlines the responses from consultation in four areas of the city where we expect to see the greatest pressure on school places in 2012/13 and seeks a final decision in the case of two temporary proposals and approval to publish statutory notices in the case of two permanent proposals.

Reasons for Recommendations: Providing sufficient primary school places is essential to the city's priority to raise attainment and aspirations, and is a statutory duty of the Council. These proposals mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2012 and beyond will continue to have access to a local primary school place.

Recommendations:

- i. Approve the proposals to offer 75 places at Tinsley Nursery and Infant School on a temporary basis for three years starting in Reception in 2012 and to offer 60 places at Acres Hill Primary School on a temporary basis for one year in Reception in 2012.
- ii. Approve the publication of statutory notices with regard to the proposed increase in places at Hinde House Primary Phase and Hillsborough Primary School for September 2012. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in December 2011.
- iii. Authorise the preparation of detailed design plans for all four sites included in the proposal.

Background Papers: Cabinet Report, 15th June 2011

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES Cleared by: Mike Thomas
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Nadine Wynter
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Bashir Khan
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES
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 Committee if decision called in
Children & Young People & Families
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

Population Growth and the Provision of Primary School Places – Feeding Back from Consultation

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the outcomes of the recent consultation on options for providing additional primary school places from 2012/13. The report outlines the responses from consultation in four areas of the city where we expect to see the greatest pressure on school places in 2012/13 and seeks a final decision in the case of two temporary proposals and approval to publish statutory notices in the case of two permanent proposals.

2 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is essential to the city's priority to raise attainment and aspirations, and is a statutory duty of the Council. This will mean that all Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2012 will continue to have a school place in the area of the city in which they live. Providing children with a primary school place within their own community encourages community cohesion through friendships between both children and parents and enables families to access support services based in their locality from the school or children's centre. Providing local primary school places also encourages families to walk to and from school.
- 2.2 The programme is rooted within a school improvement framework working to raise attainment and aspiration and aims to:
- Provide parents with a choice of good schools of the right size and age range, and in the right place to meet community needs.
 - Develop plans for school organisation that support school improvement and raising standards in all the areas of need.
 - Engage with partners to exploit the opportunity to provide transformational learning projects
 - Include effective parental and community engagement empowering people to participate in an open, honest and transparent process
- 2.3 At the heart of this vision for expanding primary education in Sheffield is the council's priority of creating a better life for children and young people. Clearly, access to good quality education in a creative learning environment integrating children from their local community is a key starting point for children to develop both their academic and social skills.
- 2.4 A key principle of the programme is to support the policy of making school sites wider centres for community services and activities.

3 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The outcome would be to provide enough primary school places in the right areas to meet demand in 2012 and beyond. The proposals are assessed for long-term sustainability and temporary solutions are put forward where forecasts indicate a permanent solution is not sustainable.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 The previous report on 15th June 2011 gave details on the recent history behind the need for additional school places across several areas of Sheffield. The consultation to increase places in four areas of the city for September 2012 is a direct result of local population increases meaning an expected shortage of school places in these areas.

4.2 The areas included in consultation were as follows:

- Darnall & Attercliffe area: the preferred option stated was to increase places offered at Acres Hill Primary School from 30 to 60 for a single year in 2012/13.
- Hillsborough area: the preferred option stated was to increase places offered at Hillsborough Primary School from 45 to 60 places per year starting in Reception in 2012/13 or 2013/14.
- Tinsley area: the preferred option stated was to increase places offered at Tinsley NI School from 67 to 75 places per year starting in Reception in 2012/13. This would be on a 3-year temporary basis whilst work is undertaken to assess the long-term needs.
- Wincobank area: the preferred option stated was to increase places offered at Hinde House Primary Phase from 45 to 60 places per year starting in Reception in 2012/13.

5 THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

5.1 The consultation was carried out between 20th June and 22nd July. The process was designed to give all parents the opportunity to find out more about the need for school places and record their views. Various formats were offered to ensure that many different voices were heard. Standard information was provided in newsletters that were sent out widely to parents and stakeholders and translated into community languages where appropriate. A more detailed document was made available at the schools, on the website, and on request. The information was then backed up by events at the school gates where officers were on hand to talk to parents and record their views, as well as drop-in sessions after the school day. In order to target parents of pre-school aged children and understand possible future preference trends, a short survey was distributed through local pre-school settings. The simple survey asked local parents of pre-school children which schools they are likely to apply to and some of the reasons that would influence their choices. A copy of the survey can be seen in Appendix 3.

5.2 The following table lists the documents distributed to make stakeholders aware of the consultation. See Appendices 1 and 2 for examples of the newsletter summary and consultation documents.

5.3 The following information was circulated to stakeholders:

Stakeholder	Consultation Information
Parents at local primary schools	Consultation newsletter
Headteachers, Chairs of Governors, Councillors and Community Assembly Managers across the four areas.	Consultation newsletter and detailed consultation document

Pre-school education and childcare providers	Consultation newsletter
Staff working in affected schools	Letter to Headteacher inviting comments from staff and an offer of a meeting
Union representatives	Consultation newsletter
All relevant local Councillors, MPs and Community Assemblies	Consultation newsletter and detailed documents for the relevant areas
Parents of pre-school aged children (through local providers in each area)	Consultation newsletter and a short survey

- 5.4 All consultation documents advertised the events in that area and offered the chance to respond by telephone, email, or post. Individual meetings were also offered to the governing bodies of local schools.

6 CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 6.1 In general the consultation has received many positive responses and a good level of understanding of the issues from both parents/carers and schools. The vast majority of responses were supportive of the Council's priority to provide enough places at the local school. The main concerns raised across all areas were around class sizes and providing good quality accommodation and extra staff to support the increase in pupils. Parents and carers were reassured on these points that in each case the proposal would be to create extra classes in good accommodation rather than making the existing class sizes bigger.
- 6.2 A survey of families in pre-school settings gained 280 responses. The key message was that families were looking for a good quality local primary school place (see appendix 3). Schools were offered the chance to discuss the consultation with their pupils. Generally pupils were pleased at the idea of having more children at the school and the opportunity to make more friends. Some pupils wanted to make sure that we think carefully about the school buildings and whether there would be enough space, particularly in the playground, and also enough toilets.

Darnall and Attercliffe

- 6.3 The majority of comments from parents in this area were supportive of the preferred option for increasing the number of places available at Acres Hill Primary School. Many parents were aware of the shortage of places in the area and the potential effect this might have. Some parents said that Acres Hill would be their preferred school.
- 6.4 Governors at Acres Hill Primary are supportive of the proposal. The pre-school survey supports the conclusion that families in general would continue to seek a local school place and the majority were planning to choose their catchment school.
- 6.5 A copy of all responses to consultation in this area can be seen in Appendix 4.

Hillsborough

- 6.6 Responses from parents within this area were generally split between those in the Hillsborough school community who would like the places to be added at Hillsborough Primary and a similar preference for their local school from parents

in the Marlcliffe school community. The pre-school survey in this area showed that families' number one reason for choosing a school would be that it is 'local to where they live'. The close proximity of some of the schools meant a higher than average proportion of families would plan not to choose their catchment school. This reflects the known trends in the area and also the places on offer at local church schools.

