
Decision Maker: **Children and Young People Portfolio Holder**

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 21 February 2012**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

TITLE: REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS' DEVELOPMENT PLAN: OUTCOMES

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Chief Officer: Gillian Pearson, Director of Children and Young People Services

Ward: Boroughwide

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report provides details of the outcomes and recommendations of the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Member/Officer Working Party which oversees the review and strategic planning of primary school places and related school organisation.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Members of the CYP PDS consider and comment on the outcomes from the 2011-12 review of the Primary Schools' Development Plan.**
- 2.2 **It is recommended that the CYP Portfolio Holder endorses these recommendations taking into account the views of the PDS Committee and authorises the Director CYP to undertake consultation with schools and other key agencies on the proposed temporary and permanent expansion of places and to implement the proposals where feasible as set out below:**
- 2.3 **Planning Area 1 - Wards: Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator, Clock House**
- **The Published Admission Number for Churchfields Primary School be increased 30 to 60 places.**
 - **Malcolm Primary School increases its intake from 30 to 60 places for a further year.**
 - **St Anthony's Primary School be approached with a view to accommodating a temporary additional form of entry at reception.**
 - **Officers approach other schools in this planning area to consider the feasibility of admitting an additional form of entry, i.e. an additional 30 places in 2012 or 2013.**

- 2.4 **Planning Area 2 - Wards: Copers Cope, Kelsey and Eden Park**
- That the Local Authority pursues discussions with the Governors of Bromley Road Infant and Worsley Bridge Junior Schools regarding the future organisation of the two schools.
- 2.5 **Planning Area 3 - Wards: Shortlands, West Wickham, Hayes and Coney Hall**
- Officers approach other schools in this planning area to consider the feasibility of admitting an additional form of entry, i.e. an additional 30 places in 2012 or 2013.
- 2.6 **Planning Area 4 - Wards: Bromley Town, Plaistow and Sundridge, Bickley**
- Valley Primary School increases its intake from 60 to 90 places for a further year.
 - The Published Admission Number for Parish Primary School be increased from 60 to 90.
 - The Local Authority continue to discuss the feasibility of consolidating St George's CE Primary school to whole forms of entry.
- 2.7 **Planning Area 5 - Wards: Bromley Common and Keston, Petts Wood and Knoll, Farnborough and Crofton**
- Southborough Primary School and Keston Primary Schools to be approached with a view to accommodating an extra form of entry, i.e. an additional 30 places on a temporary basis.
- 2.8 **Planning Area 6 - Wards: Chislehurst, Mottingham, Chislehurst North**
- The Local Authority continues to pursue discussions with the Governors and Diocese of Rochester regarding relocation and expansion of Chislehurst Church of England School.
 - Edgebury Primary School to be approached with a view to accommodating an extra form of entry, i.e. an additional 30 places on a temporary basis for September 2013.
- 2.9 **Planning Area 7 - Wards: Cray Valley West and Cray Valley East**
- Midfield and Leasons Primary School be approached with a view to one of the schools accommodating an extra form of entry, i.e. an additional 30 places on a temporary or permanent basis, dependent on local demand.
- 2.10 **Planning Area 8 - Wards: Orpington, Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom**
- No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area
- 2.11 **Planning Area 9 - Wards: Biggin Hill and Darwin**
- No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing policy: Primary Schools' Development Plan
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not known at this stage
 2. Ongoing costs:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Schools' delegated budget
 4. Total current budget for this head: £219 million
 5. Source of funding: Dedicated schools' grant
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional) – N/A
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours – N/A
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory requirement: The Education and Inspections Act 2006, The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007. The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009.
 2. Call in: Call-in is applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) -
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Ward Councillors' views will be sought as part of consultation on any proposals for change to school organisation.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The strategic planning of primary school places and school organisation in the Borough is driven through the Primary Schools' Development Plan.
- 3.2 A comprehensive review of the Primary Schools' Development Plan (PSDP) was undertaken during the period 2004-2006 and following updates to the plan in 2008 a further full review was undertaken in summer 2009 with the outcomes reported to the CYP PDS in October 2009. A further review was completed in autumn 2010 to address the significant increase in demand for primary school places; outcomes from this review were reported to the CYP PDS in January 2011.
- 3.3 The reviews in 2009 and 2010 led to a permanent increase of 75 places (30 places at Bickley and Unicorn Primary Schools and 15 places at Princes Plain Primary School) and a temporary increase of an additional 150 places (30 temporary places at Churchfields, Malcolm, Royston, Valley and Parish Primary Schools).
- 3.4 The current published admissions limit capacity in the Borough is 3575. For the 2011-12 Reception intake with the five schools named above that accepted an additional form of entry (30 pupils) above the school's published admission number, there was a total of 3725 reception places.
- 3.5 The number of reception pupils in Bromley schools has risen from 3165 in January 2007 to 3435 in January 2011 and 3626 pupils have accepted a reception place for admission in 2011-12. The numbers are projected to remain at between 3620 and 3700 until at least 2020.
- 3.6 The Member Officer Working Party met on 5 January 2012 and reviewed updated pupil population projections which indicate a continuing demand for reception class places at current levels for the foreseeable future. The birth-rate has continued to rise from 3400 in 2002 to 4100 in 2010 with a projected pupil roll at primary reception age of between 3600 and 3700 for the remainder of the decade. The working group concluded that there was likely to be a need for additional forms of entry across the Borough and, taking account of projections for each planning area and other local circumstances, is recommending that the additional capacity required is achieved by both temporary and permanent increases in admissions at a number of schools.
- 3.7 Specific principles of planning for primary school provision were agreed by the Council's former Education Committee in January 1998 and these have remained as the underlying principles in all subsequent reviews of primary school provision. The assumptions are to:
- accommodate children in schools in the locality in which they live;
 - maximise strategic locations;
 - expand existing provision wherever possible;
 - consolidate at whole-forms of entry where possible;
 - encompass all maintained schools.
- 3.8 There is also a commitment to investigate the potential for amalgamation of infant and junior schools whenever the opportunity arises. Decisions on amalgamation are taken following detailed analysis of all factors, consideration of the potential benefits and disadvantages and extensive consultation.

