

## REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF SERVICES TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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This report describes the outcome of the consultation on proposals to increase the capacity of Belle Vue Boys School, Belle Vue Girls School, Queensbury School, Carlton Bolling School and Thornton Grammar School, Bradford.

### SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Strategic Director is asked to consider the report on the consultation for the proposed increase in capacity of a number of secondary schools from 2012 and is asked to approve the publication of statutory notices to enable the proposals to proceed.

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## 1. **SUMMARY**

This report describes the outcome of the consultation on proposals to increase the capacity of Belle Vue Boys School, Belle Vue Girls School, Queensbury School, Carlton Bolling School and Thornton Grammar School

The Strategic Director is asked to consider the issues raised in the report and to approve the publication of statutory notices to enable the proposals to proceed.

## 2. **BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Secondary pupil projections for 2018 show a projected pupil population of 30,008 for the age range 11-6, and 7,105 for the sixth form age range, resulting in a need for 37,113 places in the local authority maintained sector. The increased need for places is based on predicted birth rates and predicted rates of families moving into the area. A further significant factor creating a demand for more places is the raising of the 'school leaving age' (the 'participation' age) to 18 so that from 2013 all young people in England will be required to continue in education or training to 17 and from 2015 to 18.
- 2.2 The BSF programme is the biggest government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period. Bradford has made great strides in improving its education performance in recent years, but one of its key challenges is the unsuitability of many of its current buildings for 21st century curriculum demands. BSF provided the opportunity to make that investment with a £400 million 3 Phase programme in Bradford. Bradford Council has partnered with Integrated Bradford, a consortium of sub-contractors, to implement the programme. The BSF Programme enables the school estate to be renewed and, where appropriate enlarged, to cater for the predicted pupil increases.
- 2.3 The schools are the subject of the recent consultation form the first sequence in Phase 3 of the Building Schools for the Future in Bradford. The proposal is that the capacity of all the schools consulted on are enlarged from 2012. In arriving at the proposed capacity increases proposed increases at other schools in the district have been taken into account, which once finalised will be included in later sequences of the Phase 3 Programme. Earlier reports to the Executive provided more background on the Phase 2 BSF Programme; see Reports to the Executive dated 13 January 2009, 21 April 2009 and June 2009.
- 2.4 The proposal recently consulted on, and now being recommended for approval, are that the capacity of all the schools in the first sequence are enlarged with effect from 2012 as follows:

	Current Net Capacity	Current Admission Number	Current and proposed Admissions*	Current & Proposed Sixth Form Numbers**	Proposed Net Capacity
Belle Vue Boys	727	120	600 (900)	99 (180)	1,080
Belle Vue Girls	1,052	180	900 (1,200)	206 (370)	1,570
Carlton Bolling	1,526	240	1,200 (1,350)	317 (300)	1,800
Queensbury	1,371	240	1,200 (1,500)	123 (150)	1,500
Thornton	1,718	260	1,350 (1,650)	215 (500)	2,150

\*current and proposed maximum potential number of pupils to be admitted in Years 7-11.

\*\* this column shows current sixth form numbers, and in brackets the proposed maximum numbers.

- 2.5 School admission numbers are determined on an annual basis and any increase in net capacity will not mean that the schools concerned will have to increase their admission numbers to maximum numbers from 2012, but the proposed enlargements would enable higher admission numbers to be set in the future enabling a larger pupil intake at each of the schools if the projected demands materialise. The proposed increases will also enable the schools to cater for additional sixth form pupils, which are likely to increase when the changes to the school leaving age (participation age) come into effect. Increases in admissions are expected to be gradual over time.

### **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 Early in 2009 consultation on the various options for providing additional and refurbished accommodation at each of the above schools was undertaken, the focus of that consultation being primarily on building and site issues. To enlarge a school statutory proposals have to be published, and before that can happen statutory consultation on the proposed enlargements must take place with those who may be affected by the changes, which includes a wider range of consultees than those involved in the original consultation.
- 3.2 The statutory consultation ran from Wednesday 11th November until Friday 11th December 2009. The list of those consulted is appended as Appendix 2 to the Report and is in line with the DCSF statutory guidance and included: the pupils, parents, staff and governors of the schools concerned; the governing bodies of schools likely to be affected, i.e. those primary schools who currently operate as feeder schools and other secondary schools.
- 3.3 Approximately 28,000 consultation papers were distributed and approximately 30 written or email responses were received, none of which were from the school populations of the schools concerned. A local Neighbourhood Forum meeting was held in the locality of each school. The consultation letters were presented to each of the meetings and a question and answer session was facilitated by Co-ordinators, and the main issues concerned recorded in the minutes of the minutes.

