

Cabinet: 24/03/2015

Report: Primary pupil places in the Huddersfield South West area

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| Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards? | Yes |
| Is it in the Council's Forward Plan? | Yes October 2014 |
| Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny? | Yes |
| Date signed off by <u>Director</u> & name | Alison O'Sullivan 9 th March 2015 |
| Is it signed off by the Director of Resources? | David Smith 10 th March 2015 |
| Is it signed off by the Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Monitoring? | Julie Muscroft 12 th March 2015 |
| Cabinet member portfolio | Cllr Shabir Pandor Cllr Jean Calvert Children's Services |

Electoral wards affected and ward councillors consulted: Crosland Moor and Netherton

Public or private: Public

1. Purpose of report

- The report will provide information in relation to the Council's duty to provide sufficient primary school places to meet basic need across the wider area of Huddersfield south-west, Huddersfield west, Huddersfield north-west and Huddersfield north, and focus on the strategy for specific proposals for the Huddersfield south west area.
- To present a proposal to establish a new primary school in a new building to serve Huddersfield south west create for 630 pupils aged 4-11 years in order to establish primary places to meet basic need.
- To present proposals to amalgamate Crosland Moor Junior School, Dryclough CE(VC) Infant School and Thornton Lodge Nursery School (using the existing site and buildings) as an all-through Church of England voluntary controlled primary school for 840 pupils (aged 4-11years) and retain 130 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years and retain the existing 52 full-time flexible childcare places which can be used for a mixture of early learning and fee paying childcare places (children aged 2-5 years).

- To describe the current position for Mount Pleasant Primary School that is scheduled to be rebuilt by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) as part of the Priority Schools Building Programme.
- To seek Cabinet approval to begin the relevant statutory processes and carry out consultation about the proposal to establish the new primary school, and, in collaboration with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales for the proposed voluntary controlled school with families of pupils, staff, governors, members of the community and other key stakeholders.
- To seek Cabinet approval for the proposed next steps and timescales in order to secure new primary pupil places.

2 Background

2.1 The provision of school places to meet “basic need”

- Kirklees Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient high quality school places to meet the needs of Kirklees families and communities. This is described as “basic need”.
- Over the last 12-13 years, the school age population in Kirklees has increased by approximately 20% from the smallest pupil age group (which is now in the secondary schools) to the current Reception and pre-school age groups. A similar pattern is repeated in most urban LAs nationwide.
- The pattern of change in the school age population varies across Kirklees. In more rural areas the pupil population is generally decreasing, in some more urban areas it is fairly steady, but in other urban areas there is a significant increase in pupil numbers.
- Over the last 2-3 years additional places have been established in line with growth across some geographical areas, for example in west Dewsbury, north Huddersfield and west Huddersfield.
- The pattern of projected pupil numbers in Kirklees has been published in the document “Securing sufficient school places to enable access for children and young people to an excellent local education system”. This has been shared widely with stakeholders, including school leaders and is available on the Kirklees Council website at; <http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/parentsCarers/schools/organisationPlanning.aspx>

In areas of increased need for school places, the growing pupil population has so far been accommodated by working collaboratively with schools by either;

- using existing unfilled capacity in schools and/or,
- establishing one off “bulge” classes and/or,
- making a permanent expansion to schools– starting with additional pupils in Reception places and then increasing the size of each year group in turn as the pupils progress through the school.
- establishing primary places as part of an all-through school arrangement including KS3 and 4 provision.

The pupil population data shows that there was a requirement of up to 2100 (10 classes of entry) of additional places required across the north, north- west, west and south-west areas of Huddersfield. Part of this is being fulfilled by the places that the council has already established across several schools these include; at the primary phase of Royds Hall Community School as well as additional places at Ashbrow School, Birkby I & N and Birkby Junior Schools. In the areas where there is a growth in the pupil population demographic