- 3.9 A key responsibility of the LA, allied to the provision of sufficient school places to children of statutory schools age, is the delivery of high quality and efficient education. The Primary Schools' Development Plan focuses on the Council's statutory duty to ensure sufficient pupil places, however, the quality of education provided through those places is an associated major consideration.
- 3.10 There are a number of key variables which impact on the review and planning of primary school places and related school organisation. These factors are set out in **Appendix A**.
- 3.11 Bromley LA's Primary School Development Plan has been updated to reflect the outcomes of the Working Party meeting in January 2012 and is attached as **Appendix B**.
- 3.12 The data considered by the Working Party is available in the Members' Room and on the Bromley website:
http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/1160/primary_school_development_plan

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Bromley Council has an established policy for the review and strategic planning of school places and related school organisation. The need to ensure sufficient school places and efficiency of organisation is a priority within the Council's Strategy 'Building a Better Bromley' and contributes to the strategy to achieve the status of an Excellent Council.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Should these recommendations lead to changes in pupil numbers within an individual school, this would be reflected in the school's delegated budget share funded from the Dedicated Schools' Grant. Consultation with the Schools' Forum would take place before any changes to school funding were implemented.
- 5.2 The capital implications for those schools being approached for temporary and permanent expansion of places cannot be quantified at this stage. Further reports on any capital implications will be submitted to Members as appropriate.
- 5.3 Bromley has received a Basic Need allocation of capital funding of £4,497k in 2011/12, together with an additional £1,278k of funding in 2011/12 announced in November 2011. The Basic Need allocation for 2012/13 reduces to £2,405k.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Any proposed permanent expansion of a school is subject to a formal statutory process. Proposed changes that are of a temporary nature do not constitute a school reorganisation that triggers the statutory process for consultation. However if at a later stage any temporary changes were to become permanent then the designated process would need to be complied with.
- 6.2 In considering the establishment of a new school provision, expanding existing provision or changing the nature of maintained schools the LA is required to publish Public Notices and undertake formal consultation. This consultation must include parents, teachers, professional associations, neighbouring LAs and other interested agencies. Outcomes from consultation are considered for a formal decision by the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder and the Executive of the Council.
- 6.3 In the case of a new school, or if objections are raised for other statutory proposals, the final decision is referred to the Office of the Schools' Adjudicator.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no immediate implications for staffing arising from this report. Should proposals for changes to school size and organisation be progressed, the schools identified will require support on an individual basis and this will vary due to their then staffing structure. Implications may include the salary arrangements for the Head Teacher as the Individual School Range may be affected, and an increase to the number of teaching and non teaching FTE required to facilitate the curriculum and support the infrastructure. Where additional staffing appointments are required it is recommended that such appointments be made on a temporary fixed term basis initially subject to review.
- 7.2 Any proposed changes to relocate a school would require extensive consultation with key stakeholders including staff and Trade Union Representatives and would be the subject of a separate report.

