

Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of Executive Committee to be held on 1 February 2022

AW

Subject:

Proposed Changes to Admission Arrangements at Two Maintained Schools

Summary statement:

Proposed Reduction of Published Admission Numbers at Peel Park Primary School and Long Lee Primary School; Proposed Alteration of Long Lee Primary School Priority Admission Area (Catchment Area)

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

With regards to the proposals to reduce Published Admission Numbers:

Current arrangements adhere to 1.8 of the School Admissions Code, which states:

“Oversubscription criteria must be reasonable, clear, objective, procedurally fair, and comply with all relevant legislation, including equalities legislation. Admission authorities must ensure that their arrangements will not disadvantage unfairly, either directly or indirectly, a child from a particular social or racial group, or a child with a disability or special educational needs...”

The proposed reduction in admission numbers is in response to surplus school places; it would therefore have **No Impact** on equality and diversity.

Marium Haque
Interim Strategic Director- Children's
Services

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Portfolio:

Education, Employment and Skills

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

With regards to the proposal to amend the Priority Admission Area (Catchment Area) for Long Lee Primary School:

1.14 of the School Admissions Code states:

“Catchment areas must be designed so that they are reasonable and clearly defined. Catchment areas do not prevent parents who live outside the catchment of a particular school from expressing a preference for the school.”

The current defined area runs through a housing development that, once completed, will contain 61 dwellings, 29 of which are designated affordable housing. Only 15 houses within the development will be within the current defined area. Expanding the area to include all houses within the development will more strictly adhere to the “reasonable” criterion set out above and will affect all people equally, no matter what their income, thereby having an **Equal Impact** on equality and diversity.

1. SUMMARY

This report asks the Executive to approve:

The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Peel Park Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2023

The reduction of the Published Admission Number at Long Lee Primary School from 60 to 45 from 1 September 2023

Altering the priority admission area for Long Lee Primary School for September 2023 to fully incorporate local new-build housing

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 When planning primary school places in Bradford, the District is split into 26 primary school planning areas.
 - 2.1.2 The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a Published Admission Number (PAN).
 - 2.1.3 Recent information published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) shows that Nationally the number of births has fallen for five consecutive years, with the total number of live births in 2020 being the lowest recorded since 2002.
 - 2.1.4 Whilst there are still small areas of population growth overall across the Bradford District, there is a decrease in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in some primary school planning areas.
 - 2.1.5 Data received from the NHS shows that the number of younger children living in the areas served by these schools, who will require a school place in the coming years, is significantly lower than the number of school places available.
 - 2.1.6 Funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools do not receive the maximum possible revenue.
- 2.2 **Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number at Peel Park Primary School:**
- 2.2.1 Peel Park Primary School is situated in the North East 3 planning area. Since 2010 the population growth in Bradford placed an increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. Peel Park Primary School permanently increased the Published Admission Number (PAN) in Reception from 60 to 90 in September 2011. This PAN has applied to all Reception intakes since 2011; these cohorts then moved up through the school, resulting in the admission number for each year group in the school being 90 in 2017. The net capacity for the building is 630, which is the capacity required to admit up to 90 pupils in each year from Reception to Year 6.
 - 2.2.2 Killinghall (60 to 90) and Westminster CE (60 to 90) also increased their PANs in 2011 to meet the demand for places. Additionally, Barkerend increased their PAN from 60 to 90 in 2016.

- 2.2.3 The number of Reception pupils at Peel Park, as recorded on the January Census, has not reached 90 pupils in any year since the PAN was increased; 66 Reception children were placed on roll in September 2021. The school recorded 572 pupils on roll from Reception to year 6 in the October school census.
- 2.2.4 Across the North East 3 planning area in 2021, there were 720 Reception places available, with the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day being 552. This has since increased to 612 on roll in September 2021 but is still considerably below the number of available places.
- 2.2.5 Barkerend and Thornbury reduced their PANs from 90 to 60 in 2021, and Westminster CE will reduce the PAN from 90 to 60 in 2022, leaving 690 places available.
- 2.2.6 The proposed PAN reduction at Peel Park will provide 660 places in the planning area. Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of reception places required in Reception for the next four intake years across North East 3 are:
 - 2022/23: 634
 - 2023/24: 636
 - 2024/25: 624
 - 2025/26: 624
- 2.2.7 As required by the Department for Education (DfE), a calculation has been made for the possible additional children who could come to live in approved housing developments in this planning area and these additional children are included in the above forecast figures.

2.3 Proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number at Long Lee Primary School:

- 2.3.1 Long Lee Primary School is situated in the Keighley 1 planning area. Since 2010 the population growth in Bradford placed an increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. Long Lee Primary School permanently increased the Published Admission Number (PAN) in Reception from 30 to 60 in September 2011. This PAN has applied to all Reception intakes since 2011; these cohorts then moved up through the school, resulting in the admission number for each year group in the school being 60 in 2017. The net capacity for the building is 420, which is the capacity required to admit up to 60 pupils in each year from Reception to Year 6.
- 2.3.2 Victoria Primary School increased their PAN in 2014 from 30 to 45 to meet the demand for places.
- 2.3.3 The number of pupils allocated to start Reception at Long Lee has not reached 60 since 2018; only 43 were allocated in 2021. The school recorded 375 pupils on roll from reception to year 6 in the October school census.
- 2.3.4 Across the Keighley 1 planning area in 2021, there were 375 Reception places available, with the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day being 283. This increased to 301 on roll in September 2021 but is still considerably below the number of available places.

- 2.3.5 The proposed PAN reduction at Long Lee will provide 360 places in the planning area. Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of reception places required in Reception for the next four intake years across Keighley 1 are:
2022/23: 305
2023/24: 323
2024/25: 293
2025/26: 293
- 2.3.6 Consultations have taken place for two academies in the adjoining Keighley 2 planning area to reduce their PANs from September 2023. Forecasts indicate that there will continue to be sufficient school places if these PAN reductions are also approved.
- 2.3.7 As required by the Department for Education (DfE), a calculation has been made for the possible additional children who could come to live in approved housing developments in this planning area and these additional children are included in the above forecast figures.