### **4. SUMMARY OF KEY CONCERNS**

- 4.1 A summary of the main issues of concern arising out of the consultation exercise are set out below. More details on a school by school basis are contained in the Consultation Report in Appendix 1 appended to this report.

#### **4.2 School standards may be reduced owing to proposed increase in pupil numbers**

A common concern across all the schools from those consultees who expressed concerns was that the enlargement of the schools would lead to lower results in the school and lower behavioural standards. There are no concerns from the schools concerned with regard to this issue. As the proposed growth in school population is to be gradual over time the pupil management issues can be addressed by each school to ensure standards remain high and no reduction in behavioural standards should occur as a result of any changes in numbers.

##### Thornton Grammar School

The above concern was raised in terms of the possibility of higher staff to pupil ratios and whether individual pupil's needs would still be facilitated in a larger school. See Consultation report at Appendix 1 for more details.

##### Belle Vue Boys School

No concerns were raised by the school, or any other consultees with regard to a reduction in standards.

Belle Vue Girls School

No concerns were raised by the school, or any other consultees with regard to a reduction in standards.

Carlton Bolling School

No concerns were raised by the school, or any other consultees with regard to a reduction in standards.

Queensbury School

Concern was raised by a parent citing the increase in numbers at re-organisation as the last time the school was expanded and that they felt that standards were reduced as a result of this. Their concern was that this proposed increase could have the same result. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

4.3 **The proposed increase in school numbers would increase traffic, parking problems and noise**

The second common concern was that raised by local residents who were concerned about that an increase in traffic, parking problems and generally more noise in the localities of the schools at the beginning and end of the school day. This issue should be addressed in conjunction with planning and highways during the Building Consultation stage.

Thornton Grammar School

All consultees who expressed an opinion considered that the traffic was already an issue and any increase would make the situation more acute.

Leaventhorpe Lane was sited as the main concern. Irresponsible parking by parents and where the school buses should drop off were the main issues. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

Belle Vue Boys School

No concerns were raised by the school, or any other consultees with regard to traffic or parking issues.

Belle Vue Girls School

No concerns were raised by the school, or any other consultees with regard to a reduction in standards.

Carlton Bolling School

All consultees who expressed an opinion agreed that the traffic was already an issue and any increase would make the situation more acute. The streets around the school were sited as the main concern and parking blocking access for emergency vehicles. See Consultation report at Appendix 1 for more details.

Queensbury School

All consultees who expressed an opinion considered that the traffic was already an issue and any increase would make the situation more acute. The streets around the school were cited as the main concern and parking. Deanstones Lane was cited as the main area of concern in all responses. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

Following meeting with Transportation and Highways Services (T&H) on the 13th January 2010, where comments arising from statutory consultations were provided, and the transport issues associated with each of the sites discussed in detail, it was agreed that a Transport Assessment (TA) for all schools within Sequences 1 and 2 of BSF Phase 3 will be

required. These will inform and guide the necessary solutions to all transportation and highways matters arising from the BSF Phase 3 developments. T&H will produce the scoping requirements of the TAs and monthly meetings will be arranged to enable the development of schemes suitable to Highways which will enable transport issues to be effectively addressed, including the concerns raised in the recent consultations.

#### 4.4 **Concerns of local residents for safety in the localities of the schools**

The concern was expressed that the safety of staff pupils and residents in the localities of the schools would become an issue at the beginning and the end of the school day. There is a need for liaison between the schools and local residents, which should be possible during the building consultation period.

##### Thornton Grammar School

All local residents who responded were concerned about access to their driveways at the beginning and end of the school day. Some irresponsible parking by parents collecting children and the safety of all concerned owing to the congestion that occurs at these times. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

##### Belle Vue Boys School

No concerns were raised by local residents on any of these parking or safety issues.