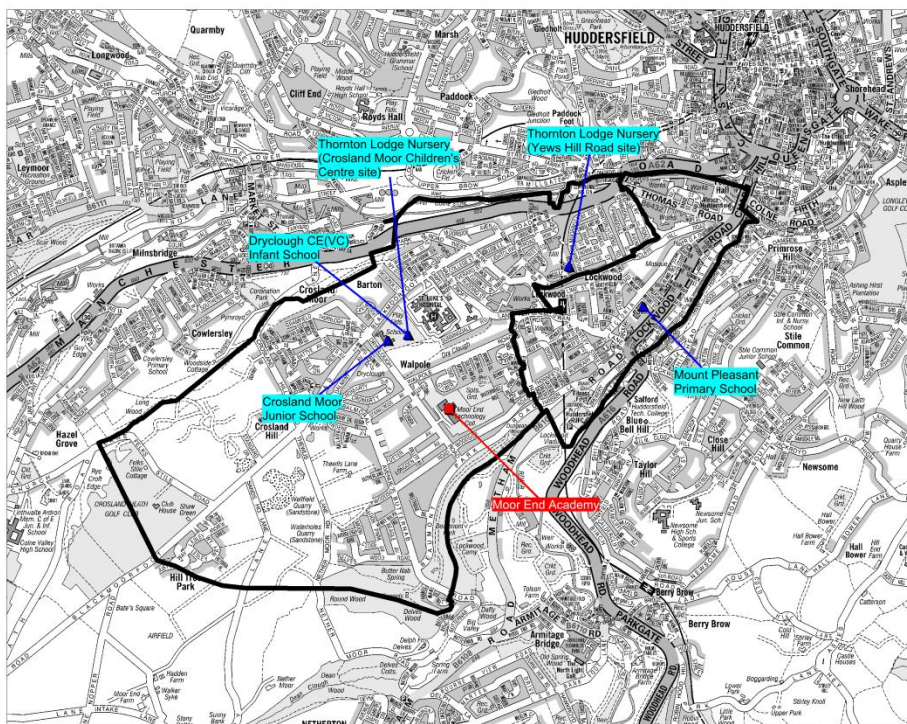
there is no unfilled capacity in existing schools and so the need for places for September 2016 and into the future requires additional places to be established.

Discussions with groups of schools have been ongoing but the publication of the 'Securing Sufficient Places' document in 2013 (and again in 2014) helped to clarify the 'planning areas' across the LA where additional places need to be established.

LA officers have discussed the pupil place projection data with groups of head teachers to understand their local knowledge of how best to meet the needs of the communities they serve with a view to exploring opportunities for exploring and developing collaborative and creative solutions to meet the basic need for additional school places where they are needed. This has helped to inform an overall affordable strategy for investment in infrastructure and to shape emerging proposals for additional places.

Following a series of collaborative discussions between the LA and a strategic group representative of providers in the south-west Huddersfield area, and following exploration in outline of what is technically possible and affordable the proposals below, to support the best educational outcomes for children have been shaped. These are to meet the basic need for additional primary school places in the context of the wider area solutions that are required around the north, north-west, west and south-west areas of Huddersfield.

2.2 The current pattern of primary and secondary schools in the south west Huddersfield area.



There are very strong collaborative partnerships between the schools and settings in the south-west Huddersfield area, where all are working together to provide the highest standard of learning experience to meet the needs of the pupils and their families of the local communities they serve;

Current primary and secondary schools

- **Dryclough CE(VC) Infant School** provides education for 4 to 7 year olds (including nursery provision) with a PAN of 140 pupils per yeargroup. The school is federated with Thornton Lodge Nursery School*.
- **Thornton Lodge Nursery School** provides education for 130 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years) and has 52 full-time flexible childcare places which can be used for a mixture of early learning and fee paying childcare places (children aged 2-5 years). The school is federated with Dryclough CE(VC) Infant School
- **Crosland Moor Junior School** provides education for 7 to 11 year olds with a PAN of 150 pupils per yeargroup.
- **Mount Pleasant Primary School** provides education for 3 to 11 year olds (including nursery provision). The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 90. This means the school can admit 90 pupils in each year group from ages 4 to 11. There are up to 78 part-time nursery places.
- **Moor End Academy** provides education for 11-16 year olds. The Published Admission Number (PAN) for the school is 180. This means the school can admit 180 pupils in each year group.

* Schools that are federated have a single governing body and leadership team.