2.4 **Proposal to alter the priority admission area at Long Lee Primary School:**

- 2.4.1 The current priority area was introduced for admissions in 2009, to prioritise admission to Long Lee Primary School for those children living in Long Lee before those living in Keighley who may in some cases have been nearer by straight line distance, and can more easily access a place at other primary schools. Appendix A shows the current priority area.
- 2.4.2 Since 2009, a number of housing developments have been approved in the area. Whilst the majority of these housing developments are within the current priority area, there is one development on Long Lee Lane which is only partially within the priority area. This could mean that whilst some families living in the new development will be prioritised for a place at the school, their neighbours may not.
- 2.4.3 We are consulting on making changes to the school priority area to ensure that all dwellings within this development are within the priority area for admissions to Long Lee Primary School. Long Lee is the closest school to this development and the one that families moving here would reasonably expect to be able to send their children to. Appendix B shows the proposed amendment to the priority area.

3. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 **Consultation to reduce the PAN at Peel Park Primary School**

- 3.1.1 In line with the School Admissions Code, consultation to reduce the PAN at Peel Park Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2023 was carried out between 2 November 2021 and 14 December 2021.
- 3.1.2 The list of those consulted is shown in Appendix C. Details of the consultation were placed on the school's website, Bradford Council's website and Bradford Schools Online; parents of current pupils were notified by the school by email, text notification on the school app and given opportunity to collect paper copies (Appendix D) if required.
- 3.1.3 Eleven responses have been received, nine agree with the proposed PAN reduction at Peel Park and two disagree; see comments in Appendix E.

3.2 Consultation to reduce the PAN at Long Lee Primary School and amend the school's priority admission area

- 3.2.1 In line with the School Admissions Code, consultation to reduce the PAN at Long Lee Primary School from 60 to 45 and amend its priority admission area from 1 September 2023 was carried out between 15 November 2021 and 10 January 2022. To comply with best practice, this consultation spans more than six weeks, so as to allow for the school holidays.
- 3.2.2 The list of those consulted is shown in Appendix F. Details of the consultation were placed on the school's website, Bradford Council's website and Bradford Schools Online; parents of current pupils were notified by the school and given opportunity to collect paper copies (Appendix G) if required.
- 3.2.3 28 responses have been received; see comments in Appendix H. Some respondents only submitted their views for one of the proposals. Fifteen respondents agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN and nine disagree. Sixteen are in favour of the change to the priority area, and six disagree with the change, with one suggesting a different alteration.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 Schools receive funding through the Fair Funding Formula which allocates funding to schools based on the number of pupils attending the school.
- 4.2 Bradford Council believes that reducing the PAN at both schools will assist them to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

- 5.1 There are no significant risks with the reduction in the PAN at either school; forecasts indicate that there will still be enough schools places available within each planning area and the neighbouring planning areas.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 In accordance with paragraph 1.45 of the School Admissions Code 2021, when changes are proposed to admission arrangements that will apply for entry in September 2023, the admissions authority must consult on those arrangements. Consultation must last for a minimum of 6 weeks and must take place between 1 October and 31 January in the determination year ie the school year immediately preceding the offer year. If no changes are made to admission arrangements, they must be consulted on at least once every seven years.
- 6.2 All Admission Authorities must consult in accordance with paragraph 1.45 of the School Admissions Code where they propose to lower a school's PAN.
- 6.3 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, the Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all pupils in its area.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no sustainability implications

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The proposals would not impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no community safety implications from this report.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from this report.

7.5 TRADE UNION

Trade Unions have been informed of the proposals to reduce PAN at Peel Park Primary School and Long Lee Primary School. Details of the proposed alteration to the Priority Area at Long Lee Primary School were included but would not warrant Trade Union involvement.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Ward Councillors have been consulted about the proposed PAN reduction at Peel Park Primary School.

Ward Councillors have been consulted about the proposed PAN reduction at Long Lee Primary School and the alteration to the Priority Area

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

N/A

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

As required by the School Admissions Code, Looked After Children are given the highest priority when allocating school places. Therefore, there are no implications arising from the proposed reduction of PAN for the provision of places for Looked After Children.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

General Data Protection Regulation principles relating to individuals' data and rights under the Data Protection Act 2018 will be respected. Privacy implications arising from this proposal have been addressed by anonymising consultees' personal information together with any information which may enable them to be identified from their responses and the summary of their responses.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

Considering the results of the consultation, the Executive can decide to:

9.1 Peel Park Primary School

- a) Approve the reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Peel Park Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2023
or
- b) Retain the existing PAN of 90 at the school

Due to the forecasted number of other local vacancies, and their accessibility for all families, the scale of this reduction is the preferred option.

9.2 Long Lee Primary School

- a) Approve the reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Long Lee Primary School from 60 to 45 from 1 September 2023
or
- b) Retain the existing PAN of 60 at the school

Due to the forecasted number of vacancies in the planning area, a reduction to 30 was also considered.

However, the school regularly admits a high proportion of students who already have a sibling attending the school. This can leave limited vacancies available for “new” families for whom the school is closest to their home; as noted in the section relating to the school’s catchment area, should these families not qualify for a place at Long Lee, they may need to travel beyond their local area to attend an alternative school.

A reduction to 45 is thought to be the best balance between the need to reduce surplus places whilst still providing for local families.

9.3 Long Lee Primary School

- a) Approve the change to the Priority Admission Area, as outlined in the consultation document
or
- b) Retain the existing Priority Admission Area

Redrawing the area to remove the south west extension, thereby excluding the whole of the new development, was also considered.

As Long Lee is the closest school to this development, including all of the houses on the development is felt to be the most appropriate option.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That the Executive approve the proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Peel Park Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2023.
- 10.2 That the Executive approve the proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) at Long Lee Primary School from 60 to 45 from 1 September 2023.
- 10.3 That the Executive approve the proposal to change the priority admission area at Long Lee to include the new housing development.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Current priority admission area (catchment area) for Long Lee Primary School