##### Belle Vue Girls School

No concerns were raised by local residents on any of these parking or safety issues.

##### Carlton Bolling School

All local residents who responded were concerned about access to their driveways at the beginning and end of the school day because irresponsible parking by parents collecting children and the safety of all concerned owing to the congestion that occurs at these times. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

##### Queensbury School

All local residents who responded were concerned about access to their driveways at the beginning and end of the school day because irresponsible parking by parents collecting children and the safety of all concerned owing to the congestion that occurs at these times. See Consultation Report at Appendix 1 for more details.

#### 4.5 **Other Key issues Raised**

Concerns were raised in relation to Thornton that Green Belt land could be lost as a result of these proposals. There are, however, no plans to utilise Green Belt land. Concern was also raised that there might be a reduction in the sports facilities at the School. While there is to be a reallocation of the Sports Centre space this should not lead to any reduction in facilities.

#### 4.6 **Learning and Skills Council**

A response was received from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which stated that any growth in Bradford's capacity for school places is carefully planned to deliver a high quality learning offer for the young people of Bradford. The LSC were of the view that the proposals must be consistent with the National Commissioning Framework and designed to enable the delivery of the 'Big Plan' and the Children and Young Peoples Plan. The redevelopments of the learning infrastructure in Bradford presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure that it provides a learning environment that inspires young people to succeed and meets the demands of future learning delivery.

## **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 EQUAL RIGHTS**

The schools will continue as before to cater for the needs of all and serve their communities.

### **5.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

Any new build constructed as part of this process will have an impact on sustainability in the district. Performance standards are being considered that will allow an appraisal of any new build and its future use. The Council will be able to ensure that development is undertaken in a sustainable way which minimises the future impact of the Councils carbon footprint.

### **5.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Concerns raised in relation to traffic and parking issues are reflected and addressed in Section 4.

### **5.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

The Human Rights Act incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights which provides that no person shall be denied the right to education.

### **5.5 TRADE UNIONS**

Trade unions have been informed of the proposals.

The proposed enlargement of the schools may lead to an increase in staffing levels.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

6.1 An enlargement of school premises operates to increase the net capacity of the school. Any enlargement, such as those proposed, that falls within the criteria in the legislation is regarded as a prescribed alteration to the school and therefore requires the publication of statutory notices. Before a final decision can be made to proceed to publish notices place statutory consultation on the proposed enlargements needs to have taken place with those likely to be affected by the proposals in accordance with the DCSF statutory guidance. The responses to that consultation must then be considered in then deciding whether to publish the necessary statutory notices to proceed on the basis proposed. That decision can be taken by the Director of Children's Services in accordance with the delegation arrangements set out in the Council's Constitution.

6.2 If approval is given to publish notices then statutory notices will be published in the middle of January and there will be a four week Representation Period during which objections to the proposals or representations in support of them may be made to the Council. These will then be considered by the Executive in its capacity as decision-maker when it determines the proposals at the end of the Representation Period.

6.3 The Governing is raising the 'participation age' (RPA) to 18 so that from 2013 all young people in England will be required to continue in education or training to 17 and from 2015 to 18. The Council has to respond to any increased demand for school places as it is under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in the district.

## **7. FINANCIAL APPRAISAL**

7.1 The total estimated capital costs for the schools are shown below. These include the costs of enlargement and refurbishment. All these costs are to be met by the DCSF from the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme with no capital contribution being made

by the Council or the Governing Body.

	£m
Belle Vue Boys	11.200
Carlton Bolling	18.885
Belle Vue Girls	13.723
Queensbury	11.037
Oakbank	20.899
Thornton	23.040

- 7.2 The Outline Business Case for the BSF Phase 3 Programme was submitted to Partnership or Schools (PfS) for approval on the 15th January 2010. Approval of the Phase 3 Programme will provide the required confirmation that funding will be available. A decision is expected from PfS by the end of February and should therefore have been received by the time the proposals are presented to the Council's Executive for determination at the end of March 2010.
- 7.3 The Council is allocated funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to distribute funding to individual schools through the Fair Funding Formula. The DSG is allocated by the DCSF based on the actual number of pupils in the district. Any increase in the actual number of pupils will result in an increase in the Council's DSG allocation to be distributed to schools.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

None

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 The Director is asked to consider this report and to approve the publication of statutory notices for each of the schools mentioned in the report.