Non-Applicable Sections:	N/A
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bromley LEA Primary Schools' Development Plan: Review 2001 – Report to Education Committee 21 May 2001. 2. Bromley 'Schools Organisation Plan' 1999-2003. 3. Primary Schools' Development Plan: Review Outcomes – Report to CYP PDS Committee and Portfolio Holder of 13 September and 5 December 2005. 4. Primary School Development Plan: 2006 Review Outcomes – Report to CYP PDS Committee and Portfolio Holder of 12 September 2006 and 19 September 2006. 5. Primary School Development Plan: 2006 Review Outcomes for Planning Areas 7 and 8 – Report to CYP PDS Committee and Portfolio Holder of 7 November 2006 and 14 November 2006. 6. Strategic Planning of Secondary and Primary Provision: Outcomes from Working Party - Report to CYP PDS 18 March 2008 and PH 25 March 2008. 7. Review of Primary School Development Plan: outcomes – Report to CYP PDS 14 October 2009. 8. Review of Primary Schools' Development Plan Outcomes –Report to CYP PDS 24 January 2011.

**KEY VARIABLES WHICH IMPACT ON THE PLANNING OF
PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN BROMLEY AS
ADOPTED BY THE WORKING PARTY**

- (i) Impact from the implementation of previous PSDP strategy.
- (ii) Pupil projections based on the new Census data.
- (iii) School published admissions numbers, actual rolls and net capacity assessment.
- (iv) Parental perceptions of schools – and the impact on take-up of places.
- (v) Housing developments – data by ward of all planning applications and approvals for new dwelling stock and an assessment of ‘child yield’.
- (vi) Key Stage 1 Class Size legislation – which limits class sizes to a maximum of 30 pupils.
- (vii) Special Educational Needs – the pattern of inclusion within mainstream provision of pupils with Statements of Special Educational Need and the reconfiguration of Special Schools and units within mainstream schools.
- (viii) Denominational trends – the LA and Diocesan authorities are required to keep under review the range of provision and the balance with non-denominational places.
- (ix) Neighbouring LAs’ School Organisation Places – the impact on Bromley of proposals to increase or decrease school places.
- (x) Children Out of School – data regarding those children not on a school roll, ie:
 - children moving into the Borough and seeking to secure a place outside the usual admissions cycle
 - children excluded from school
 - children educated by parents at home (Education Otherwise).



Review of Bromley LA's Primary Schools Development Plan

**Report from the Joint Member/Officer Working Party
established by the Children and Young People
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee**

January 2012

REVIEW OF BROMLEY PRIMARY SCHOOLS' DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2010

**Review Co-ordinated through a
Joint Member/Officer Working Party established by the
Children and Young People Policy Development Scrutiny Committee**

Membership

Councillor Stephen Wells (Chairman)