Appendix B: Proposed new priority admission area for Long Lee Primary School

Appendix C: Consultation list for Peel Park Primary School

Appendix D: Consultation letter to Peel Park parents

Appendix E: Responses to Peel Park consultation

Appendix F: Consultation list for Long Lee Primary School

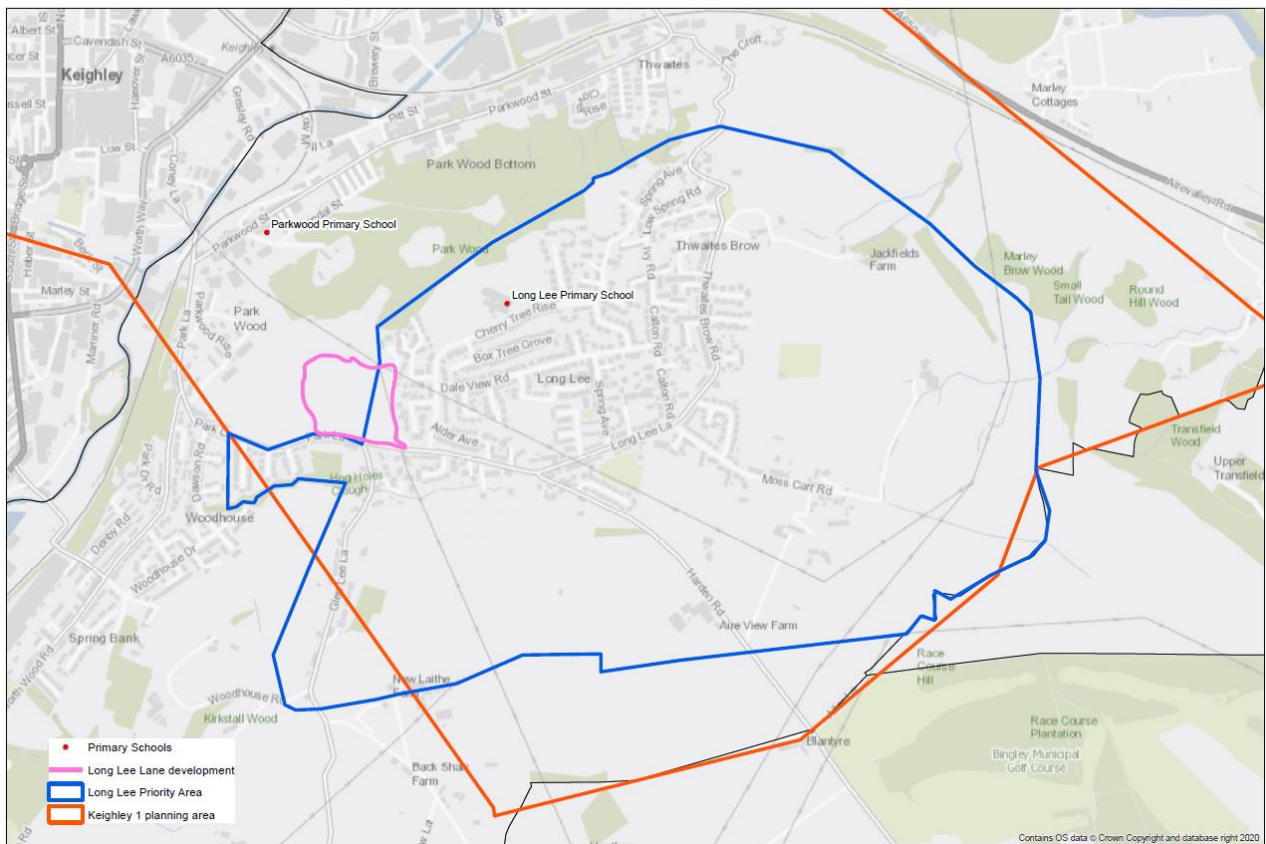
Appendix G: Consultation letter to Long Lee parents

Appendix H: Responses to Long Lee consultation

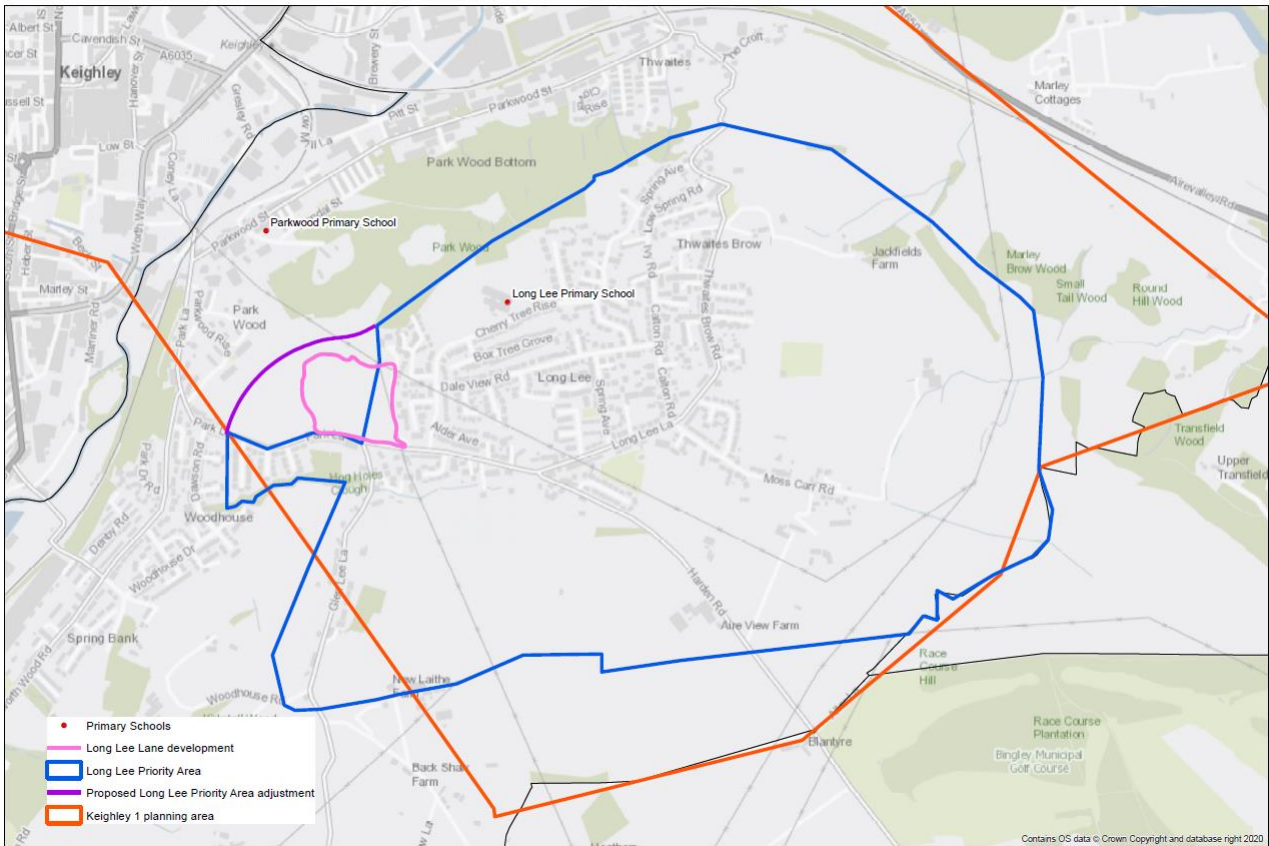
12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