- 6.7 The responses received from the Hillsborough school community generally agreed that increasing the number of places available at the school was a good idea. Parents who had children in the nursery said that they would want their child to get a place in the school. Parents took the opportunity to highlight the importance of ensuring that any increase in numbers is properly resourced and does not lead to an increase in class sizes. One parent raised concerns about the size of the school site being limited and concerns over increased parking problems.
- 6.8 Parents with children attending Marlcliffe Primary School stated that the school was a good school that they believed would be popular with parents of children needing a place and would cope well with an expansion. In addition to the responses gained through the consultation events, six emails were received from Marlcliffe parents, all noted the possible benefits to the school of moving to 90 places per year as it would reduce the likelihood of mixed-age classes.
- 6.9 Both Marlcliffe and Hillsborough's Governing Bodies have stated their support for the increase in places being located at their school and Marlcliffe Governors took the opportunity to write separately to their parents during the consultation. The perceived benefits for the schools were similar in each case. Each school currently operates mixed-age classes as a result of filling to their respective admission numbers of 45 and 75. A permanent increase in the number of places offered, to 60 or 90 would reduce the likelihood of mixed-age classes. Both schools are oversubscribed this year, but have some places in older year groups. In relation to the school sites, both schools stated that absorbing an expansion would not be a problem. Both schools said that they would benefit from the capital investment into premises and the increased revenue budget that additional pupils would bring. Marlcliffe Governors expressed concern that the consultation had started with one preferred option and did not put Marlcliffe as an equal option. Wisewood Primary Governors also responded reiterating the need to ensure that all schools in the area remain viable, particularly should numbers drop in the future.
- 6.10 In the Hillsborough area one of the questions for consultation was when the increased places should be made available, in September 2012 or September 2013. Both schools stated that an increase in numbers in September 2012 would be preferable.
- 6.11 A copy of all responses to consultation in this area can be seen in Appendix 5.
- 6.12 The consultation was based on the need to provide 15 additional places per year in the local area. The preferred option was stated as Hillsborough as it offers the most sustainable and equitable distribution of places across the area in the long-term. There are smaller schools in the area, including Hillsborough at its current size and Wisewood Primary. It is important when proposing changes to the number of places that all local schools remain sustainable in the long-term,

particularly if the population were to drop in the future. Expanding Marlcliffe to 630 pupils overall, would leave neighbouring Wisewood and Hillsborough with 210 and 315 pupils respectively. This is less likely to achieve a good balance and could put those schools' viability at risk in the future. Many other factors such as the desire for investment, the relative popularity, or the current operation of mixed-age classes apply equally at both schools.

Tinsley

- 6.13 Most comments from parents in this area were supportive of the preferred option for increasing the number of places available at Tinsley Nursery & Infant School. Some parents were aware that there is a high demand for places locally and alternatives within Sheffield, such as Brightside or Wincobank, were not seen as reasonable. Many parents were clear that there should be enough school places available in the local area for all those who needed them.
- 6.14 Many parents were keen to ensure that class sizes would not increase and that there would be appropriate staff and accommodation provided. Whilst parents believed there was a need for additional classrooms they were also concerned about the amount of playspace on the site. As would be expected in this area, the pre-school survey showed a very high proportion of families (91%) were planning to choose their catchment primary school.
- 6.15 Officers attended Governors meetings at both the Nursery Infant and Junior schools. Governors and senior leaders agreed that there was a clear need for additional places in the area and that the increase in places should go ahead at the Nursery & Infant school. The Governors and the Headteacher did raise two issues around accommodation. The first is about the impact of increased accommodation on existing space at the school, particularly spaces used for interventions and small group work. There is also a more general concern about the location and extent of any temporary accommodation on the school site. It has been confirmed with school leaders that they will be involved in the process to draw up the design solution. The solution, as with all others, should be one that enables additional places to be created in a way that supports the school's work to raise attainment and aspiration, whilst remaining affordable and proportionate. Governors were also keen to move forward on a long-term plan for primary school provision in Tinsley.
- 6.16 A copy of all responses to consultation in this area can be seen in Appendix 6.

Wincobank

- 6.17 The majority of comments from parents in this area were supportive of the preferred option for increasing the number of places available at Hinde House Primary Phase. Many parents commented that it would be a good idea because they believed it to be difficult to get a place at the school at the moment and they would like a younger sibling to attend the school. As in other areas, parents' primary concerns were that class sizes would not increase as a result of this proposal. The pre-school survey results show that whilst parents want a local school place, a wide variety of schools appeared as possible choices.
- 6.18 Positive responses from parents were echoed by Governors and the senior leaders at the school. Governors stated that in principle they were in agreement with the proposals. Some clarity was sought over the possible financial implications for the school, particularly with regard to the Private Finance Initiative

(PFI) contract. Satisfactory responses to these questions have now been provided by the Council's PFI Team.

6.19 A copy of all responses to consultation in this area can be seen in Appendix 7.

7 SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The responses to consultation as described above were generally positive and the majority of concerns related to class sizes, where reassurance could be provided, or issues around accommodation that can be picked up during the design phase.
- 7.2 There is clearly a preference from some Marlcliffe parents for the increase to be at Marlcliffe rather than Hillsborough. As described above, the matters raised around mixed-age classes and investment would apply equally to Hillsborough Primary School. The preferred option around Hillsborough remains the most likely to proposal to ensure a balance of places across the area and the long-term sustainability of all local schools. Further, we would not anticipate any difficulty in accommodating applications from Marlcliffe's catchment in the future and would be confident that local families will continue to be able to access a place should the school remain at its current size. The consultation in the Hillsborough area did ask whether the extra places should be available from 2012 or 2013. Both schools stated a preference for 2012 and on the basis of that response alongside this year's oversubscription it would be sensible to go forward in 2012.
- 7.3 The next stage in the process varies depending on the size and scale of the proposal.
- 7.4 In the case of Acres Hill and Tinsley this report forms the final stage in the process of whether to add places. The proposed changes are not of a size or scale to require a statutory process and the consultation that has been carried out has been a matter of best practice. Should Cabinet decide to proceed with these two schemes, the focus would move on to drawing up detailed designs. After the design phase Individual Cabinet Member approval would be sought for the capital spending before moving on to start the work on site. The work on site would be completed by September 2012.
- 7.5 The proposals at Hillsborough and Hinde House are of a size to require a statutory process. Should Cabinet decide to proceed, the final stage in the process is to publish statutory notices outlining the proposals and inviting written representations for a four-week period following publication. Cabinet would then receive a report back on representations received in December 2011 as the final stage in the decision making process. Running in parallel to the period for representations would be the start of the detailed feasibility and design process. This would be to ensure no unnecessary haste in making sure the additional places are available by September 2012.
- 7.6 Work would also be undertaken in the Tinsley area to assess the need for places in the long-term and to assess options for the future of primary school provision in this area.

8 FURTHER IMPLICATIONS

Legal

- 8.1 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 will be 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.

Financial

- 8.2 Revenue: Schools are mainly funded on the basis of pupil numbers and any increase will generate the appropriate level of additional Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU) funding. The annual ongoing revenue costs of any school expansions and pupil increases (staffing, premises etc) will be contained within each school's budget allocation. Additional one off funding of up to £10,000 per school is also available to support curriculum costs and this will be funded from an allocation within Sheffield's overall Dedicated Schools Grant.
- 8.3 Capital: The capital schemes would be funded from the Council's Basic Need Allocation and indicative costs from the feasibility studies for the preferred options fall within levels reported to Cabinet in the Capital Budget in March 2011. The basic need allocation is funding from central government to allow Councils to fulfil their statutory duty to provide enough school places. In all cases capital approval will be sought through Cabinet or Individual Cabinet Member decisions as appropriate when more accurate costs are known following the detailed design work.
- 8.4 This report requests permission to authorise the preparation of detailed design plans for all four sites. The costs would be met from the Council's Basic Need Allocation as detailed above.
- 8.5 Opportunities to maximise other funding sources available for Early Years Education and Childcare, Extended Schools Activity, and other related strategies will be fully explored.