## **10. APPENDICES**

- Appendix 1. Consultation Report
- Appendix 2. List of Consultees
- Appendix 3. Letters Distributed to all Consulted in this Process

## **11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Reports to the Executive dated 13 January 2009, 24 April and 23 June 2009.

## **Appendix 1 – Consultation Report**

Written responses have been made with regard to the sequence of all schools with the exception of Belle Vue Boys and Belle Vue Girls Schools where a positive reception to the changes was given at the meetings held.

What follows provides details on a school by school basis of the responses received as a result of the statutory consultation process, whether concerns were expressed or whether a positive reception to the proposals were received.

A common concern across all the schools which expressed concerns was that the enlargement of the schools would lead to lower results lower standards in the school and lower behavioural standards.

The second common concern was that of an increase in traffic, parking problems and generally more noise in the localities of the schools at the beginning and end of the school day.

Finally the concern of safety of staff pupils and residents in the localities of the schools would become an issue at the beginning and the end of the school day.

A response was received from the LSC which stated that any growth in Bradford's capacity for school places is carefully planned to deliver a high quality learning offer for the young people of Bradford. It must be consistent with the National Commissioning Framework and designed to enable the delivery of the 'Big Plan' and the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

The redevelopments of the learning infrastructure in Bradford presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to ensure that it provides a learning environment that inspires young people to succeed and meets the demands of future learning delivery.

### **THORNTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**CURRENT CAPACITY 1718**

**PROPOSED CAPACITY 2150**

**CURRENT NUMBER OF 11-16 PUPILS ON ROLL 1350**

**MAXIMUM ADMISSION NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PUPILS 1650**

**CURRENT SIXTH FORM 215**

**PROPOSED NEW SIXTH FORM 500**

The whole school population were consulted as part of this process. Letters were sent to all headteachers, governing bodies, staff and students listed in Appendix 2.

No concerns were raised by any member of the school population at Thornton Grammar School.

6 responses were received.

There were 4 responses from local residents.

There was 1 response from a local Councillor.

There was 1 response from a parent at Thornton Grammar School

The main issues raised were:

School will be too large for pupils to be known by staff

Traffic issues on Leventhorpe Lane

Thornton is a Sports College may have reduced facilities for sport – community use implications

Possible extension into green belt land

A new school should be built to serve Bradford West

Concerns received with regard to car parking, access to driveways for local residents, abuse from parents and parents parking irresponsibly.

The letter from the parent raised the following concerns:

This parent has a pupil at the school and had several queries with regard to the proposed increase in capacity as follows:

1. Sports facilities: Concerns were that as Thornton is a Specialist Sports College and that care should be taken to ensure any proposals should not encroach on existing facilities. Concerns that the school would lose its Sports identity as a result of the proposed increase in pupil numbers.
2. Staffing: Concerns over class sizes and whether they would increase in size. Whether staff pupil ratios would alter and concern that all pupils would be catered for academically and pastorally.
3. Car parking: Concern that additional parking spaces will be required and this may encroach on space used by pupils currently at break and lunch times.
4. Lunch times: Whether additional numbers could be all fed at lunchtime in the areas currently provided in the school and whether additional space needed to be considered.
5. Extra curricula activities: Whether it would still be possible for these to take place as currently.

The letter from a local councillor raised the following concerns

The extension of Thornton Grammar School are as follows poses the following concerns:- over 2000 pupils was felt to be too large.

Expressed concern that Comprehensive Education would not exceed schools of over 100 pupils. Concern that to manage over 2,000 pupils every day could lead to children not being catered for as individuals and their needs not being met.

Concerns about increases in traffic at the beginning and the end of the school day.

Concerns that Leventhorpe Lane and surrounding streets was already a traffic issue and complaints had been received from local residents.

Concerns that the Sports Centre may be reduced in size leading to less possibility of use by the local community.

Concerns that Thornton Grammar is a specialist Sports college and there should be no reduction in sports facilities.

Concerns that green belt land could be lost as a result of these proposals.

A suggestion that a new school is built to serve the needs of Bradford West.