School Admissions Code 2021

Long Lee Primary School Current Priority Area



Long Lee Primary School Proposed Amended Priority Area



List of Consultees – Peel Park

Director/ADs Children's Services
All Councillors
All Neighbourhood Forums
All Schools
Education and Learning (Formerly Bradford Achievement Service)
Bradford Youth Service
Catholic Diocese
CE Diocese
Children's Services Managers
Council for Mosques
Head / Chair of Governors
Media
MPs
Muslim Association
Parents/Carers
Playgroups and other Early Years providers
Private/Independent schools
School Staff
Unions
Wider public audience: Bradford Schools Online (BSO), Bradford Council Website, School Website

**Department of Children's Services****Aiming High for Children**

Intelligence and Sufficiency
7th Floor
Margaret McMillan Tower
Bradford
BD1 1NN

Tel: 01274 439207

SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk

Date:

Parents/Carers of Peel Park Primary School Pupils

Dear Parents/Carers,

Statutory consultation on the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number for Peel Park Primary School for the 2023/24 academic year**Background**

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Peel Park Primary School is 90. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in reception each year is a maximum of 90.

When planning primary school places in Bradford, the District is split into 26 primary school planning areas. Peel Park Primary School sits in the North East 3 planning area.

The population growth in Bradford from 2010 increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. Due to an increase in demand in the North East 3 planning area, Peel Park Primary School increased their PAN from 60 to 90 in September 2011. This moved through the school each year until all year groups had a PAN of 90 in 2017. The net capacity of the building is 630, made up of 90 places in each year from reception to year 6.

In addition to Peel Park, the following PAN increases were also implemented at schools in the North East 3 planning area in 2011:

Killinghall increased from 60 to 90

Westminster CE increased from 60 to 90

Barkerend then increased the PAN from 60 to 90 in 2016, which increased the overall PAN for the planning area to 780 places.

Overall across the Bradford District, there is a decrease in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in some of the primary school planning areas, including North East 3, where Peel Park Primary School is situated.

According to data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the number of live births nationally has fallen for four consecutive years, with the total number of live births in 2019 being the fewest since 2004. Official birth data has not yet been released for 2020 but provisional data shows that there were fewer births nationally in 2020 than in 2019. Given the falling number of births nationally and across the District, the Council does not anticipate that the numbers of children requiring school places in the North East 3 planning area will increase significantly in the near future.

Over recent years, there has been a significant reduction in the number of reception places required across this planning area. In response to this reduction, a number of academies have reduced the PAN to minimise the number of surplus reception places: Barkerend and Thornbury reduced their PANs from 90 to 60 in 2021, and Westminster CE will reduce the PAN from 90 to 60 in 2022. The current total PAN across North East 3 is 720 places and will reduce to 690 in 2022 when the PAN reduction at Westminster CE Primary School takes effect.

The number of reception pupils at Peel Park as recorded on the January Census has not reached 90 pupils in any year since the PAN was increased, and 66 reception children were placed on roll in September 2021. Across the North East 3 planning area, there were 720 reception places available with the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day being 552. This has since increased to 612 on roll in September 2021 and is still considerably below the number of available places.

The proposed PAN reduction will provide 660 places in the planning area. Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of reception places required in reception for the next four intake years across North East 3 are:

2022/23:	634
2023/24:	636
2024/25:	624
2025/26:	624

Forecast information has been used to model the school's budget over the next five years. This process showed that if the PAN remains at 90 the school will face financial difficulty. The proposed PAN reduction will help to ensure the school returns to a financially stable position.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. Bradford Council, as the Admission Authority, is therefore seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Peel Park Primary School in the North East 3 planning area.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), the Council is consulting with key stakeholders, including;

- Peel Park Primary School – Head/Governing Board/Staff
- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- All other Admission Authorities within the District
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

A copy has been sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and the proposal will be published on Peel Park Primary School's website.

This consultation will run for six weeks from Tuesday 2nd November 2021 to Tuesday 14th December 2021, after which time any representations received will be considered and a report taken to the Council's Executive Committee for a decision to be made on the PAN for Peel Park Primary School.

Specific Proposal

Bradford Council proposes to reduce the PAN at Peel Park Primary School from 90 to 60 from 1 September 2023.

This means that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2023, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be 60. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

Factors that have been considered by the Council when deciding to consult on this proposal include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the Council is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
- The school is located in North East 3 planning area where there continues to be a falling demand for primary school places, resulting in a significant surplus across the area.
- The total number of pupils from reception to Year 6 recorded by the school on the May 2021 census was 585, which is below the current capacity of 630.
- Due to the lower numbers of younger children registered with the NHS who will require a school place in the coming years, the Council expects that there will be sufficient school places available for local children if the PAN is reduced. If agreed, the overall PAN for the North East 3 planning area will be 660 from 2023.
- Peel Park Primary School and the Council will look creatively at solutions in the future which may help to solve any problems resulting in a shortage of school places in the North East 3 planning area – eg a bulge intake.

Peel Park Primary School Governors and Bradford Council believe that reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll. The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts.

Any representations should be made on the Bradford Council [consultation website](#) under current consultations. Alternatively, you can complete the attached response form which can be emailed to SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk quoting Peel Park PAN reduction.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Marshall-Swales
Senior Provision and Places Officer
Intelligence & Sufficiency Service

Response form

Please complete details and return to: SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk or:

Claire Marshall-Swales, Senior Provision and Places Officer, Intelligence & Sufficiency Service, 7th Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford BD1 1NN by 14th December 2021

Consultation on the reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Peel Park Primary School

Name (optional)

Full postcode of your home address *eg BD1 1NN*

Please indicate in which capacity you are responding to this consultation:

- Parent/carer
- Member of school staff
- School Governor at Peel Park Primary School
- School Governor at another school
- Local Councillor
- Member of the Local Community
- Parent of a younger child, not yet attending a primary school
- Other (please give details below):

Please indicate your response to this consultation below

- I agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN at Peel Park primary school from 90 to 60
- I disagree with the proposal and think the PAN should remain at 90

Please use this space to give reasons for your response

Summary and all responses to consultation on reducing PAN at Peel Park Primary School

Group	Agree	Disagree	Other	Total
Parent / Carer	1			1
Staff member	6	2		8
Peel Park Primary School Governor				
Other School Governor				
Local Councillor				
Member of Local Community	1			1
Parent of younger child				
Other/Unknown	1			1
Total	9	2		11

Not all respondents left comments; five comments were in favour and two against.