As demonstrated above some primary schools provide early learning and childcare places alongside statutory school places. Schools represent just one sector of the diverse early learning and childcare market in this area

3. The Proposals

3.1 A new primary academy school proposed to be located on the site of Moor End Academy

It is proposed to develop additional primary school places to meet the basic need in the area, by establishing a new 630 place primary school in a new building using part of the Moor End Academy site. (Moor End Multi Academy Trust has given their agreement in principle for part of the site to be utilised for this purpose).

- to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11
- with a PAN of 90 for 4-11 year olds, providing 630 primary school places.

This requires a statutory process to establish a new school, where there is a presumption to seek and approve an academy proposal. An outline timeline indicating the steps that would be followed for this process are shown in section 6 below.

The primary places would be built up in stages, starting with a 90 place Reception class in September 2016, and increasing year by year over 6 further years as the primary pupils progress through the school which would result in a three class entry, 630 place primary provision. The table below shows how this would be implemented.

| | infant / key stage 1 | | | junior / key stage 2 | | | | Total primary pupils |
|---------|----------------------|----|----|----------------------|----|----|----|----------------------|
| | Reception | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | |
| 2016-17 | 90 | | | | | | | 90 |
| 2017-18 | 90 | 90 | | | | | | 180 |
| 2018-19 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | | | 270 |
| 2019-20 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | | 360 |
| 2020-21 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | | 450 |
| 2021-22 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | | 540 |
| 2022-23 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 630 |
| 2023-24 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 630 |

Diagram illustrating how the proposed pupil numbers would build up over successive school years as each new Reception class joins the school, to give 7 yeargroups of 90 pupils ie 630 pupils in total

3.1.1 The academy presumption

There is a legal framework in place that Local Authorities must follow when considering the establishment of a new school. The Guidance issued by the DfE explains that;

Where a LA considers there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish an academy/free school (or act in accordance with paragraph 36). The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening costs. All new academy/free school proposals require the Secretary of State's approval and it is the Secretary of State who will enter into a funding agreement with the academy trust/sponsor.

In deciding the proposer with whom he will enter into a funding agreement, the Secretary of State will consider the assessments and preferences of the LA carefully. However, she reserves the right to put in place a sponsor of his own choice. The intention is to ensure that the school is always established by the best proposer possible.

(DfE Guidance – 2013)

The Education Act 2011 changed the arrangements for establishing new schools and introduced section 6A (the academy/free school presumption) to the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Where a LA thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish an academy/free school.

The presumption arrangements require LAs to seek proposals to establish an academy/free school where they have identified the need for a new school in their area. The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening costs.

- *The decision on all new academy/free school proposals lies with the Secretary of State. Her approval is required as it is the Secretary of State who will enter into a funding agreement with the proposer.*
- *LAs must notify the Secretary of State of their plans to seek proposals for a new school as soon as the need for a new school has been agreed.*
- *Once the LA has received all formal proposals, they must provide the Secretary of State with details of all proposers. The Secretary of State will then notify the LA if*

she has any concerns about a proposer's capability or capacity to deliver the proposal and particularly where she is minded not to enter into a funding agreement with a particular proposer.

- The LA may assess all proposals received and can, if they wish, recommend their preferred proposal). As this is a two stage assessment process the LA should await the Secretary of State's decision before formally making public the outcome of their assessment. The LA should send the outcome of any assessment to the Secretary of State with all the proposals. Before making her decision on with whom she wishes to enter into a funding agreement, the Secretary of State will take the LA's assessment into account, along with any additional factors of which she is aware. The Secretary of State reserves the right to agree a sponsor of her own choice (from the department's list of approved sponsors) on the basis that she may have further evidence about a proposer, or proposers, which mean that none of those put forward is suitable. The intention is to ensure that the school is always established by the best proposer possible.*
- Local authorities are expected to work with selected proposers to agree a reasonable and mutually acceptable funding allocation for the LA to cover pre- and post-opening costs. The department will provide a one-off payment of £25,000 to the successful proposer for the legal costs associated with establishing a new academy/free school. Upon opening, the school will be funded by the Education Funding Agency on the same basis as other academies and free schools in the same LA area.*

(DfE Guidance 2013)

The LA would work with the DfE to follow a process in order to seek a local sponsor to run the new academy school.