The letters from local residents raised the following concerns

One residents raised concerns with regard to Leventhorpe lane and that is already a issue at the start and the end of the school day.

Concern that residents have difficulty accessing their own driveways at the beginning and end of the school day.

Suggestions that the school buses have another route to the school thus avoiding Leaventhorpe Lane.

Suggestion that the local authority may wish to undertake a survey of the traffic at the beginning and end of the school day.

One resident is concerned that proposals may include bus lay-byes on Thornton Road

The other residents concerns were wholly around the congestion on Leaventhorpe lane and its unsuitability to sustain an increase in cars and school buses. All were concerned that they cannot access their own driveways at the beginning and the end of the school day. All were concerned with regard to the inconsiderate parking by parents collecting their children from school.

A special meeting of the neighbourhood forum was held and minutes are available if required. The residents responses were as a result of this meeting and the meeting echoed the concerns raised as above.

### **QUEENSBURY SCHOOL**

**CURRENT CAPACITY 1220**

**PROPOSED CAPACITY 1139**

**CURRENT NUMBER OF 11-16 PUPILS ON ROLL 1500**

**MAXIMUM ADMISSION NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PUPILS 1350**

**CURRENT SIXTH FORM 123**

**PROPOSED NEW SIXTH FORM 150**

The whole school population were consulted as part of this process. Letters were sent to all headteachers, governing bodies staff and students.

No concerns were raised by any member of the school population at Queensbury School which is a positive approach to the proposed enlargement of the school.

2 responses were received.

There was 1 response from a local resident.

There was 1 response from a parent of Queensbury School.

#### **The main issues raised were**

The reduction in school standards any expansion may cause.

Traffic parking and safety issues on Deanstones Lane

#### **The letter from a parent raised the following concerns**

Shock and concern was raised at the proposed plans to yet again increase the capacity of Queensbury School. That any reduction in standards at the school seem to begin when the school enlarged for re-organisation and making the point that the link with the school going into Special Measures was as a result of this increase in pupil numbers.

#### **The letter from the local resident raised the following concerns**

Concern that the traffic on Deanstones Lane is already an issue and that any proposed increase in pupil numbers would increase traffic at the start of school and at the end of the school day.

A special meeting of the neighbourhood forum was held and minutes are available if required. The residents responses were as a result of this meeting and the meeting echoed the concerns raised as above.

## **CARLTON BOLLING**

**CURRENT CAPACITY 1526**  
**PROPOSED CAPACITY 1800**

**CURRENT NUMBER OF 11-16 PUPILS ON ROLL 1200**  
**MAXIMUM ADMISSION NUMBER OF POTENTIAL PUPILS 1500**

**CURRENT SIXTH FORM 317**  
**PROPOSED NEW SIXTH FORM 300**

The whole school population were consulted as part of this process. Letters were sent to all headteachers, governing bodies staff and students.

No concerns were raised by any member of the school population at Carlton Bolling School which is a positive approach to the proposed enlargement of the school.

22 responses were received

All were from local residents, 21 of the letters were identical and signed by 21 different local residents.

### **The main issues raised were**

The parking and traffic in the local area of the school.

Double parking, blocking of access for emergency vehicles, parking in disabled bays by able-bodied people.

### **The letters raised the following concerns**

That parking in the locality of the school at the beginning and end of the school day is very difficult for local residents and any increase in numbers would make this matter worse.

That there are also difficulties at lunchtimes for local residents.

Parking is a major issue, double parking is frequent as is using disabled spaces, blocking access routes for emergency vehicles and parking on grass verges.

Safety of all concerned especially pedestrians was also raised as a concern

A special meeting of the neighbourhood forum was held and minutes are available if required.

The residents responses were as a result of this meeting and the meeting echoed the concerns raised as above.

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **List of Consultees – BSF Phase 3, Sequence 1 schools**

- Parents of all Pupils in schools (KS 3 downwards)
- All Pupils in schools
- (KS3 downwards)
- Teachers and other staff at schools
- Trade Unions
- Governing Bodies
- Headteachers
- Parents and pupils at feeder schools (KS2 only)
- Governing Bodies and Headteachers of all other Bradford Maintained Schools and Academies
- Staff and teachers at other schools affected
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Independent Schools Affected
- Learning & Skills Council
- Youth Parliament
- Colleges