Comments agreeing with the proposal to reduce the PAN:

I believe Peel Park to be a good school however the increase in numbers over the years has created many dangerous situations with cars and young children at the bottom gate which residents were originally led to believe was a pedestrian gate only. I myself often cannot get my car out as Parents use the unadopted road at the back of my house to park. If cutting the numbers of children saves the school money to spend elsewhere that must be a good thing.

It is a sensible proposal given the reducing pupil numbers.

To stabilise the school budget and ensure school is full at all times. This would then reduce our mobility rates therefore increasing the attainment of the children as they are in school all of the time.

If it means our children's getting better education, then I am happy for the reduction to take place.

The main reason is to allow the school to become financially stable.

Comments disagreeing with the proposal to reduce the PAN:

The reason I think the PAN should stay 90 is predominantly due to job security for staff. Moreover, we have children arriving later on in KS2 for example. I strongly think our school should have smaller classes sizes but remain three form due to the varying needs of children.

School population increases throughout the year with new children arriving all the time. School has more than sufficient space to cater for 90 children per year group.

Council response to the comments:

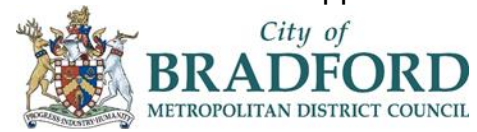
The proposal to reduce the PAN from 90 to 60 is based on a reduction in numbers of younger children and forecasts indicate that 90 places are not required at Peel Park

Primary School. If the school retains a PAN of 90 and continues to admit significantly fewer pupils, the school will not be able to operate from a financially stable position. The proposed PAN reduction would provide long-term job security for staff and ensure the school is in the best position to support the needs of all pupils.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient in-year places at local schools should Peel Park fill to the new PAN of 60.

List of Consultees – Long Lee

Director/ADs Children's Services
All Councillors
All Neighbourhood Forums
All Schools
Education and Learning (Formerly Bradford Achievement Service)
Bradford Youth Service
Catholic Diocese
CE Diocese
Children's Services Managers
Council for Mosques
Head / Chair of Governors
Media
MPs
Muslim Association
Parents/Carers
Parish Council
Playgroups and other Early Years providers
Private/Independent schools
School Staff
Unions
Wider public audience: Bradford Schools Online (BSO), Bradford Council Website, School Website



Department of Children's Services

Aiming High for Children

Intelligence and Sufficiency
7th Floor
Margaret McMillan Tower
Bradford
BD1 1NN

Tel: 01274 439207

SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk

Date:

Parents/Carers of Long Lee Primary School Pupils

Dear Parents/Carers,

Statutory consultation on the proposed reduction in Published Admission Number and amendment to the admissions priority area for Long Lee Primary School for the 2023/24 academic year

Bradford Council proposes to reduce the PAN at Long Lee Primary School from 60 to 45 and amend the admissions priority area from 1 September 2023.

Proposal: Reduce the Published Admission Number at Long Lee Primary School

The current Published Admission Number (PAN) at Long Lee Primary School is 60. This means that the number of children admitted to the school in reception each year is a maximum of 60. This proposal would mean that the maximum number of pupils intended to be admitted in Reception in 2023, and all subsequent Reception cohorts, will be 45. For children who already have a place at the school in other year groups there will be no change.

When planning primary school places, The Bradford District is split into 26 primary school planning areas. Long Lee Primary School sits in the Keighley 1 planning area.

The population growth across the District from 2010 increased pressure on primary school places, resulting in a large-scale expansion programme to meet the growth in demand. Due to an increase in demand in the Keighley 1 planning area, Long Lee Primary School permanently increased their PAN from 30 to 60 in September 2011. This moved through the school each year until all year groups had a PAN of 60 in 2017. The net capacity of the building is 420, made up of 60 places in each year from reception to year 6.

Victoria Primary School also increased the PAN from 30 to 45 in 2014 to meet the demand for places.

Overall across the Bradford District, there has been a decrease in the number of younger children registered with the NHS. This has led to a high level of surplus places in some of

the primary school planning areas, including Keighley 1, where Long Lee Primary School is situated.

According to data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS), the number of live births nationally has fallen for five consecutive years, with the total number of live births in 2020 being the fewest since 2002. Given the falling number of births nationally and across the District, the Council does not anticipate that the numbers of children requiring school places in the Keighley 1 planning area will increase significantly in the near future.

Across the Keighley 1 planning area, there are 375 reception places available with the total number of places allocated on National Offer Day being 283, 43 of these at Long Lee Primary School. This increased to 301 on roll in September 2021 and is still considerably below the number of available places.

Current published forecasts indicate that the numbers of reception places required in reception for the next four intake years across Keighley 1 are:

2022/23:	305
2023/24:	323
2024/25:	293
2025/26:	293

Reception allocations since 2018 show that on average, 52% of all pupils allocated a place in reception have an older sibling attending the school. 96% of all pupils attending the school nursery were allocated a place in reception; 52% of these had a sibling at the school.

Three possible PAN reduction options have been modelled using this forecast information with the following implications:

- a) Do nothing and keep the PAN at 60 – The reception class is not forecast to fill to 60, meaning the school will not receive the maximum funding to enable two classes per year group. There would however be an expectation that the school can take up to 60 pupils throughout the whole intake year which may result in a high number of in-year allocations. This could potentially require changes to class organisation during the school year.
- b) Reduce the PAN to 45 – There will be sufficient places to meet the forecasted demand for places. The school will plan the curriculum for mixed age groups with the understanding that classes should remain stable and not need to be reorganised during the school year. Funding received for the number of pupils on roll should be sufficient for the level of staffing required for mixed age groups.
- c) Reduce the PAN to 30 – The reception class is forecast to have significantly more than 30 allocations in all forecast years (up to 2025) Reducing the PAN to 30 would remove too many places from the area, meaning that children living in Long Lee may need to pass the school and travel further to access another primary school with an available place. Given the historically high percentage of siblings gaining entry to Long Lee Primary School, reducing the PAN to 30 would limit the number of children able to gain a place at Long Lee Primary School without an older sibling. Whilst it is important for the school to maintain strong connections with existing families, it is also important for the school to make links with new families living in the local area.