3.2 Amalgamating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE (C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School

The council has a policy to explore opportunities for reducing transition points, and has worked with school leaders, governing bodies and where applicable the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales to establish all-through primary schools. The establishment of all-through primary schools is intended to improve the educational standards attained by children through better and more flexible management of learning, without a change of school at age 7 (for further rationale see appendix 1). Single all-through institutions can establish longer term relationships with pupils and families, provide more opportunities for staff development and better manage resources to support learning and smooth transition to each stage of learning.

By bringing the schools together there would be the opportunity to harness the existing strengths of all 3 schools to support the educational outcomes for children. Therefore, it is proposed to amalgamate all 3 schools by working in collaboration with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales to propose a replacement 4 FE voluntary controlled all-through primary school with early education and childcare. The amalgamated school would continue to be housed in the existing site and buildings that are currently used for Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School. Officers would work collaboratively with the schools to explore opportunities for the use of the sites and cost modest remodelling opportunities to support bringing the schools together as a single all-through school;

- to cater for pupils aged 2 to 11
- with a PAN of 120 for 4-11 year olds (from Reception 2016), and over time retaining 840 primary school places.
- retaining the 130 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years)

and retain the existing 52 full-time flexible childcare places which can be used for a mixture of early learning and fee paying childcare places (children aged 2-5 years).

It is possible to amalgamate the schools resulting in a new voluntary controlled church of England primary school as there is a reorganisation of church of England voluntary controlled places as well as bringing together separate Junior, Infant and Nursery schools;

In the interests of reducing bureaucracy, the consent of the Secretary of State is no longer required to publish maintained school proposals in certain circumstances. Section 11 EIA 2006, as amended by EA 2011 provides for the following:

- *proposals for a new community or foundation primary school that is to replace a maintained infant and a maintained junior school;*
- *proposals for a new school resulting from the reorganisation of existing faith schools in an area, including an existing faith school losing or changing its religious designation;*
(DfE Guidance: 2013)

DfE Guidance explains that there are two ways to 'merge' or 'amalgamate' two or more existing maintained schools:

- The LA or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close two (or more) schools and the LA or a proposer other than the LA (e.g. diocese, faith or parent group, Trust) depending on category, can publish a proposal to open a new school. This results in a new school number being issued.
- The LA and/or governing body (depending on school category) can publish a proposal to close one school (or more) and enlarge/change the age range/transfer site (following a statutory process as/when necessary) of an existing school, to accommodate the displaced pupils. The remaining school would retain its original school number, as it is not a new school, even if its phase has changed.

The most equitable way to amalgamate Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School would be to establish a new replacement school. Therefore, the statutory proposals that would be required to bring the schools together are;

- the LA would propose the technical 'closure' of Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School.
- The Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales would propose a new replacement all-through church of England primary school. The new school would continue in the existing buildings and on the same sites.

The number of available primary places would be gradually reduced over time to consolidate the school as a 4 class entry primary school, starting with a 120 place Reception class in September 2016, onwards and decreasing year by year over 6 further years as the primary pupils progress through the school which would result in a four class entry, 840 place primary provision. It is proposed to retain the 130 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years and retain the existing 52 full-time flexible childcare places which can be used for a mixture of early learning and fee paying childcare places (children aged 2-5 years). All the pupils who would be attending Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School would

automatically become part of the primary school and the table below shows how this would be implemented;

| | Dryclough CE(C)/ key stage 1 | | | Crosland Moor Junior / key stage 2 | | | | Total primary pupils |
|---------|--|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------------|
| | Reception | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | |
| 2015-16 | 140 | 140 | 140 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 1020 |
| | All through primary school from 1 st April 2016 | | | | | | | |
| | Reception | Y1 | Y2 | Y3 | Y4 | Y5 | Y6 | |
| 2016-17 | 120 | 140 | 140 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 1000 |
| 2017-18 | 120 | 120 | 140 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 980 |
| 2018-19 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 960 |
| 2019-20 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 930 |
| 2020-21 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 150 | 900 |
| 2021-22 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 150 | 870 |
| 2022-23 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 840 |
| 2023-24 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 120 | 840 |

Diagram illustrating how the proposed overall statutory school age pupil numbers would reduce over successive school years as each new Reception class joins the school, to give 7 yeargroups of 120 pupils ie 840 pupils in total

3.3 Retain Mount Pleasant Primary School

In 2010, additional pupil places were established at Mount Pleasant Primary School to meet the growing basic need. As a result internal remodelling was carried out and the LA worked with the school to install modular classbases to make sure there was sufficient space to accommodate the children. The school makes provision for 630 pupils from Reception to Year 6, admitting up to 90 pupils per year group and provides up to 78 part-time nursery places. The Council was successful as part of the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme in securing funding to rebuild the school on its current site. The school and the LA are currently working with the Education Funding Agency to plan for the delivery of the new school building.