Councillor Brian Humphrys

Councillor Judi Ellis

Councillor Ian Payne

Councillor Tom Papworth

Bob Garnett, Interim Assistant Director, Education

Mike Barnes, Head of Access and Admissions

Max Winters, Principal Research and Statistics Officer

Kerry Nicholls, Democratic Services Officer

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The strategic planning of primary school places and school organisation in the Borough is driven through the Primary Schools' Development Plan. The last formal published review was undertaken in October 2010.
- 1.2 The LA had been required to submit to the DfES a School Organisation Plan covering a five-year period. This requirement was superseded by the Children and Young People's Plan. Within that Plan there needed to be a strategic overview of all aspects of planning provision, which include:
- Early Years and Childcare
 - Primary
 - Secondary (11-16)
 - Post-16
 - Special Educational Needs (SEN)
 - Asset Management
 - Wider Community Issues
- 1.3 Specific planning assumptions for primary school provision were agreed by Education Committee in January 1998 and these have remained as the underlying principles in all subsequent reviews of primary school provision. The assumptions are to:
- accommodate children in schools in the locality in which they live
 - maximise strategic locations
 - expand existing provision wherever possible
 - consolidate at whole-forms of entry where possible
 - encompass all maintained schools
- 1.4 There is also a commitment to investigate the potential for amalgamation of infant and junior schools whenever the opportunity arises. Decisions on amalgamation are taken following detailed analysis of all factors, consideration of the potential benefits and disadvantages and extensive consultation.
- 1.5 A key responsibility of the LA, allied to the provision of sufficient school places to children of statutory schools age, is the delivery of high quality and efficient education. The Primary Schools' Development Plan focuses on the supply of places, but the quality of education provided by those places is a major consideration.

1.6 The development programme under previous cycles of the PSDP has been as follows:

1992 - 1997 Expansion of 20 primary schools to create an additional 1140 places

Autumn 1997 Full review of PSDP and report to Education Committee on proposals for next cycle

1997 - 2003 Education Committee and the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder approved reorganisation programme:

- St Mary's RC Primary (Foundation) 1 to 2 FE wef 1997
- Bickley Primary established as 1 FE wef 1998
- Hayes Primary (Foundation) 2 to 3 FE wef Sep 1999
- Stewart Fleming 1.5 to 2 FE wef Sep 1999
- Warren Road 3 to 4 FE wef Sep 1999
- Amalgamation Ramsden I & J to establish Hillside Primary 1.5 FE wef Jan 1999
- St Anthony's RC Primary 1.5 to 2 FE wef Sep 2000
- Tubbenden Infants 2 to 3 FE wef Sep 2000
- Holy Innocents RC Primary 2 to 1 FE wef Sep 2002
- Tubbenden Juniors 2 to 3 FE wef Sep 2003
- Amalgamate Blenheim I and J to establish Blenheim Primary 2 to 1 FE wef Sep 2003
- Establish new Unicorn Primary School 1 FE wef Sep 2003
- Closure of Anerley Primary wef Aug 2004
- Expansion and relocation of James Dixon 1 to 2 FE wef Sep 2004
- Propose Closure of Dorset Road Not agreed

2006-2010 Children and Young People Portfolio Holder approved reorganisation 2006-2009.

- Amalgamation of Biggin Hill Infant and Junior to establish Biggin Hill Primary wef Jan 2008
- Churchfields Primary 2 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- Malcolm Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- St Mary Cray Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- St Paul's Cray Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- Midfield Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- Poverest Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- Leasons Primary 1.5 to 1 FE wef Sep 2008
- Amalgamation of Oaklands Infant and Junior to establish Oaklands Primary School wef April 2009
- Amalgamation of Tubbenden Infant and Junior to establish Tubbenden Primary School wef September 2009
- Unicorn Primary 1 to 2 FE wef Sep 2011
- Princes Plain Primary 1.5 to 2 FE wef Sep 2011
- Bickley Primary 1 to 2 FE wef Sep 2011

The expansion of Hayes Primary School (Foundation) and St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School (Foundation) were progressed by the Funding Agency for Schools (FAS) under the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) Basic Need funding regime for Grant Maintained Schools.

- 1.7 Each school expansion and the establishment of Bickley and Unicorn Primary Schools has been implemented from the Reception year with a progressive "roll forward" programme for subsequent cohorts. This phased approach has been undertaken to minimise disruption to neighbouring primary schools.
- 1.8 The Audit Commission has recommended that there should be some excess capacity across the Borough to allow parents to exercise choice and to ensure scope within an LA for casual admissions. The recommendation is for a 5% spare capacity. In the Spring Term 2011 the occupancy of Bromley primary schools was 96%. There were 23,375 primary school pupils with a total capacity of 24 286.

2. FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE REVIEW AND PLANNING OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

2.1 Pupil Projections

Given the complexity of population projections, Bromley LA commissions the statistical branch of Greater London Authority to carry out the initial calculations. These projections are based on two methodologies. The first simply assumes, for example, that the number of pupils in the Reception Year, will be in secondary schools in Bromley seven years later. This is known as the "Replacement Method". The second method is known as the "Catchment method" and is based on population projections that take into account projected fertility rates, changes to dwelling stock, rates of occupations, as well as indicators of movement between geographical areas. Pupil projections in Bromley are based on a combination of these two methods. The outcome of this process is a set of projected figures for each planning area in Bromley. Officers then make adjustments in the light of local knowledge.

2.2 School Capacity

The Primary Schools' Development Plan must ensure that the Council's assets are fit for purpose and all school premises are judged against three key measures: condition, sufficiency and suitability.

The Council has been investing heavily in meeting sufficiency. The previous rounds of the Primary Schools' Development Plan provided additional primary school places at a total cost of approximately £15 million and the more recent expansion of Princes Plain and Bickley Primary Schools cost £2.5 million. It is envisaged that the current processes of identification of the need for school places will continue and be incorporated within the Primary Schools' Development Plan. This information then feeds into the Asset Management Plan.

The effectiveness of all school buildings is considered using the guidance issued in Summer 1999 by the DfEE on capacity, suitability and curriculum needs. On all three areas, the Asset Management Plan will ensure that the Council's stated plans and priorities are taken into account when judgements of capacity, sufficiency and suitability are being made.

The number of pupil places available in a school is now measured using Net Capacity. This method was introduced in 2003 and replaces all previous measurements. The method assesses the physical capacity of the school. All usable spaces are listed and measured. In primary schools the net capacity is based on the size and number of spaces designated as class bases. It is possible to set an admissions limit that is higher than indicated by the net capacity. However, a lower admissions figure than indicated by the net capacity can only be set following statutory processes.

2.3 Housing Developments

The development of new housing within the Borough, on a spectrum from small in-fill through to major wind-fall sites, has a major impact on the demand for school places.

Information from the Planning Department on planning applications and approvals is used by Children and Young People Services to review and adjust the pupil projections. In cases of large residential developments the particular housing volume and mix provides a basis for projecting the likely "child yield". This has a direct influence on the number and age of children requiring school places.

In considering projections the LA can only assume that individual housing projects will progress as expected at the time of planning approval. Experience has shown that commercial decisions often affect the rate of progress in an unpredictable way. Variables such as the economy and Government directives, can cause significant changes to the overall rate of activity in the housing market.

The Government has targets for homes to be built in SE/London, which include specific targets for Bromley Council. Changes to the legislation concerning planning processes may add to uncertainty in this area.

2.4 Class Size Legislation

The Government's target to reduce Key Stage 1 class sizes to a maximum of 30 pupils had to be achieved in all LAs by September 2001. At the time of the 1997 review of the Primary Schools' Development Plan, 56% of Key Stage 1 pupils in Bromley were being educated in classes of over 30. The Education Committee approved expansion programme enabled Bromley to meet the demands of a rising pupil population and achieve the Key Stage 1 class size reduction target. By the January 2003 annual school census, all schools were complying with the requirements of the class size legislation

The class size legislation required a limited amount of surplus capacity to be built in to all planning areas in order to accommodate casual admissions without triggering the need for a school to undertake a whole reorganisation to comply with the provision of the Act. Schools are constrained by not being able to admit additional Key Stage 1 pupils when there are 30 already in a class. This will remain an issue in Bromley and is particularly acute for schools situated close to medium and large housing developments which have the potential for importing numbers of children over a relatively short period of time.

2.5 Special Educational Needs

During 2003 the LA consulted widely on its SEN policy and strategy document – “Learning Together”. This sets out some key activities designed to build upon and continue progress being made towards the inclusion of children and young people with special educational needs in Bromley. As part of its phased approach to reviewing SEN provision, unit places have been reduced and consolidated. Our local approach to inclusion is closely referenced to the Government’s national strategy outlined in “Removing Barriers to Achievement” (DfES 2004).