Human Resources

- 8.6 Officers from the School Organisation Team will manage the planning phase of this project and coordinate officer support and advice from other key departments within the Council. If the recommendations in this report are approved schools can seek support from their HR provider to ensure that where necessary staffing structures are adapted in time for the increase in pupils.

Equality of Opportunity

- 8.7 The overall aim of this programme is to ensure that access to a good quality local primary school place is available to all children of primary school age across Sheffield.
- 8.8 This project will support the council's priority to enable a better life for children and young people by providing access to an education and help to raise attainment and aspirations.

Environmental & Sustainability

- 8.9 Providing additional local school places will help to ensure that, through a period of population growth, families are still able to access places their local school. This reduces the number of longer journeys that would otherwise be required and should therefore increase the number of pupils who are able to travel to school in a sustainable way.

9 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 Providing sufficient primary school places is essential to the city's priority to raise attainment and aspirations, and is a statutory duty of the Council. These proposals mean that Sheffield children reaching primary school age in 2012 and beyond will continue to have access to a local primary school place.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1
- i. Approve the proposals to offer 75 places at Tinsley Nursery and Infant School on a temporary basis for three years starting in Reception in 2012 and to offer 60 places at Acres Hill Primary School on a temporary basis for one year in Reception in 2012.
 - ii. Approve the publication of statutory notices with regard to the proposed increase in places at Hinde House Primary Phase and Hillsborough Primary School for September 2012. Cabinet would receive a further paper reporting on representations received and seeking a final decision in December 2011.
 - iii. Authorise the preparation of detailed design plans for all four sites included in the proposal.

Dr Sonia Sharp
Executive Director, Children, Young People & Families
September 2011

LIST OF APPENDICES

1. Consultation Newsletter Example
2. Detailed consultation document example
3. Pre-school survey: example & analysis of results
4. Consultation Responses: Darnall & Attercliffe
5. Consultation Responses: Hillsborough Area
6. Consultation Responses: Tinsley
7. Consultation Responses: Wincobank Area
8. Other responses

Primary School Places

Consultation on proposal to increase the number of primary school places in the Darnall & Attercliffe Area

Background

As you may be aware Sheffield has recently seen an increase in its birth rate. In order to ensure all children can access a place at their local school, the Council is proposing to add school places in four areas of the city.

The aim of this newsletter is to inform local parents and carers about this issue. There will then be opportunities to find out more and raise any questions you may have.

Details on your area – Darnall & Attercliffe

The area we are looking at runs roughly from Sheffield Parkway down a corridor to the west of Prince of Wales Road. This is covered by Acres Hill Primary, Greenlands Nursery & Infant, Greenlands Junior and Phillimore Primary. There are 177 Reception places on offer across these schools.

Based on the number of young children living in your area we expect there to be a need for around 30 extra Reception places for September 2012. Forecasts indicate that the need for more places in this area is only temporary with the number of children needing school places in 2013 falling back to normal levels.

As a result we need to bring forward proposals for a temporary increase in the number of places available to meet the needs of local families during the peak year.

What will be involved?

The City Council is proposing to expand **Acres Hill Community Primary from 30 places per year to 60 places per year group** with the additional places available in Reception in September 2012 for one year.

We need to find out what local people think before any decision is taken. You can find out how to let us know your views on the back of this newsletter.

If this proposal goes ahead it would mean providing another classroom at the school. The extra pupils would mean the school would receive extra money to make sure that there are more teachers and support staff, so class sizes would not increase and all the children will be provided for.

What could this mean for you?

Parents of children born after 1st September 2008 and starting school from September 2012 will be more likely to get a place for their children at a school within their local area.

There will be no change for children already at the school or those allocated a Reception place for the 2011/12 academic year.

How can you get involved?

We will be conducting a full consultation on the proposals between 20th June and 22nd July. During this period we will be making available a longer document setting out more

details and holding meetings in the area to allow local people to give their views.

A copy of the full consultation document is available by contacting us via the details below, by requesting a copy from the schools involved, or for download at this link:

<http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplacesconsultation>

Meeting dates and times

If you want to come and hear more about the proposals and give your views on them, officers will be at school gates on the following afternoon to talk with parents:

Acres Hill Community Primary,
Monday 20th June

There will also be drop in sessions at local schools where you can pop in to tell us what you think or ask any questions. These sessions will be held at the following times:

Acres Hill Community Primary,
Thursday 23rd June at 3pm to 5:15pm

Phillimore Community Primary,
Wednesday 29th June at 8am to 10am

Greenlands Nursery & Infants,
Tuesday 5th July at 3pm to 4:30pm

What will happen next?

All your views will be put together in a report to Sheffield City Council's Cabinet after the consultation. Councillors can then look at what you have said before deciding whether or not to go forward with the proposals.

How to contact us

If you want to let us know your views you can contact us directly and we will make sure your views are passed to Councillors to help them make a decision. Here is how to contact us:

Telephone

David Metcalfe on 0114 2735820

E-mail

schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk

(please state in your email that your enquiry relates to the Darnall & Attercliffe Area)

Post

Primary School Places Consultation
(Ref DM),
School Organisation Team,
Level 2, North Wing, Moorfoot Building,
Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PL

This document can be supplied in alternative formats,
please contact:

Sheffield City Council
School Organisation Team
Tel: 0114 273 5820
www.sheffield.gov.uk

Sheffield City Council
Children & Young People's Service

Primary School Places in Darnall & Attercliffe Consultation

Consultation Period
20th June – 22nd July 2011

1. Introduction

1.1 This document contains information about Sheffield City Council's proposal to increase the number of primary school places in the Darnall and Attercliffe area. The information is for consultation with:

- Parents and carers, governors, staff and pupils of Acres Hill Primary School, Greenlands NI, Greenlands J and Phillimore Park Primary School;
- Members of the local community;
- Other interested parties.

1.2 The purpose of the consultation is for the Council to:

- outline the need for more primary school places in the area;
- inform parents about options for adding places and the Council's preferred option of increasing places at Acres Hill Primary School for a temporary one year period starting in Reception in 2012;
- listen to the views and comments of those affected by the proposal;
- record responses and report back to Cabinet Members.

1.3 The consultation process will provide a range of opportunities for information sharing and feedback:

- Meetings
- Surgeries
- E-mail and postal address

1.4 There are also proposals to add primary school places in three other areas of the city (Hillsborough, Hinde House and Tinsley). This document focuses on the Darnall & Attercliffe area. Separate documents that set out the details and the proposals for the other areas are also available.

2. How to give your feedback

2.1 If you want to let us know your views you can **contact us directly** and we will make sure your views are passed to Councillors to help them make a decision. Please contact us at the following:

Tel: David Metcalfe 0114 2735820
E-mail: schoolreorganisation@sheffield.gov.uk
Post: Population Growth and Primary Provision Consultation (Ref DM),
School Organisation Team, Level 2, North Wing,
Moorfoot Building,
Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PL

- 2.2 **Come along to a meeting** and ask your questions or express a view. There are events arranged at Acres Hill Primary School, Greenlands NI and Phillimore Park Primary School throughout the consultation period. A full list of consultation meetings is given at the end of the document.