3. The statutory process

School organisation decisions have to follow a process set out by law .The Council has to have due regard to legislation and follow the statutory processes in respect of these proposals.

Relevant DfE Guidance about these processes are;

- *The academy/free school presumption: Departmental advice for local authorities and new school proposers - October 2014*

And

- *School Organisation Maintained Schools: Guidance for proposers and decision-makers - January 2014*

The key stages are summarised below.

| Establishing a new all-through primary academy | Amalgamating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE (C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School |
|--|--|
| Activity | |
| Complete impact assessment | |
| Publish Cabinet Report seeking permission to begin consultation as part of the statutory processes for the area wide proposals for Huddersfield south west | |
| LA Consultation – about proposal and outline the specification required for the new school. | Statutory consultation in collaboration with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales |
| Consultation outcomes to Cabinet | Consultation outcome report to Cabinet |
| Seek proposals from academy sponsors to run the new academy school | Publication of statutory notices and proposals and period of representation |
| Engagement with Department for Education and locally preferred proposer | N/A |
| Department for Education Sponsor approval | N/A |
| Successful proposer consultation on whether they should enter into a funding agreement for the new school with the Secretary of State | Report to Cabinet for final decision about proposals |
| Pre-opening processes | Preparation processes for amalgamation |
| Implementation (new build would follow) | Implementation |

3. Equalities Impact Assessment

An initial Equalities and Community Cohesion Impact Assessment has been carried out on the proposals. The following is a short initial analysis of the likely changes arising from the revised proposals.

- The proposal to establish new primary places in a new school and to amalgamate existing provision in an all through primary voluntary controlled school is intended and is very likely to have a positive impact for pupils and their families living in the local areas because the aims are to provide places where they are needed in line with growth in the pupil demographic that would complement existing local provision.
- The proposal is intended to have a positive impact on families and the local community as a developing centre of community, educational and recreational facilities.
- No adverse impacts are highlighted as part of this proposal.

The full EIA is required and will continue to be revised in the light of any decision taken by Cabinet following consultation.

4. Implications for the Council

4.1 Council priorities

Council policies affected by this proposal include the Children & Young People Plan. The proposals will support the Council priorities which are;

Health and wellbeing in Kirklees: By 2020, no matter where they live, we want people in Kirklees to live their lives confidently, in better health, for longer and experience less inequality.

A strong economy for Kirklees: We want Kirklees to be recognised as the best place to do business in the north of England and as a result one where people prosper and flourish in all of our communities.

4.2 Human Resources implications

There are likely to be Human Resource implications resulting from these proposals, to support positive arrangements to retain staff as part of amalgamating schools. Kirklees HR officers will provide technical advice and support any processes where required.

4.3 Financial Implications

4.3.1 Revenue

The education budget that the Council receives from government can only be spent on education – so the proposals have no revenue impact for the Council. The budget received by a school is mainly determined by the number of pupils and this is not intended to change as a result of these proposals. Locally, individual schools receive annual lump sum funding of £130,000. When an amalgamation happens the continuing school receives the £130,000 lump sum as normal but also receives reducing transitional funding support linked to the previous number of school lump sums for a maximum of four years following the merger to phase out the previous level of funding. Similarly, under the Kirklees early years funding formula Nursery Schools receive lump sum funding on top of pupil place funding in recognition of their limited size to support the additional costs including premises and the curriculum. This is estimated at £153,391 for Thornton Lodge Nursery School in 2015/16. Again, should amalgamation take place, certain transitional funding arrangements would apply.

Establishing brand new provision would qualify for “start up” and “growth” funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant to cover the establishment and the DSG would also need to support running costs until the 2016-17 financial year funding would be triggered by the pupil census of the number of pupils on roll. As the provision would enlarge by an additional yeargroup each subsequent year until a full Reception to Year 6 complement of pupils was admitted to the school, further growth funding would be provided.