The key thrust of this programme is to enhance access and develop inclusive practice for children with SEN and reduce reliance on out-borough placements. This agenda will have implications for the take-up of mainstream places. Although a key factor in our planning assumptions it is, at this stage, extremely difficult to quantify the impact on mainstream places over the next five-year planning cycle.

In the January 2012 there are 829 primary pupils with Statements of Special Educational Need, of these, 388 were in mainstream education, and 226 were in units. In addition, 121 primary aged pupils were in special schools. The inclusion process will not result in the immediate transfer of large numbers of pupils from specialist provision to mainstream education. It will be a managed process in which the educational needs of the children and the efficient use of resources are considered as key factors.

The development of early identification processes and early intervention for children with potential Special Educational Needs will mean inclusion is an evolving trend, as children are maintained in mainstream settings, as well as reintegration processes for older children.

2.6 Parental Perceptions of Schools

As the publication of pupil test results and OfSTED reports has become more embedded, so parents have become more informed on the quality of education provided by schools. Whilst some account is taken of the likely impact of this information on parental preference, the actual impact on schools rolls is very difficult to gauge. Parental perceptions of the quality of particular schools can also be affected by any press coverage.

Experience has demonstrated a significant reduction of parental take-up in schools deemed by OfSTED to be in “special measures” or “notice to improve” categories. By contrast, schools receiving very good OfSTED reports are highly attractive to parents and are over-subscribed.

At primary phase, the number of parents choosing schools outside Bromley is relatively small and largely confined to Planning Area 1. In terms of importing out-borough pupils, trends indicate that this is a feature of specific schools in Planning Areas 2, 4 and 6.

The pressure on school places at secondary level is creating distortion in the demand for places at primary level. Families are increasingly likely to choose homes on the basis of their chances of gaining a secondary school place.

The trend for take-up of places in independent primary schools has historically fluctuated around 2,500 of the overall primary pupil population. Clearly, national and local economic profiles affect parental desire and ability to take up independent school places and the current take-up is approximately 2,000.

2.7 Neighbouring LAs' School Organisation Plans

Bromley is bordered by a number of LAs, namely, Bexley, Croydon, Greenwich, Kent, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Surrey. As part of our PSDP review we have taken account, where possible, of the primary school element of neighbouring Authorities' plans for school organisation.

2.8 Denominational Trends

Close liaison is maintained with the Diocese of Rochester in terms of Church of England Primary school provision and with the Archdiocese of Southwark in terms of Catholic provision. The LA and Diocesan authorities are required to keep under regular review the range of provision and the balance with non-denominational places.

Currently the position is as follows:

- Church of England primary - 8 schools with a total of 319 reception places;
- Roman Catholic primary - 8 schools with a total of 270 reception places.

2.9 Children Out of School

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to ensure education for all children and young people of statutory school age living in the Authority (Education Act 1996 Sections 13 and 14). Children can be out of school for a variety of reasons which include children moving into the London Borough of Bromley, permanent exclusions and home education by parents. These issues are outlined in further detail below:

(a) "In –year" Admissions

The term 'in-year admissions' refers to pupils who seek to gain a place at a school outside the normal admissions cycle often in an older age group than those starting in Reception classes. The primary cause of this is parents moving into Bromley and expecting a place to be provided for their child at a Bromley school.

(b) **Exclusions**

Bromley primary schools permanently excluded a total of 17 in 2007/08, 5 in 2008/09, 2 in 2009/10. and 3 in 2010/11 In September 2002, LAs were given the statutory duty to provide appropriate and full-time education for all pupils excluded for more than 15 days (DfES Circular 11/99 Social Inclusion: Pupil Support Chapter 5). This was updated by new statutory regulations in 2007 requiring full time provision from the 6th day of exclusion. With the emphasis on reintegration, it is important to broker moves to alternative schools for those pupils for whom mainstream education is appropriate.

(c) **Home Education by Parents**

At present, as at January 2012, 72 families have exercised their legal right to tutor children “otherwise than at school”. This includes 30 primary aged pupils. The home education is monitored by the LA and failure to provide suitable education has resulted in several parents electing to cease Home Education arrangements.