3. Background – Increased Birth Rates

- 3.1 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. Recent data suggests the birth rate in Sheffield is, for the time being, sustained at this higher level.
- 3.2 As a result of this rise in births, proposals have been brought forward over recent years to increase the number of primary school places in the city. Expansions in Burngreave and Fir Vale from 2006 were an early sign of the growing trend, in other areas of the city previously surplus places began to fill. That overall trend led to a citywide review last year resulting in eleven expansion proposals being brought forward for September 2011.
- 3.3 **Growth Areas**
The areas identified as having a shortage of primary school places have been grouped together using a number of factors:
- population growth
 - geography - physical hurdles/barriers, such as main roads and difficult routes
 - surplus places – neighbouring schools within a reasonable distance with available places
 - existing patterns of parental preference – analysis of the relationship between the location of the schools and the location of families that would like a places at them
- 3.4 The forecasting of pupil numbers is not an exact science with factors such as mobility in and around the city in addition to parental preference playing a key role in predicting pupil numbers. Historical data and evidence shows that the method used by Sheffield provides a good indication of the demand for school places.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 The following table shows how the latest forecast demand for primary school places compares to the places available across the catchment areas of Acres Hill, Greenlands NI, Greenlands J and Phillimore Park

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
No. of children in the area	251	280	238
Historical 'uptake'	73%	73%	73%
Forecast demand for Reception places	183	204	174
No. of Reception places currently on offer	177	177	177

- 4.2 It is estimated that there may be demand for a total of around 27 extra places in the highest year (2012/13). This means that with the extra 30 places proposed for the Reception 2012 intake we would be better able to accommodate the additional pupils living across the area in one of their local schools.
- 4.3 Birth trends indicate that the number of reception pupils in the area is set to reduce to pre-2012 levels from 2013/14 onwards. It is for this reason that the proposed expansion is limited to one year. We will continue to monitor pre-school aged population levels across the area to plan for any future rises in population.

5. What needs to be considered?

- 5.1 A number of things need to be considered when adding school places to an area. As far as possible, proposals to add school places should:
- match to the area of growth and to normal patterns of parental preference
 - be good places educationally
 - build upon the work already being done by the local schools
 - enhance the school provision in the area, working in harmony with the existing and neighbouring schools
 - be achievable in terms of both time and money
 - be sustainable in the long-term

5.2 Match to the area of growth

Sheffield City Council has a statutory duty to ensure enough school places are provided in each area of the city to ensure every child can access a school place close to home. In order to do this we try and match as closely as possible the number of places available to the demand for places from families living in catchment areas. We also take into account patterns of parental preference when proposing which schools could increase the number of places they offer.

5.3 Educational viability

Any changes to schools such as increasing places must have a positive effect on the education of pupils. This means all local pupils, those already at a school that is increasing in size and those pupils in neighbouring schools as well. It is central to the effectiveness of these schools that they provide high levels of pastoral and academic guidance, working in partnership with families, neighbouring schools and the community.

5.4 Local expertise and the existing schools

Like all areas of the city, this area has characteristics that distinguish it from many other parts of Sheffield. Across the existing schools, a wealth of good practice has been developed for working with the community they serve. It is important that any new school places build upon this local knowledge and expertise.

5.5 Achievability – Time and Resources

The increase in pupil numbers can be seen amongst the current 2 year olds who will be eligible for a place at primary school from September 2012. This means the time available to develop and gain approval for (including planning approval) and carry out the necessary refurbishment and/or new buildings is, as always, limited. As well as time and resources, we also need to take into account how practical it is to add the necessary accommodation on each school site and how that new accommodation could fit with the existing layout of classrooms and space.

5.6 Sustainability

As we know, demand for school places can fall as well as rise. Any plan to add places to an area must consider the impact if numbers should fall again in the future. Small schools (less than 30 pupils per year group) are particularly vulnerable if numbers decline.

5.7 Flexible Space and Community Use

Schools will be supported to agree and enable plans for increasing community use of the school. This will include incorporating the security measures required to ensure the safeguarding of children is still a priority.

5.8 Free Early Learning

Acres Hill Primary School catchment sits within Darnall Children's Centre area. The Children's Centre has a small shortage of free early learning places for the eligible population of approximately 22 part time equivalent places. Acres Hill catchment area has sufficient places for its eligible population, the small shortage is located within Phillimore catchment area. Take-up in the area is around 70% and this area is

being considered for a marketing campaign to try and increase the take-up of free early learning.

6. The options

6.1 The primary schools that serve this area are:

- Acres Hill Primary School 30 places per year group
- Greenlands NI & Greenlands J 90 places per year group
- Phillimore Park Primary School 57 places per year group

6.2 Given the expected need for 30 places for one year, creating a new standalone school of this size is not likely to offer a viable solution. The obvious options are therefore to increase the number of places available at one of the existing schools.

Acres Hill Primary School

6.3 The school usually fills its 30 places per year from pupils living within its own catchment area. Current population forecasts indicate that the pre-school aged population across this catchment area is rising. This number then falls back to pre-2012 levels from 2013. Patterns of parental preference for this area mean it is likely that if an increase in places were not to take place at Acres Hill, children who live in the school's catchment area and whose parents state Acres Hill as their first preference may not get a place in 2012.

Greenlands NI & Greenlands J

6.4 The schools usually fill their 90 places per year. Current population forecasts indicate that the pre-school aged population across this catchment area is relatively stable when compared to previous years.

Phillimore Park Primary School

6.5 The school usually fills or comes close to filling its 57 places per year. Current population forecasts indicate that the pre-school aged population across this catchment area is gradually rising. The mixed pattern of parental preference in this area and neighbouring Greenlands make forecasting demand for places difficult. With the current numbers and historical patterns of parental preference, it is expected that families in the Phillimore catchment area who choose Phillimore as their first preference will continue to be able to access a place as they do now.

7. What are we proposing?

7.1 The local schools have built up a good knowledge and understanding of these communities and their needs. Any proposal should be aimed at building upon this work. Furthermore, the proposal must be educationally viable and sustainable.

7.2 On the basis of the information above, the preferred option for consultation is to increase places at Acres Hill Primary School from 30 places per year group to 60 places per year group, starting with Reception in 2012 and lasting for one year.

8. How is a decision taken?

8.1 Consultation on the proposed increase in school places is governed by a statutory process under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006). The statutory guidance that must be followed when proposing a school expansion is available on the Department for Education's School Organisation website at the following link:
www.education.gov.uk/schoolorg

8.2 The statutory process starts with a wide public consultation, in which all parties affected by the proposal are given an opportunity to express their views. This document is part of that consultation process and the consultation period runs from 20th June to 22nd July 2011. There will be opportunities for parents, governors, staff and pupils to have their say.

8.3 At the end of the consultation process, the views and comments that have been recorded during the consultation period are reported back to the Council's Cabinet. The report will be prepared immediately after the end of the consultation and will be received by Cabinet at its meeting in September 2011. At the meeting, Cabinet will decide whether or not to proceed with the preferred option outlined.

8.4 The table below sets out a timetable for the proposal:

Consult stakeholders on school reorganisation in all 4 areas	Summer Term 2011
Report back to Cabinet on outcomes of Consultation, inc. final decision	September 2011
Completion of building work	August 2012
Additional Reception Places Available	September 2012

9. What happens next?

9.1 Consultation Events

Meeting	For	Where	Date	Time
Surgery	Parents	Acres Hill	23/6/2011	3-5:15pm
		Greenlands NI	5/7/2011	3-4:30pm
		Phillimore	29/6/2011	8-10am

Officers consulting at school gates	Parents	Acres Hill	20/6/2011	Afternoon
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- 9.2 There will also be a meeting with the Governing Body of Acres Hill Primary School during the consultation period and this will also be offered to the neighbouring schools.

APPENDIX 3: EXAMPLE PRE-SCHOOL SURVEY

Primary School Places

To help us plan the amount of primary school places we need in your area it is really important for us to know which schools parents would like to send their children to. Please could you help us to do this by answering the questions below.

1. **Which primary school catchment area do you live in?** (If you are not sure about this please let us know either your post code or street name.)

--

2. **Which school or schools do you think you would want your child to attend?**

1.	
2.	
3.	