4.3.2 Capital

Significant capital investment of “basic need” capital funding would be required to establish the new school building for the new primary academy south west Huddersfield.

Officers from Physical Resources and Procurement would bring option appraisals and estimated costings to Cabinet to support decision making at the next stages of the statutory process. The Council’s Capital Plan was approved on 18th February 2015 and contains sufficient overall funds to accommodate the cost of these proposals. Officers will revise the detail of the plan in July 2015 as more detailed proposals are developed.

5. Consultees and their opinions

There has been wide engagement about the need for places with key stakeholders including school leaders, governing bodies and ward members and information has been shared as part of the document “Securing sufficient school places to enable access for children and young people to an excellent local education system” which is available on the Kirklees Council website. The specific proposals have been shaped by the school leaders and providers in the area working together with the LA . The Leeds Diocesan Board of Education and its officers have had regular discussions with officers of Kirklees Council about this proposal. The policy of Kirklees Council to explore opportunities for reducing transition points is supported by the Leeds Diocesan Board of Education which body also agrees with the rationale for so doing as expressed in 3.2 of the cabinet report. Officers have collaborated previously in establishing all through CE VC primary schools and have proven protocols to support the whole school community and local families through the process of change in order to achieve this end for the long term benefit for all pupils. Local early learning and childcare providers have been specifically consulted about the early learning and childcare places in the area.

It is intended to carry out a full consultation about the proposals involving all key stakeholders including: parents and carers, Governing Bodies, school staff, schools in the local area, ward members, wider community stakeholders and other interested parties. The responses received as part of this consultation would be reported to members to inform a decision on the next steps.

6 Next steps

Subject to decisions made by Cabinet, the indicative timeline for the next stages of the statutory processes are set out below:

| Establishing a new all-through primary academy | | Amalgamating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE (C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School | |
|--|--|--|-------------------------|
| Timeline | Activity | | Timeline |
| January-February 2015 | Complete impact assessment | | January – February 2015 |
| March 2015 | Publish Cabinet Report seeking permission to begin consultation as part of the statutory processes for the area wide proposals for Huddersfield south west | | March 2015 |
| April-May 2015 | LA Consultation – about proposal and outline the specification required for the new school. | Statutory consultation in collaboration with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales | April-May 2015 |
| June 2015 | Consultation outcomes to Cabinet | Consultation outcome report to Cabinet | June 2015 |
| July 2015 | Seek proposals from academy sponsors to run the new academy school | Publication of statutory notices and proposals and period of representation | July 2015 |
| August - September 2015 | Engagement with Department for Education and locally preferred proposer | N/A | |
| September-October 2015 | Department for Education Sponsor approval | N/A | |
| October 2015 | Successful proposer consultation on whether they should enter into a funding agreement for the new school with the Secretary of State | Report to Cabinet for final decision about proposals | October 2015 |
| October 2015-August 2016 | Pre-opening processes | Preparation processes for amalgamation | October 2015-March 2016 |
| From May 2016 | Implementation (new build would follow) | Implementation | From May 2016 |

** These dates are subject to Cabinet approval and may change.*

7. Officer recommendations and reasons

It is recommended that Members:

- 7.1 Acknowledge the strong collaborative approach demonstrated between school leaders, providers and the LA that have enabled the development of proposals for consultation that seek to ensure the provision of learning places that are intended to be complementary and cohesive to meet the needs of families and the community.