3. INITIAL OUTCOMES FROM ANALYSIS

3.1 In all planning areas, the following assumptions have been made:

- Housing is built as anticipated within the UDP assumptions of housing capacity.
- No significant variation affects the numbers of live births.
- Schools continue to have the same level of esteem as at present, both inside and outside Bromley.
- Demographic trends caused by migration into and within the borough remain consistent.
- There are no additional “windfall” housing developments, other than those known to the Planning Department.
- The national inclusion agenda will have a progressive, although marginal, effect on mainstream places as a larger number of children with statements of SEN gain access to mainstream education.

Boroughwide

The current published admissions limit capacity in the Borough is **3575**. For the 2011-12 Reception intake 5 schools have accepted an additional form of entry (30 pupils) above the school’s published admission number, resulting in a total of **3725** reception places.

The number of reception pupils in Bromley schools has risen from 3165 in January 2007 to 3435 in January 2011 and 3626 pupils have accepted a reception place for admission in 2011-12. The numbers are projected to remain at between 3620 and 3700 until at least 2020.

The following analysis by planning area identifies some of the issues considered by the working party.

(a) **PLANNING AREA 1**

Wards: Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator, Clock House

This continues to be a volatile area in pupil place planning terms. The numbers of 4 year olds in this area remains above that of the total admissions numbers for the schools. The analysis indicates a history of migration to schools in the neighbouring Planning Area 2 and a high percentage take up of primary places in two of the authorities which border this area, ie Croydon and Lewisham.

This area is currently showing a projected shortfall of places of approximately two forms of entry. To meet the demand for additional places Churchfields Primary School accepted an additional 30 pupils for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 Reception admission rounds and Malcolm and Royston Primary Schools each accepted an additional 30 reception pupils in 2011-12.

The current shortfall of places could increase if fewer places are available out-of-borough and if parents are unable to secure places in Planning Area 2.

Recommendations:

- **The Published Admission Number for Churchfields Primary School be increased to 60.**
- **Malcolm Primary School increases its intake to 60 for a further year.**
- **St Anthony's Primary School be approached with a view to accommodating a temporary additional form of entry.**
- **Officers approach other schools in this planning area to consider the feasibility of admitting an additional form of entry in 2012 or 2013.**

(b) **PLANNING AREA 2**

Wards: Copers Cope, Kelsey and Eden Park

Analysis of pupil projections indicates that there has been a very close match of places to demand and an increase in projected reception numbers. The expansion of Unicorn Primary School has ensured sufficient places to meet the current increased demand. A small shortfall of places is projected for 2013.

Governors of Worsley Bridge Junior and Bromley Road Infant School have separately indicated that they would like to review the future organisation of the two schools.

Recommendations:

- **That the Local Authority pursues discussions with the Governors of Bromley Road Infant and Worsley Bridge Junior Schools regarding the future organisation of the two schools.**

(c) PLANNING AREA 3

Wards: Shortlands, West Wickham, Hayes and Coney Hall

There has been a close match of places to demand in this area with a shortfall of places projected which is at its greatest in 2013. Additional places were not required in September 2012.

Recommendations:

- **Officers approach schools in this planning area to consider the feasibility of admitting an additional form of entry in 2012 or 2013.**

(d) PLANNING AREA 4

Wards: Bromley Town, Plaistow and Sundridge, Bickley

Capacity in this planning area has been closely matched to need for several years and it was necessary to negotiate an extra form of entry at Bickley Primary School for reception in 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 before a permanent expansion of the school from September 2011.

Both Valley and Parish Primary School accepted an extra form of entry in September 2011. The pupil projection data indicates that there will be a continuing shortfall of places in this planning area throughout this decade.

The Governors of St George's C.E. Primary School have indicated that they would wish to consolidate from 1.5 FE to whole form(s) of entry if feasible.

Recommendations

- **Valley Primary School increases its intake to 90 for a further year.**
- **The Published Admission Number for Parish Primary School be increased to 90.**
- **The Local Authority continue to discuss the feasibility of consolidating St George's CE Primary School to whole forms of entry.**

(e) **PLANNING AREA 5**

Wards: Bromley Common and Keston, Petts Wood and Knoll, Farnborough and Crofton

Demand has increased in recent years leading to the expansion of Princes Plain Primary School by half a form of entry.