3. **What are your main reasons for this?** (Please tick all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Local to where I live	<input type="checkbox"/>	Friends attend the school
<input type="checkbox"/>	School's reputation is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Breakfast/After School Club
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a sibling at the school	<input type="checkbox"/>	New building
<input type="checkbox"/>	Believe the quality of education is good	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Please state below)

Other...

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. More information on the consultation on our increasing the number of places in your area will be available on this website in the near future, www.sheffield.gov.uk/schoolplaceconsultation

When you have completed this questionnaire please return it to the nursery or pre-school provider you received it from. Please ensure all completed questionnaires are returned by **Wednesday 20th July**. If you have any questions regarding either the increase in school places in your area or this questionnaire please contact David Metcalfe, School Organisation Project Officer on 0114 2735820 or david.metcalfe@sheffield.gov.uk

PLEASE NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR A SCHOOL PLACE

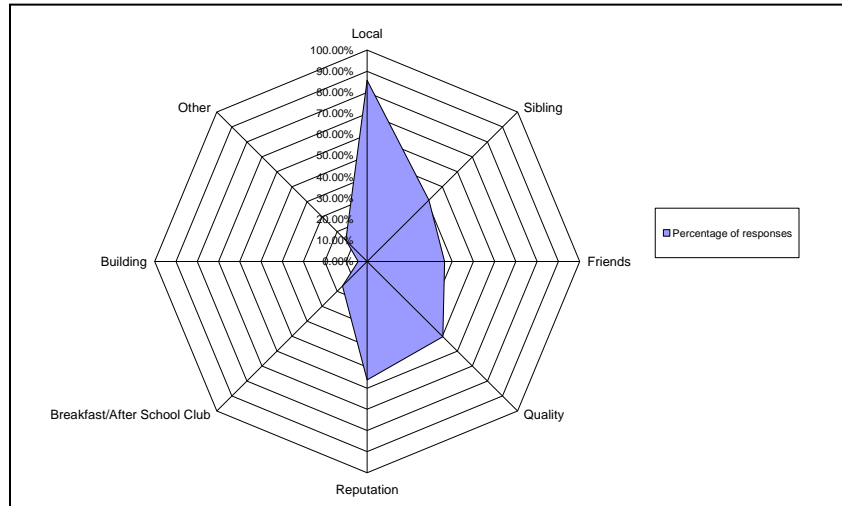


SURVEY RESULTS

Summary

Overall there was a good response rate with 280 surveys completed during the consultation. 86% of respondents put down “local to where I live” as being a reason for the choices they will make about school places and this is further endorsed by over 70% who were already planning to choose their catchment school first. This supports the Council’s overall approach of providing good quality local school places.

The diagram shows the key reasons behind families’ choice of schools according to this survey. Both “good quality education” and “school’s reputation” also came out as strong factors. Both these factors were more apparent for families who were planning not to choose their catchment school, although ‘local’ was still the number one reason amongst this group as well.



Area-By-Area

Darnall & Attercliffe

- The responses in this area followed the general trends described above with a clear preference for a local place.
- One clear trend, though with a relatively small sample, was for some in the Phillimore catchment who were planning to opt for Greenlands. This is a known trend with a general swap of pupils between the two each year.

Hillsborough Area

- This area had the largest return rate and results broadly match the overall trends.
- There was a marginally increased trend for families who were not planning to choose their catchment school. The reasons given suggest that this is to do with geography more than quality or reputation. A range of schools could expect to receive out of catchment preferences, including Loxley (9 respondents), Marlcliffe (9), Sacred Heart (8), and Hillsborough (5).

North East

- In this area there were slightly fewer families expecting to choose the catchment school (59%). Of the 17 families not expecting to choose the catchment school, preferences were expressed for nine different schools.

Tinsley

- The clear trend in this area, as might be expected, was the 91% of families expecting to choose the catchment school.

APPENDIX 4

CONSULTATION RESPONSES: DARNALL & ATTERCLIFFE

Face to Face Meetings

Acres Hill Primary School

- Good Idea. My child is in the nursery but we live outside the catchment area so I know there is a risk they won't get in.
- Why is it needed? Do you need to cram all of the children into one school?
- Seems like a good idea, I know their have been some parents who could not get a place. It does not really affect me though as my children have nearly finished here.
- I would not back it. If you were going to do it you should have done it years ago.
- I think it is a good idea and it would affect the child I have in nursery. You need to provide extra buildings/classrooms for it though.
- I think it is a good idea. It might lead to a better racial mix in the school. It needs to be properly resourced.
- I think it would be better. Every child should be able to go to the school they want to go to.

Phillimore Community Primary School

- No pre-school aged children so does not affect me
- I fought for ages to try and get my child into Acres Hill, so I would welcome this
- New housing means there is a need for more facilities in the area in general. My child is already in school so this does not affect me.
- I have no concerns re: primary, but we have a long way to travel to go to secondary school. Would like to see a secondary school in the Darnall area
- Not sure
- No questions, we need more places in the local area.
- It's a good idea if that's what people want
- I'm not right fussed really
- It's very good
- Fine to do a temporary increase in places for a temporary increase in population – if it's still needed you can carry it on, if not then go back to what it was

Greenlands Nursery & Infant School

No parents attended the session.

Feedback from Governors

Acres Hill Primary

- What feedback have you had from parents?
- Have pre-school parents been consulted?
- Governors feel that the school is popular in the local area and the majority of parents want their children to come here. As long as the additional space, staffing and resources are provided most parents are likely to support the proposal because it means they will get a place for their younger children.
- Have any concerns been raised by other schools or providers?
- A vote was held in which 8 governors voted in favour, with one abstention.
- One governor expressed concern about the extra class being temporary, suggesting that if the additional pupils have younger siblings (who are not yet born and therefore not visible in the forecasts) there will be pressure in the future from these families to expand the school permanently.
- Is this just a local trend or a national picture?
- The general position of the governing body for feedback is that they are supportive of the temporary expansion but would seek assurances that there would be further consultation before any proposal to increase it permanently. The governors appreciate it is more sensible to seek the full increase to 30 rather than risk increasing numbers of pupils being placed on appeal which is more difficult to manage.

Response on Process

One response in this area questioned the process:

Dear David,

Today we have received your letter dated the 22nd June 2011 re the details of the consultation on proposals to expand primary school places in the Darnall and Attercliffe area. Unfortunately the first 2 consultation dates have gone and the next is just 2 days away, leaving us an impossible timescale to pass the information onto parents.

Your letter explains the Cabinet granted permission for consultation on the proposal on the 15th June. Your letter providing details of the consultations is dated 7 days later, the 22nd June. Why were the first two consultations scheduled for the 20th and 23rd June, when information re the consultation would not have been distributed to all those affected? Does this mean the statutory consultation process has been compromised?

The need for additional school places in Darnall has been evident for some years and it will be very disappointing if parents feel they have been excluded from statutory consultation.

Regards

[local Early Years Provider]

In response Officers confirmed that the material had been circulated widely during the first week of consultation. The local primary schools distributed letters to parents on the first day of consultation. The early date mentioned (20th June) was a school gates event. These do not require the same notice as formal meetings as they are deliberately planned to contact parents during their normal routine as they drop children off or pick them up. In all areas officers monitor the responses and make sure that if there is any demand for additional drop-ins or meetings then these would be met. Of the 1,000s of newsletters that were distributed across the four areas during the consultation, no families or other stakeholders responded to question or criticise the range or extent of opportunities for taking part.