- 7.2** Authorise officers to develop plans for consultation about proposals for Huddersfield South West that support a community wide approach to making sure there are enough high quality learning places to serve the families in the area by;
- establishing a new 630 place primary school in a new building using part of the Moor End Academy site. (Moor End Multi Academy Trust has given their agreement in principle for part of the site to be utilised for this purpose).
 - to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11
 - with a PAN of 90 for 4-11 year olds, providing 630 primary school places.
 - amalgamating Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School by working in collaboration with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales to propose a replacement 4 FE voluntary controlled all-through primary school with early education and childcare. The amalgamated school would continue to be in the existing site and buildings that are currently used for Thornton Lodge Nursery School, Dryclough CE(C) Infant School and Crosland Moor Junior School;
 - to cater for pupils aged 2 to 11
 - with a PAN of 120 for 4-11 year olds (from Reception 2016), and over time retaining 840 primary school places.
 - retaining the 130 part-time early learning places (nursery children aged 3-4 years) and retain the existing 52 full-time flexible childcare places which can be used for a mixture of early learning and fee paying childcare places (children aged 2-5 years)
 - Retaining Mount Pleasant Primary School (no statutory proposals are required for this school);
 - To cater for pupils aged 3 to 11
 - With a PAN of 90 for 4-11 year olds
 - retaining the 78 part time nursery places
- 7.3** Delegate authority to the Director for Children and Adults in consultation with the Cabinet Portfolio leads to:-
- engage and liaise with all stakeholders and where applicable in conjunction with the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales as well as the Department for Education and the Education Funding Agency.
 - develop consultation materials on the basis of the proposals
 - organise and carry out consultation and engagement
- 7.4** Require officers to report the outcomes of the consultation to Cabinet for further consideration of the next steps.
- 7.5** Authorise officers from Physical Resources and Procurement to develop options appraisals and undertake feasibility studies as necessary to firm up costings and proposals for the new school building at Moor End Academy Site and appropriate changes needed to buildings as part of the amalgamation proposals above.

8. Cabinet Portfolio Holders' Recommendation

The Cabinet Members for Children's Services endorse the recommendations set out by officers in the previous section of this report. Any further material matters that are brought to our attention in advance of, and during, the Cabinet meeting on 24/03/2015 will be considered and final, oral, recommendations will be made at the end of the discussion of this item at the meeting.

We are committed to improve the quality of education in our schools to give every child the best possible start.

We are committed to making sure that there are enough excellent school places in the areas where communities and families need them. The growing number of school age children gives Kirklees some real challenges in some parts of the borough where there are not enough places and the opportunities to create extra school places are very limited by the space and capital available.

We welcome collaborative solutions where schools and our partners like the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales want to work both with each other and the Local Authority in order to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Discussions with local headteachers, governors and ward councillors mean we can work together to support our families. We are looking at the way other local authorities are operating to see how they are meeting similar challenges.

We also want to consider creative and collaborative approaches that can bring new expertise and energy to the school system and we welcome the way that school leaders and providers have worked together, and, with the LA in order to “grow” new primary places in the south west Huddersfield area. This could be part of the strategy that gives us the much needed school places as well as complementing existing schools.

For these reasons we support the officer recommendations to carry out consultation about the proposals.

9. Contact officer

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Documents

“Securing sufficient school places to enable access for children and young people to an excellent local education system”. Kirklees May 2013 and June 2014

<http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/community/education-learning/schoolorganisation/pdfs/securingSufficientSchoolPlaces.pdf>.

The Educational Benefits of All-Through Primary Schools

Improved continuity and progress from Early Learning and Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 through smoother transition. For example, a single school would have common approaches to curriculum planning, assessment, record keeping and target setting. Staff have longer to get to know the children. Most importantly, the school would have a shared understanding of standards and expectations.

More flexibility and opportunities to meet individual pupil needs by tailoring learning experiences. For example, Year 3 children who require further experience of the Key Stage 1 curriculum and more able Year 2 children requiring the challenge of the Key Stage 2 programmes can be catered for. It means a wider range of resources can be shared and common themes developed across the school. This curriculum flexibility can be particularly important for children with Special Educational Needs.

More opportunities for social development. For example, older children can have some appropriate pastoral responsibility for younger children, which can impact positively on whole school behaviour and children's self-esteem. Vulnerable children and their parents and carers have greater security from a consistency of staff and provision.

More consistency in terms of policies and practice. The school improvement agenda is led by a single leadership team and governing body.

Closer contact for parents and carers with school staff over a longer period of time. A more continuous relationship between the school, parents, carers and outside agencies can ensure that all pupils, but particularly those with special needs, are supported effectively from the Foundation Stage through to the end of Year 6.

More opportunity for children to attend the same school as older or younger brothers and sisters.

Increased opportunities for staff to work with a larger team, thus supporting professional development and providing further opportunities to take on new responsibilities

More effective use of the accommodation, facilities and resources.

Reduced duplication and economies of scale in the management of budgets