The School Admissions Code requires that all admission authorities consult where they propose to reduce a PAN. Bradford Council, as the Admission Authority, is therefore seeking representations on the proposed change to the PAN for Long Lee Primary School in the Keighley 1 planning area.

Proposal: Amend the admissions priority area for Long Lee Primary School

The current priority area was introduced for admissions in 2009, to prioritise admission to Long Lee Primary School for those children living in Long Lee before those living in Keighley who may in some cases have been nearer by straight line distance, and can more easily access a place at other primary schools. Appendix 1 shows the current priority area.

Since that time, a number of housing developments have been approved in the area. Whilst the majority of these housing developments are within the current priority area, there is one development on Long Lee Lane which is only partially within the priority area. This could mean that whilst some families living in the new development will be prioritised for a place at the school, their neighbours may not.

We are consulting on making changes to the school priority area to ensure that all dwellings within this development are within the priority area for admissions to Long Lee Primary School. Appendix 2 shows the proposed amendment to the priority area.

In accordance with the School Admissions Code (2021), the Council is consulting with key stakeholders, including;

- Long Lee Primary School – Head/Governing Board/Staff
- Parents/carers of current pupils and prospective parents of pupils
- All other Admission Authorities within the District
- Neighbouring Local Authorities
- Councillors and MPs
- Trade Unions
- Anyone else who has an interest in the proposed changes

A copy has been sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and the proposal will be published on Long Lee Primary School's website.

This consultation will run for six weeks from 15 November 2021 to Monday 10 January 2022, after which time any representations received will be considered and a report taken to the Council's Executive Committee for a decision to be made on the PAN for Long Lee Primary School.

Factors that have been considered by the Council when deciding to consult on these proposals include:

- A large portion of funding received by schools is directly related to the number of pupils attending the school. Too many vacancies mean that schools will not receive the maximum possible revenue. Therefore, the Council is proposing to reduce the number of available places to enable the school to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.
-

- The school is located in Keighley 1 planning area where there continues to be a falling demand for primary school places, resulting in a significant surplus across the area.
- The total number of pupils from reception to Year 6 recorded by the school on the May 2021 census was 388, which is below the current capacity of 420.
- Due to the lower numbers of younger children registered with the NHS who will require a school place in the coming years, the Council expects that there will be sufficient school places available for local children if the PAN is reduced. If agreed, the overall PAN for the Keighley 1 planning area will be 360 from 2023.
- Long Lee Primary School and the Council will look creatively at solutions in the future which may help to solve any problems resulting in a shortage of school places in the Keighley 1 planning area – eg a bulge intake.
- A number of new housing developments have been approved in the Long Lee area. One development in particular is partially within the current priority area meaning that only some families living in the new development may be prioritised for a place at Long Lee Primary School.

Long Lee Primary School Governors and Bradford Council believe that reducing the PAN will assist the school to provide stability in their long-term planning and allow them to deliver high quality educational outcomes for the pupils currently on roll. The reduction in PAN will ensure that an appropriate number of places are provided for future pupils, in line with forecasts. We also believe that all Long Lee residents will be given the same priority for Long Lee Primary School by amending the priority area to include the entire housing development on Long Lee Lane.

Any representations should be made on the Bradford Council [consultation website](#) under current consultations. Alternatively, if you would prefer a paper copy of the response form, please email SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk quoting Long Lee PAN reduction and Priority Area consultation to request a copy. Completed paper response forms can be returned to the address on the form or handed in to the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Claire Marshall-Swales
Senior Provision and Places Officer
Intelligence & Sufficiency Service

Long Lee Primary School PAN Reduction Consultation Response form

Please complete and return to: **Long Lee Primary School Office, Cherry Tree Rise, Keighley, BD21 4RU**

or: **Claire Marshall-Swales, Senior Provision and Places Officer, Intelligence & Sufficiency Service, 7th Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford BD1 1NN**

Or email SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk **by 10 January 2022**

Consultation on the reduction of the Published Admission Number (PAN) of Long Lee Primary School

Name (optional)

Full postcode of your home address *eg BD1 1NN*

Please indicate in which capacity you are responding to this consultation:

- Parent/carer
- Member of school staff
- School Governor at Long Lee Primary School
- School Governor at another school
- Local Councillor
- Member of the Local Community
- Parent of a younger child, not yet attending a primary school
- Other (please give details below):

Please indicate your response to this consultation below

- I agree with the proposal to reduce the PAN at Long Lee primary school from 60 to 45
- I disagree with the proposal and think the PAN should remain at 60

Please use this space to give reasons for your response

Please complete and return to: **Long Lee Primary School Office, Cherry Tree Rise, Keighley, BD21 4RU**

or: **Claire Marshall-Swales, Senior Provision and Places Officer, Intelligence & Sufficiency Service, 7th Floor, Margaret McMillan Tower, Princes Way, Bradford BD1 1NN**

Or email SufficiencyConsultation@bradford.gov.uk **by 10 January 2022**

Consultation on amending the admissions priority area for Long Lee Primary School

Name (optional)

Full postcode of your home address *eg BD1 1NN*

Please indicate in which capacity you are responding to this consultation:

Parent/carer

Member of school staff

School Governor at Long Lee Primary School

School Governor at another school

Local Councillor

Member of the Local Community

Parent of a younger child, not yet attending a primary school

Other (please give details below):