APPENDIX 5

CONSULTATION RESPONSES: HILLSBOROUGH

Face to Face Meetings

Hillsborough Primary School

- More places mean it's easier to get in so it's a good idea
- Might be looking at Parson Cross, but Hillsborough would definitely be my second choice
- So long as class sizes stay the same it sounds okay
- Could be too big already, but so long as there are enough classrooms and teachers, it sounds okay
- Not concerned about, it's a good idea
- So long as the class sizes stay the same it's fine
- It sounds like a lot of places, but so long as classes don't get bigger
- There is a limit to the space and size a school should be – it could eventually affect behaviour
- I think it's a good idea, the more places the better
- I'm fine with it so long as more local children get a place. A general updating of the buildings would help and it could help put us more on the map as we sometimes get overlooked.
- No opposition to it from me
- No major concerns
- Would be happy with this. I have a child already in the school and a little one in nursery who I would want to come here
- It does not affect me as my child is already in the school
- I have concerns about traffic, some people are bringing their children from a long way away and parking is already a nightmare. I bring my child here from the Meynell/Southey Green area
- I have a child already in reception so it won't affect me
- No problem with this
- As long as class sizes are not going to change and it is properly resourced then it is a good idea
- I think this is a good idea, it is a very capable school and has good teaching staff
- I'm not concerned by this as long as there are enough teachers and classrooms provided
- I'm concerned about the size of the classes at Foundation Stage. I would not like to see these get any bigger as I feel the children need more individual attention at this stage

Marcliffe Primary School

- I would prefer the additional places to be sited at Marcliffe and a number of other parents who I attend toddler group with say that they would want this also. Some parents have mentioned a problem with getting their child a place at the school this year. I think that this school is preferred over Hillsborough. I think it is a good school and would cope well with an expansion. It would be better to have three full classes going through the school than having to have mixed age classes.
- I would like to see Marcliffe expanded. Having three classes in each year group makes sense and I would rather not see mixed age classes in the school. *(This parent also had questions regarding how the increase in numbers would affect secondary places.)*
- I have a 1yr old with an older sibling who attends this school but we live in the Hillsborough Primary School catchment area. I would like my second child to also attend Marcliffe. I think Marcliffe would be the better school to expand as it has better results and so would be better placed to handle the expansion. Also having three classes in each year group makes sense and I would rather not see mixed age classes in the school. *(This parent also had questions regarding how the catchment area boundaries for secondary schools in the area had been decided on.)*

- I am concerned about secondary school places and making sure there are enough by the time bigger year groups come through.

Written Responses

Hello,

I just had one question. Will the increased intake at Hillsborough school make any difference to the catchment areas? My daughter currently goes to Marlcliffe (we're in the catchment area but close to the border) and my son will be due to attend school in September 2014, as she heads for secondary, and all our links are with Marlcliffe and I wouldn't want to change schools.

Thank you

Dear Sirs

Further to recent correspondence handed to us by our school (Marlcliffe Primary) last week and a recent letter from our school today, we are unavailable to attend the meeting at our school on the 30th June 2011 due to the short notice and our work commitments.

We feel that it is imperative that Marlcliffe School is included within the proposals and being able to up their intake from 75 to 90.

We already have one child at school and our second child will commence his school education at Marlcliffe in September 2013 and the proposals will obviously affect him.

It will be beneficial for the school to have 3 classes for each year group, thus preventing classes being of mixed year groups.

Marlcliffe is a highly exceptional well thought of school and a large majority of the parents within the community choose to send their children to the school.

Many of the parents at Marlcliffe school were themselves pupils at the school and have seen it grow from strength to strength.

Marlcliffe is a big part of the community and will benefit from a larger intake and providing a high quality of education to the children within the community.

We would like to make our thoughts known with regard to recent communication describing proposals to increase the intake of Hillsborough Primary School from 2012/13 onwards. Our daughter currently attends Marlcliffe school and we also have a son who we would like to also attend the same school. He is currently 3 (DOB 17.11.2007) and would start school September 2012.

Expanding Hillsborough primary would not address the issue of oversubscription at Marlcliffe - if our son were to be placed in Hillsborough Primary instead it would pose a great financial impact on our family - we simply could not take/collect both children at the same time and would have no choice but to resort to expensive child minders or after school club facilities.

In short, we think the better option would be to expand Marlcliffe Primary school instead.

To whom it may concern,

Re: additional primary school places in the Hillsborough area

we are writing in response to the letter received regarding the council plans to create 15 additional pupil places at Hillsborough Primary School to accommodate the growing demand for

primary school places. Whilst we recognise that there are many reasons to select one school to receive the additional spaces, we would like to register our support for Marlcliffe Primary School to be the school with the additional spaces. We understand that Marlcliffe is already over-subscribed. Given this, and the fact that the school currently has an intake of 75 which creates 'split' classes, we feel there is a strong argument for creating the additional spaces at Marlcliffe to respond to the community demand for places at the school. The increased intake to 90 pupils would then also create 3 full reception classes, removing the need for split YR/Y1 classes.

We trust that our views will be taken on board as part of the consultation process.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding to the public consultation on the additional primary school places required in S6 for 2012.

I understand your current preference is to place these in Hillsborough primary school.

I am writing to support these additional places going to Marlcliffe school instead.

Marlcliffe is a popular school and currently over subscribed. I feel providing additional places at Marlcliffe is what many parents would prefer. This is in line with Government preference for allowing popular schools to expand.

Marlcliffe currently has split classes and an extra 15 places would allow them to have 3 full classes of 30.

Although the school is large it never feels too big due to the innovative use of space and careful grouping of years used by the school.

thank you for your consideration

To whom it may concern

I just wanted to register my views on this subject. I understand that Hillsborough Primary is the council's preferred choice for the extra places needed. I was just interested in the thinking behind this. My two year 3 children attend Marlcliffe School and it seems very clear the school is popular and over subscribed. The classes are large (34 in my daughters' class) and there has to be some mixed year classes. If Marlcliffe were to receive the extra places surely the additional funding would help alleviate these problems and allow new classroom space to be created and extra teachers appointed? I am not familiar with the situation at Hillsborough Primary so I appreciate they may have similar problems although I had been led to believe this was not the case. I just need some clarification behind the thinking that the places would be better at Hillsborough Primary to help me understand that position.

Thank you for your time

I am writing to lend my support for the increase in foundation places at Marlcliffe primary school. As a parent at the school of a current foundation stage pupil, and with a another child due to start in September 2012 I feel the school would benefit in a great many ways. It would enable the school to have no mixed classes and the increased funding associated with the places would enable the school to implement some much needed building work. Marlcliffe is currently a 'good' school and moving forward surely parents would want the opportunity to send their pupils to a 'good' school ?

Thank you,

Feedback from Governors

Hillsborough Primary

- Have nursery parents been consulted as they will be the ones affected?
- Not long ago the admission number for Hillsborough was 58 and the school was organised as 2FE. It has not been of benefit to reduce to 45 – the school will be better off at 60.
- What will be the impact practically?
- Concern that Marlcliffe is already the biggest school in the area and it would be the wrong decision to make it even bigger, rather than making two schools of similar size.
- Hillsborough is oversubscribed this year. We had the situation where children who were in nursery, who live in catchment and who had siblings in the school were being told they wouldn't get a place. Governors gave permission to exceed the IAN of 45 but this is not an isolated incident – some year groups further up the school have more than 45.
- Mixed age classes can't be avoided at 45 but the school leadership team would prefer 2FE. The leadership team are not clear on how the foundation stage in particular would work on the basis of 45, and there are concerns that the budget does not support this.
- From listening to parents at the school gates it's clear that the single biggest issue for them is mixed classes and the changes which are required to classes as they move through the school. Parents dislike the disruption caused, especially to friendship groups which are formed in one year and then the class is split the next year. The leadership team have had 4 complaints from parents this year alone about this issue.
- Mixed classes is particularly an issue when considering the school's efforts and strategies to raise standards. The SIP report at this meeting emphasised the importance of Y6 – it's impossible to deliver this well if the school has to deal with mixed Y5/6 classes.
- The leadership team would welcome the change and once agreed, would prefer to see it implemented as soon as possible – so 2012 is preferable to 2013.
- Happy to support the change, in 2012, but need reassurance that it will be appropriately resourced. If expanding in 2012 means there may be vacant places (i.e. not filling from catchment as the peak year is not until 2013), where will the additional children come from? It's difficult if the school has to accommodate extra children in-year because of vacant places.
- Will cost implications change the choice of school, if it emerges that Marlcliffe would be cheaper?
- The increase in places offers an opportunity for some areas of the school to be improved as part of the works, so it's a welcome change.
- Can you clarify the next steps?