There is a significant housing development on the 'Blue Circle' site within this planning area. This development is planned to consist of 788 dwellings.

There is currently a projected shortfall of places in this planning area.

Recommendations:

- **Southborough Primary School and Keston Primary Schools to be approached with a view to accommodating an extra form of entry on a temporary basis.**

(f) **PLANNING AREA 6**

Wards: Chislehurst, Mottingham, Chislehurst North

Planning Area 6 includes the major residential development on the site of the Ravensbourne College of Art and Design.

There has been some surplus capacity in this planning area. Parent perception and preference results in the surplus capacity having a greater impact on some schools and also on various year groups within schools.

Chislehurst Church of England School and the Diocese of Rochester have been in discussions with the Local Authority concerning the feasibility of relocating and expanding the school to a new site in Chislehurst.

There are two 'stand alone' infant schools in this planning area. The planning for this area assumes Red Hill Primary School and Mottingham Primary School will admit additional pupils at Key Stage 2 to accommodate some, or all, of the pupils that leave these local infant schools.

Recommendations

- **The Local Authority continues to pursue discussions with the Governors and Diocese of Rochester regarding relocation and expansion of Chislehurst Church of England School.**
- **Edgebury Primary School to be approached with a view to accommodating an extra form of entry on a temporary basis for September 2013.**

(g) **PLANNING AREA 7**

Wards: Cray Valley West and Cray Valley East

There is a close relationship between this Planning Area and Area 8.

In accordance with the recommendations, endorsed by the Portfolio Holder in November 2006, the Local Authority had undertaken the following action to:

Reduce the Published Admissions Number of St Mary Cray Primary School, Leasons Primary, Midfield Primary, Poverest Primary, St Paul's Cray Primary from 1.5 FE to 1 FE with effect from September 2008.

Therefore, from September 2008, the Admissions Limit Capacity in this area reduced from 400 to 328. There is now a very close match of places to current demand in this area with a shortfall in 2012/13.

There is a history of mobility between schools in this area, partly accounted for by the significant resident Traveller population.

Recommendations:

- **Midfield and Leasons Primary School be approached with a view to one of the schools accommodating an extra form of entry on a temporary or permanent basis, dependent on local demand.**

(h) **PLANNING AREA 8**

Wards: Orpington, Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom

There is a close relationship between the Planning Area and Area 7.

Capacity in this planning area is closely matched to current need with a small projected shortfall from in 2012 and 2013.

Following previous primary school reviews, Blenheim Infant and Junior school merged to form Blenheim Primary School reducing by 1 FE , Warren Road increased from 3 to 4 FE and Holy Innocents Catholic Primary reduced from 2 to 1 FE. Following a decision by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator in March 2007, Hillside has a Published Admission Number of 54.

It may also be necessary to consider temporary expansions of other schools in this planning area in the future.

The admissions and overall school roll of Pratts Bottom Primary School continue to be the subject of regular monitoring, given the significant downward trend in pupil numbers in recent years.

Recommendations:

- **No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area.**

(i) **PLANNING AREA 9**

Wards: Biggin Hill and Darwin

In accordance with the decision of the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder and Executive, Biggin Hill Infant and Junior Schools amalgamated to form Biggin Hill Primary School with effect from January 2008. The new school has a Published Admission Number of 60, a reduction of 1 FE from the separate Infant and Junior Schools. Similarly, Oakland Infant and Junior Schools amalgamated with effect from April 2009 with no change to the published admissions number of 90.

Cudham Primary School has a PAN of 15 reduced from 19 with effect from September 2012.

This Planning Area continues to have some surplus capacity which will need to be monitored as the development of the previous RAF base may have an impact on demand for places.

Recommendations:

- **No current changes to school organisation or size in this planning area.**

Details of current school rolls and projected school rolls by planning area are available as Annexes to this plan. This information is available in the Members' Room and on the Bromley website:

http://www.bromley.gov.uk/downloads/file/1160/primary_school_development_plan