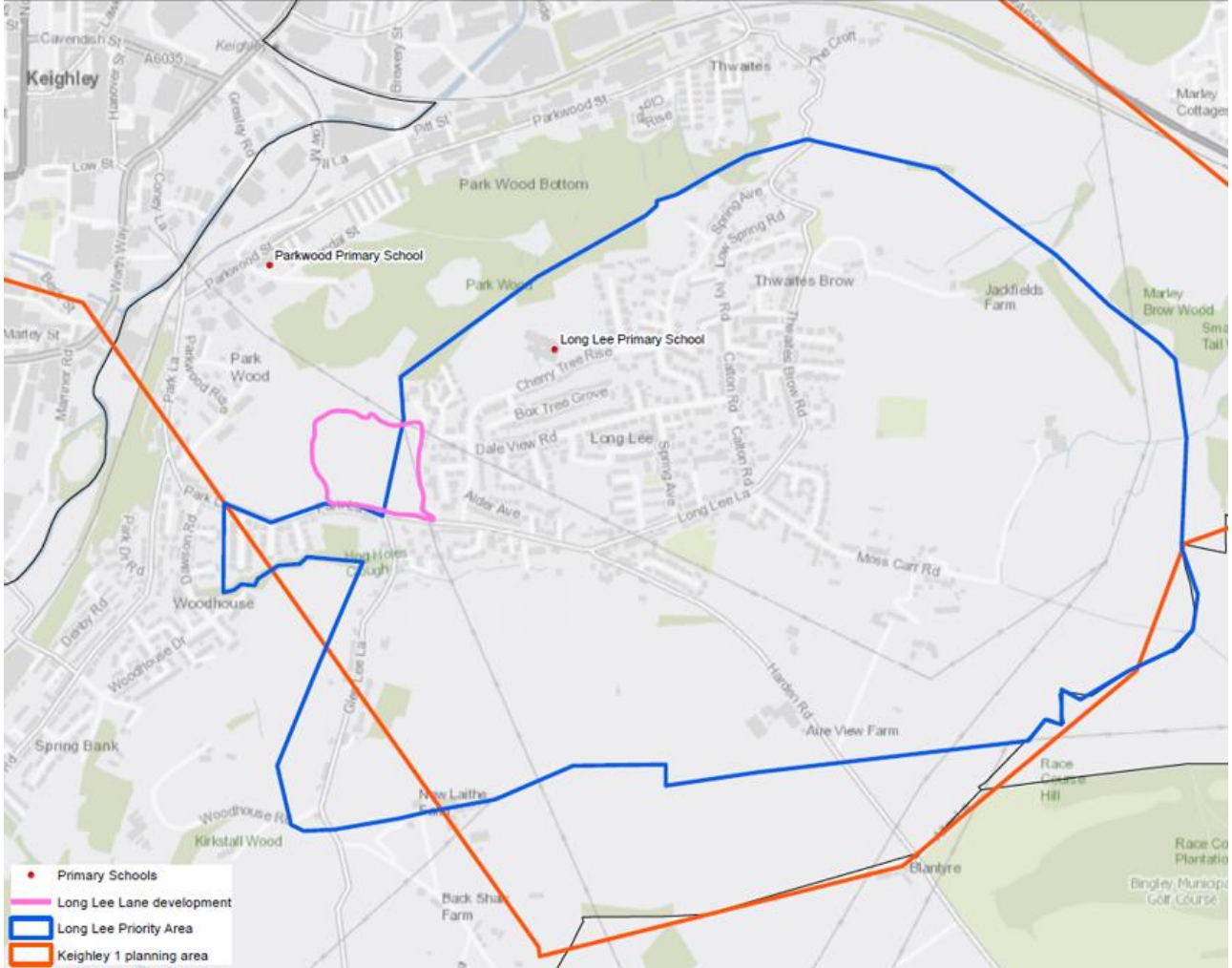
Please indicate your response to this consultation below

I agree with the proposal to change the priority area at Long Lee primary school

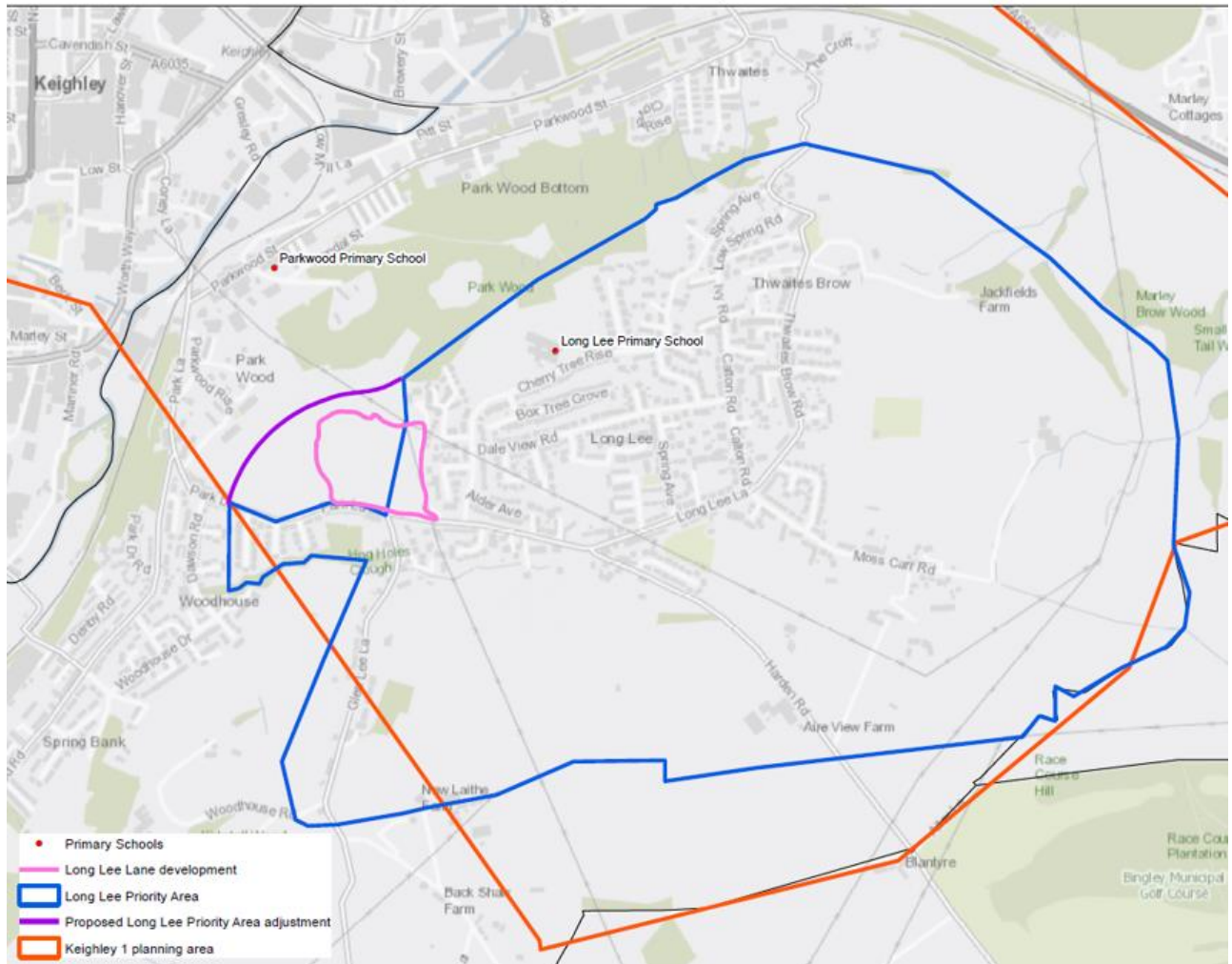
I disagree with the proposal and think the priority area should remain as it is

Please use this space to give reasons for your response

Long Lee Primary School Current Priority Area



Long Lee Primary School Proposed Amended Priority Area



Summary and all responses to consultation on reducing PAN at Long Lee Primary School and amend the priority admission area

Group	Total	PAN Reduction			Priority Area		
		Agree	Disagree	Nil	Agree	Disagree	Nil
Parent / Carer	20	10	6	4	10	5	5
Staff member	6	5	1	0	5	0	1
Long Lee School Governor							
Other School Governor							
Local Councillor							
Member of Local Community	2	0	2	0	1	1	0
Parent of younger child							
Other/Unknown							
Total	28	15	9	4	16	6	0

Not all respondents answered both questions (nil responses recorded).