02 September 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

As the governing body of Hillsborough Primary School we would like to respond to the consultation around creating more places at our school.

Firstly we would like to make it very clear that Hillsborough School would be in full support of the expansion of the number of pupils on roll from 45 to 60 per year.

As a school we feel that we have seen a need over the past few years for the number of places to be increased. This summer has been very stressful for some of our parents. We have had children who attend our nursery, are living in our catchment and have siblings at our school who have been turned down for a place at our school for September 2011. We have been through a process with admissions which has meant we can take over our 45 admissions number and currently have 54 places filled for next year.

The above evidence would support the fact that the school is able to fill the places and cater for the growing needs of our community.

In the past the school has been a two form entry school. At present we have to run with mixed age classes in Key Stage 2. We feel that we are meeting the needs of all our pupils but would prefer to teach in single age classes.

We realise that the building would need to be altered to meet the needs of the two extra classes that the reorganisation would require. As a school we are willing to work with contractors and the Assets team in order to meet the requirements.

In conclusion we feel that the school, community and most importantly the children would all benefit from the expansion of number of children on roll at Hillsborough Primary School. It is with this in mind that we whole heartedly support this consultation and would urge the cabinet to decide on Hillsborough as the site for the 15 extra places.

Yours sincerely

Angela Lant
Headteacher

Ian Swain
Chair of Governors

Marlcliffe Primary

28th June 2011

- I want you to know how you came to the decision.
- You should have stated options, not have one preferred option – it is not a fair consultation.
- Parents who have younger, pre-school children are the most important here, are they being asked?
- If Hillsborough parents say they do not want the school expanding, will that have any bearing?
- This school could more easily absorb the increase as it is less of a percentage increase in size than at Hillsborough; also some people may prefer a small school, so keeping Hillsborough smaller may suit some families.
- We already have year groups of 75 and appeals are likely to take us above that. We will have to do that without the extra space and the money to accommodate and resource this properly.
- We have a waiting list of 8, can we find out how this compares to other local schools. Also, can we look at the number that we get from out of catchment compared to other schools as this will be an indicator of parental choice and whether or not this proposal is truly supportive of parental choice?
- Successive governments have given parents more tools to use in choosing a school. If there aren't enough places at oversubscribed schools then this is just the illusion of choice.
- We will not have enough capital in the school's budget to cover the work needed – this school is where the capital should be targeted.
- Parental preference is high for Marlcliffe and it is not in support of parental preference to add places elsewhere.
- The information and tone of the newsletter is not helpful in gaining the views of Marlcliffe parents as it gives the impression it will not affect them.
- The school has existing accommodation issues and will have problems accommodating 75 pupils in each year group as full year groups come through, pupils placed on appeal, above 75, would then exacerbate this.

Hello David,

Thank you very much for the information, most illuminating. I am curious however as to why Hillsborough have been allowed to admit beyond their Indicated Admission Number? A cynical interpretation of these data would conclude Hillsborough are already anticipating the capital

investment and are treating the consultation as a mere administrative formality.

We find it frustrating that Marlcliffe is in the same position as Hillsborough and could have theoretically admitted a further 12 children taking us up to a 3x30 admission. It is difficult to engage with a consultation when the decision making process seems so heavily skewed towards a specific outcome. I would appreciate if you could ensure that this point makes it in to the official record which goes to cabinet. Hopefully you have received a copy of the letter we sent to our community?

Regards

Don Whittle
Chair of Governors
Marlcliffe Primary School

Wisewood Community Primary School
Ben Lane, Sheffield
S6 4SD
Tel: 0114 234 3304 Fax: 0114 249 3930
Email: enquiries@wisewood-pri.sheffield.sch.uk
Website: www.wisewood-pri.sheffield.sch.uk
Headteacher: Keith Denton
Assistant Headteacher: Helen Hogg
Chair of Governors: Sandy Glossop



KD/KW

20th July, 2011

Mr D. Metcalfe,
School Organisation Project Officer,
Children's Commissioning Services,
School Organisation Team,
Level 2, Moorfoot Building,
Moorfoot,
SHEFFIELD S1 4PL

Dear Mr Metcalfe,

The following letter is in response to the Consultation on proposals to expand primary school places in the Hillsborough area on behalf of the staff and governing body of Wisewood Primary.

With regard to increasing the admission size at Hillsborough Primary School by 15 places, we would like to raise the following points:

- Is the data accurate, as this is a large financial impact in a time when there are constraints on Local Authority spending?
- Can the 15 places not be absorbed into existing settings at no cost or is it a matter of the Schools' Appeals Committee needing to be aware that places are available in the surrounding catchment?
- Strategically, has anyone modelled the impact of a fall in numbers on the rest of the schools in the catchment, especially those classed as 'small schools.' Viable and sustainable is mentioned but for whom?
- In the consultation it doesn't state where the increase in school population will be centred around, or is it just an increase in general population? If so, why is it only being centralised around one school?

If the above points can be answered satisfactorily then we would have to support the increase in places at Hillsborough Primary School but with concerns for our future viability.

Yours sincerely,


MR K. DENTON
HEADTEACHER


MR S. GLOSSOP
CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



APPENDIX 6

PRIMARY PLACES CONSULTATION: TINSLEY

Face to Face Meetings

Tinsley Nursery Infant and Tinsley Junior School

- My children are older than Nursery and Infant school age so it will not affect me.
- I think it is a good idea, we need spaces locally. Children who don't currently get in have to travel a long way out of the area to find a place.
- Most people not aware of the proposals.
- One parent with a child aged 4, currently looking at which school to choose so this affects her. Will try and attend one of the meetings.
- I thought they were knocking it down due to proposals to expand the motorway. My children are already at junior school or about to move up so we are not affected by the proposals.
- No comment but have seen the newsletter. (x15ish)
- Happy about the plans.
- Good idea – some children have to wait for a place or if they are given a place somewhere else it's too much for parents to travel or to drop off 2 children at different schools.
- I think it's a good idea, people need places here.
- I'm concerned about space, the classroom sizes already feel small.
- I'm not happy with the current arrangement of having mixed age classes and would not want this to get any worse.
- I would want my little one to come here.
- Local school places should be available for all those who need them.
- I'm concerned about the possible impact on the nursery if the Childrens Centre closes.
- No comment.
- I'm concerned that if the number of pupils in the school increases the individual attention each student gets will reduce.
- The school needs additional buildings anyway. I'm not happy with the condition of the current mobile.
- Additional places are a good idea. We need more places locally as some people are having to travel long distances to get into school.
- I'm concerned that class sizes and the proportion of non-english speaking children would rise making the job of teachers harder. But if class sizes don't increase and the buildings and teachers are here then I don't have an issue. I didn't consider any other schools as they're not local.
- I've got younger children coming through so I think it's a good idea.
- I'm concerned about class sizes, but creating extra classes would help. I wouldn't look at other schools as this is the local school.
- It's a thriving community and if the extra classes are created then it should be fine.
- I don't want to travel far to school so it's a fantastic idea to create extra places here at the local schools, but only if there's the extra space.
- When I moved from Manor top I couldn't get a place here at first, so extra places would be useful
- My main concern would be class sizes, if there was any chance they could make them smaller that would be good, but I couldn't support anything that made them bigger.
- We'd need the extra space as it is quite tight here.
- There are not enough staff here at the moment and I don't think that 1 teacher to 30 pupils is an adequate amount, I don't think there is enough individual attention given to pupils with current class sizes.
- I think you should be looking to expand on to the park, there is a lot of underused space there and not enough space on this site.
- I think it is a good idea. I have a young child who I would want to come to this school.

