

School Organisation Proposal: Moor Hall Primary School 2016**Pre-statutory Consultation Meeting: 3rd October 2016: 5pm – 7pm: Hosted at Moor Hall Primary School.**Purpose:

An informal meeting inviting local stakeholders to discuss the school organisation proposal and related building project prior to the statutory consultation by school organisation and future planning consultation.

All comments are welcome as this will inform the statutory consultations, information for decision makers, the design brief and provide direction on how the local authority or the school may communicate and engage throughout the course of events.

Attended by Moor Hall Primary School representatives including the Head Teacher (Mr Steggall) and members of the Governing Body (Richard Southgate, James Gibson and Val Gregory) representatives from Birmingham City Council including Local Councillors (Cllr Mackey and Cllr Waddington), School Organisation Officer (David Board) and Lead Officer for School Capital Projects (Paul Bowman); approximately 30-40 stakeholders were present, in part or whole, during the meeting.

During the discussions the following key points were acknowledged:School objective:

School reps highlighted the intentions of the school governing body to expand their outstanding education offer (as recorded during the last Ofsted inspection) to a wider group of pupils and, in doing so, create a sustainable financial future for the school to continue to offer that standard of education to the community. More teaching staff also opens up scope and flexibility for development and delivery of the curriculum.

During the admission cycle the school received 140+ applications for 30 places, the cut off distance for admission was 800m from the school. There is currently a significant waiting list for any available places.

Local authority objective:

School Organisation officer explained that the local authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places within a reasonable distance.

(Update: *There is a statutory requirement for the Local Authority to ensure there are sufficient schools for its residents. This involves ensuring that we increase the school places available so that families can be offered a school place within 2 miles from home for children under the age of 8 years and within 3 miles from home for older children.*)

There is a real need for additional school places in the local area, as indicated by forecasting tools. One of the factors is that there are 139 more births in the local area than 10 years ago. Moor Hall Primary School expressed an interest in expanding to meet this demand which was assessed by a panel of council officers.

(Update: includes comments/attendance from Education and Skills, Planning, Transport and school admissions officers; Birmingham Education Partnership (school improvement) and Head Teacher representatives.)

The process for consultation:

School organisation: This consultation focuses on the proposal to expand the school to 2 classes per year group and considers the impact on children and their families either already attending the school or opportunity to apply to the school in future. This meeting is a pre-statutory consultation meeting to encourage comments and engagement prior to the statutory consultation period (which will be during November 2016 for 4 weeks).

Build [Capital] Project:

Lead Officer for School Capital Projects shared that high level feasibility had been completed but was not in a position to share anything tangible with stakeholders at this time. The feasibility does indicate that there are options for further investigation and development to how an additional form of entry can be accommodated on the Moor Hall site. The outline and anticipated programme was shared but is notional and based on experience rather than firm plans at this time. The first design meeting with the school is set to be held this week. The intention is to have the permanent solution built and ready for occupation by September 2018.

Questions, comments and suggestions: Key themes:

Communication and engagement: How will this work?

This consultation is pre-statutory; the statutory consultation is in one month's time. All comments are welcome and appreciated at this time and responses to the statutory consultation are encouraged. Suggestion and accepted that further consultation and engagement opportunities will be promoted for the statutory consultation processes (school organisation and planning); and through school newsletter, Councillor Meetings and other opportunities that may arise.

Phasing of the introduction of a second form of entry:

How would we comment on a consultation if we don't know the exact delivery method?

During the statutory consultation there will be more information available, this pre-statutory consultation is to identify any key issues and to consider what themes and information is important to stakeholders.

The statutory school organisation proposal will be followed by statutory planning consultation and representation; so provide further opportunity to see how the project develops and engage with questions and comments.

Educational continuity and quality of education: how will this be maintained?

Experience on multiple expansion projects indicates that creativity and innovation is often required by the school and can be result in attainment and aspiration improvements during and following projects.

Concern trying to visualise how the school will accommodate a doubling of pupil numbers.

How will the pupils be accommodated during the phasing in of a new form or entry?

There are several options available depending on the outcome of feasibility of the site and build programme which could be creative use of internal space by changing the use of rooms or providing temporary accommodation on site. *This is yet to be determined* and will be done in full collaboration with the school.

The plan is that the additional form of entry will be accommodated by Sept 2018

Risk of loss of some outdoor space:

Concern that any expansion build project would reduce the amount of outdoor space available to pupils. This is a concern that will be raised by the Lead Officer for School Capital Projects during the next phases of feasibility and design. Playing field space cannot be disposed/built-on without a Section 77 order, authorised by the Secretary of State.

Travel and transport:

Concerns about existing issues with vehicles delivering and collecting pupils from school, both during the build project (so delivery of materials) and when there is potentially twice the number of pupils being delivered and collected.

Transport colleagues are engaged at the stage the school's interest in expanding was first assessed. They are also engaged throughout the consultations and building procedures. A "highways survey" is commissioned as part of the building feasibility and planning.

The school's travel plan would be reviewed and updated. There are examples of creative and innovative opportunities to address travel and transport issues.

Engaged stakeholders like those present at the meeting can, where sensible, try to positively influence the culture of vehicles being used to deliver and collect pupils.

Progression into secondary phase of education: how is this addressed?

Solutions are being progressed to address the consequential need for secondary school places.

Summary: principally there are benefits to the school and the local community for parent choice and demand for school places. The broad concern from the stakeholders is the "how" the project is delivered, the impacts on education of pupils at the school, health, safety and wellbeing; and travel and transport on and outside the school site.