Not all respondents left comments in response to the proposed PAN reduction; nine comments were in favour and eight against.

Comments agreeing with the proposal to reduce the PAN:

It will help children to learn better in smaller number and teacher will Also be able to interact with children better.

I actually preferred the school atmosphere and environment when we were a one form entry school, so reducing the size of entry is preferable.

Pointless having empty spaces- waste of money. If need to increase in future you can. Lesser children in class means more attention & one to one time.

Reducing the PAN will assist the school in long-term planning and allow them to deliver quality education for pupils in the community.

Classes have not been full for the last 3 years.

I feel like it would may it easier for the teachers with a smaller class aswell as less overcrowding. The students would also find it less overwhelming and it would give better opportunities in many aspects (emotional/educational needs)

I don't mind either way since all my children are already in the school now.

I think smaller size classes are better for the children and their learning. However as a parent with a child who will be attending reception in 2023 I am concerned she won't be a space even though she will have a sibling there.

I agree and disagree with the intake changing because it's good changing from a 60 intake school to a 45 intake school as it will be better for the school and cause a lot less traffic outside the school area but I then disagree with this as it is going to put members of staff

out of a job and people with temporary contacts are going to be the ones that go first and this is a worry as there is not a lot of jobs around at the moment with the global pandemic and this could mean many people are out of work but still how houses to pay and families to support

Comments disagreeing with the proposal to reduce the PAN:

It makes no sense to decrease numbers but to increase the size of the priority area. Particularly considering the new development off Redwood will be within the existing priority area and will place more pressure on school numbers

I was amazed to discover that Long Lee Primary School has a priority area in view of the number of cars attracted to the immediate neighbourhood of the school. Because so few people walk their children I assumed that pupils were drawn from a much wider area than Long Lee/Thwaites Brow. In view of the large number of houses currently being built it must be assumed that there will be more demand for places. As the school was built as a middle school is has a large playing field. The lower field does not appear to be used. I suggest that in order to relieve the nuisance parking, particularly from 2.30pm onwards, which causes problems for residents Bradford council funds off road parking for parents on the upper field. This could be provided at reasonable cost by using metal grating such as that used on caravan parks. This would allow the grass to grow through while preventing vehicles from sinking.

This school is more than capable to f catering for 60 + children. The head teacher caters for her staff not the YP

I don't like the idea of mixed year groups of numbers reduce to 45. Also there are 2 brand new housing estates being build which surely is going to be full of children tht is going to increase school numbers. We live out of catchment now but didn't when our 1st child came we were really lucky to get out 5years old in. If numbers get reduced I've very slim chance of getting my youngest in

Mixed cohort classes are not good for any child. Parents do not like their child being in a mixed cohort class, they think their child has been labelled as low ability or in a remedial class. It creates numbers problems with afterschool clubs and school trips, having 90 children instead of 60. It is also difficult in the office with mixed cohorts for reports generated in SIMS.

I have a toddler who will be due to start reception in 2023 and I am worried it will affect her place!

The school is big enough for 60 yp there no need for change

With the new houses being built currently and in the future, there may be more children applying, which may then result in long term locals missing a place.

Council response: All local developments have been factored into the forecasts for future pupil numbers. All forecasts show that the surplus places in the planning area are likely to continue to increase and the proposed PAN reduction is unlikely to create pressure on school places.

Additionally, mixed cohort / vertically grouped classes can be more flexible to adapt to the needs of individual children, especially in relation to social development. Research suggests that other factors are more relevant to academic achievement; mixed primary classes have not been shown to have a strong impact on attainment (either positively or negatively).

Not all respondents left comments in response to the proposed change to the priority area; seven comments were in favour and five against.

Comments agreeing with the proposal to amend the priority area:

It seems sensible to include the entire area of the new Saddlers Way development within the school's so-called priority area. I would like to see the school earmarked particularly for local children who could then be walked to Cherry Tree Rise. Fewer vehicle movements should help lower pollution and reduce the carbon footprint. Large numbers of parents' parked cars remain with engines running for long periods at school leaving time. This is bad for the children's health and for residents.

*Make the area bigger if the school doesn't have enough children
It's a 'no brainer' having the entire new development in the same priority area.*

It makes sense to include the new housing development.

Hopefully give the school better stability and better education, think it's better with less children in the classes definitely better for children and gives the teacher more 1-1 with the child.

The housing estate is in longlee its the closest school for that estate so I agree it should all be included

I agree with this as it gives long lee school more of a chance to become full

Comments disagreeing with the proposal to amend the priority area:

The priority area for the school should be Long Lee, so would make more sense to remove the dog leg into Woodhouse from the priority area. The new development is not actually in Long Lee, the proposal would allow any more housing in that area to be drawn in to the priority area. Other new housing in already within priority area. Maybe the developers should not be advertising/implying the development as being within catchment for school before any changes agreed.

This school is more than capable to f catering for 60 + children. The head teacher caters for her staff not the YP The school has plenty of unused grounds etc

Longlee is one the best schools of our town in my opinion and to restrict area is not fair to children from outside the longlee area.

The school is big enough for 60 yp there no need for change. More houses being built in the area

This depends on whether the PAN reduction goes ahead, if the PAN reduction is reduced, and the local admissions area is increased would this not mean that even more local children would be turned down?

Council response: The suggested alternative was considered prior to consultation. However, given the development's proximity to the school, it is felt that including all of it in the priority area is more appropriate than excluding all of it.

Additionally, as previously stated, all local developments have been taken into account for the forecasts. Amending the priority area is simply intended to provide parity for the estate that straddles the current boundary.