- I have a son starting Y1 in September. I'm unhappy about the proposals. It's wrong to try and squeeze that many children into the building. 2 classrooms are used as the staffroom and ICT suite. I don't think the site can accommodate more children.
- I think it is a good idea. My son is at Tinsley J now but there are families on my street who can't get a place. 75 is not that much more so it should be done if the places are needed.
- I think it should be done. If there are more children in the area then there appears to be a need for more spaces.
- Don't agree with it because of the small site. Not enough playground space or space at dinner time.
- More children being able to go to school would be a good thing.
- As long as additional accommodation and staff are provided it would be ok.
- Parents should consider other schools in the area due to poor standards at this one.

Feedback from Governors

Feedback from Tinsley Nursery Infant Governors – Finance and Premises Sub-committee

- Why is the proposal for 75 rather than any other number of places?
- The headteacher and governors are concerned that the school is already under pressure due to the number of appeals pending for September 2011 intake. However, the school acknowledges that this is an indication of the level of demand and therefore accepts there is a need to add places in order to meet the needs of the local community. The appeals tend to focus on the same issue – that the journeys to alternative schools are very difficult and that some families could end up with children in different schools some distance apart. This is the nature of Tinsley, so the demand needs to be addressed within the local school.
- What would happen if the school fills to 75 and there are still appeals on top of that?
- The school has just reviewed its performance and has had a very successful year. Staff believe this is due, in part, to the wide range of additional interventions which are provided for pupils. This relies on the availability of spaces within the school to deliver small group and 1:1 work. Although the school acknowledges the places are needed to serve the community, it's important that they are provided in a way which does not cause any detriment to the way the school currently functions.
- Staff governors reinforced this point by reiterating that every available space within the school is used for direct interventions with children. There is no spare space within the existing building.
- How are we going to ensure that we have a solution in time considering we're still discussing options and haven't settled on a solution yet?
- What support will be available to the school prior to 2012 if the current appeals are all successful? – this would take the school to 78 in this year.
- How will the school be supported to fund additional staffing once the expansion is in place? 8 additional pupils won't generate sufficient funding for an extra teacher and could push the school into a deficit budget.
- What happens next?
- Is there any update on possible building solutions?
- The school would prefer to have a new, double-height, double mobile in place of the existing single-height double mobile. This could solve the condition issues of the existing mobile and provide the additional space.
- If the school is going to have more children there will be a need for more facilities such as toilets. Has that been factored into the plans?
- How soon within the 3 year period will the school hear about permanent options?
- The school is aware that previous discussions about a permanent solution for the area have led nowhere. The governors want to ensure that the best possible solution is implemented for the temporary phase in case there are delays to the permanent solution being identified and implemented. Governors feel Tinsley should be a priority for a new school having seen developments elsewhere in the city, but acknowledge there are competing priorities and limited resources. A double-height replacement mobile would provide a better solution in the meantime.

APPENDIX 7

PRIMARY PLACES CONSULTATION: WINCOBANK

Face to Face Meetings

Hinde House Primary Phase

- I think it is a good idea as a large number of people can't get a place at the moment. This is also a problem at the secondary school.
- It's fine as long as it does not affect the pupils already in the school.
- I'm having problems getting my child in at the moment so think that it is a good idea.
- All children should be able to access a place at their local school.
- It's a good idea.
- No objection.
- I have not read the information yet.
- This will not concern us we will have moved by then.
- I think this is a good idea. My child will need a place.
- No concerns, it's fine.
- No, not really any concerns.
- I think it is a good idea.
- I think it is a good idea.
- It should be alright, as long as there are extra classrooms and teachers.
- I think it is a good idea to make the school larger.
- As long as it does not increase class sizes, I don't think that it's a problem. I would not of had to wait as long to get my children in.
- Seems like a good idea, as long as class sizes don't go up.
- There are not enough places at local schools at the moment.
- If it means class sizes are getting larger then I'd be worried. Larger class sizes would make it harder for the children to get the help they need.
- It's good for local people.

Feedback from Governors

- Will building work be done by September 2012, or will it be phased?
- Will the school's PFI status be an issue?
- Will the capital cost be picked up by the LA?
- Will it be one big extension, or done in phases? There would be less upheaval if it was done in one go.
- If the capital work is done in one go, but pupil numbers are to increase over 7 years, will the LA pick up the shortfall in premises funding?
- How is reducing places by 15 at Wincobank and adding 15 places at Hinde House adding places overall?
- Is adding places at Tinsley aimed at accommodating those who currently have to travel to Wincobank & Concord?
- Isn't adding 75 places to Tinsley NI just going to create the same situation as you're correcting at Wincobank and Concord?
- In principle we are in agreement with the proposals, but need clarity over the financial implications for the school.

APPENDIX 8: OTHER RESPONSES

4 July 2011

Dear Dr Sharp

I am writing in response to your consultation paper and, in particular, the proposals for Darnall and Tinsley.

Darnall

Your intention appears to be to increase the number of places at Acres Hill. Have you any specific information about where the increase in pupil numbers is coming from in geographic terms? If the increase is coming from the centre of Darnall it is quite a long way to go to Acres Hill and the children concerned may well have siblings at other Darnall schools which will make it difficult for parents. There are also of course some cultural differences between the various schools and parents, recognising this, do currently make choices about schools in Darnall. Have these issues been taken into account as well?

Tinsley

I note in the proposal on Tinsley reference is made to longer term solutions but they are specified. Is the objective of the Council in the medium term still to replace both the infants and junior school with a new through primary school in buildings that are fit for the 21st century? Quite a bit of work has been done in the past on identifying sites and what I do not think would be helpful is to spend considerable amounts of money in the short term which then might be used as an excuse for not wasting that money by providing the best solution in the medium term.

Yours sincerely

Clive Betts

MP for Sheffield South East



**THE DIOCESE
OF SHEFFIELD**

Heather Morris BEd (Hons) MSc
Director of Education

Diocesan Church House
95-99 Effingham Street
Rotherham S65 1BL
Tel: 01709 309100
Fax: 01709 512550
Email: heather.morris@sheffield.anglican.org
www.sheffield.anglican.org

8 July 2011

Mr D Metcalfe
Children's Commissioning Services
Level 2
Moorfoot Building, Moorfoot
Sheffield S1 4PL

Dear Mr Metcalfe

Consultation on Proposals to increase Primary School Places in 4 Areas

Thankyou for your letter of 17 June 2011 advising me of the consultation on proposals as outlined.

The Diocese of Sheffield was represented at early meetings with colleagues in Sheffield and is fully aware of the arrangements which are being recommended.

We recognise that the changes may have an impact on Church of England schools in Sheffield as the pupil population grows and we will work with them and Sheffield City Council to ensure the most appropriate outcome for children and families as the admission patterns develop.

Yours sincerely

Heather Morris
Diocesan Director of Education