

PART 1 - PUBLIC

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

Date: **For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Children and Young People PDS Committee on 20 July 2010**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Key

**TITLE: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THREE PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Contact Officer: Mike Barnes, Head of Access and Admissions  
Tel: 020 8313 4865 E-mail: mike.barnes@bromley.gov.uk

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

Ward: Bickley Primary – Bickley Ward  
Princes Plain Primary – Bromley Common & Keston Ward  
Unicorn Primary – Kelsey & Eden Park Ward

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 This report describes the actions taken to establish additional places at Bickley, Princes Plain and the Unicorn Primary Schools, notes that the statutory Notice Period has now been completed and recommends that the decisions are now implemented.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 **The Children and Young People Portfolio Holder is recommended to agree that the proposal be implemented to increase the Published Admission Numbers at Bickley Primary School from 30 to 60, Unicorn Primary School from 30 to 60 and Princes Plain Primary School from 45 to 60.**

## Corporate Policy

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|----|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| 1. | Policy Status: | Existing policy:          | Children and Young People's Plan 2006-09 and Primary Schools' Development Plan - Review and Strategic Planning of School Places and Related School Organisation |
| 2. | BBB Priority:  | Children and Young People |   |
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## Financial

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|----|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Cost of proposal:                   | Estimated cost  | Bickley Primary - £1,300,000 Primary Capital Funding<br>Princes Plain Primary - £950,000 Primary Capital Funding<br>Unicorn Primary - £50,000 Primary Capital Funding         |
| 2. | Ongoing costs:                      | Recurring cost  | Bickley Primary - £462,000 Revenue Funding (per year)<br>Princes Plain Primary - £231,000 Revenue Funding (per year)<br>Unicorn Primary - £462,000 Revenue Funding (per year) |
| 3. | Budget head/performance centre:     |   | Children and Young People Capital Programme   |
| 4. | Total current budget for this head: | £9,295,000 (Capital Programme)/£186 million (Dedicated Schools Grant) |   |
| 5. | Source of funding:                  | 100% Government Grant   |   |
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## Staff

- Number of staff (current and additional) – 4 staff from the Children and Young People Department are involved in the Consultation processes to varying degrees.
  - If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours – approximately 60 staff hours in total.
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## Legal

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|----|--------------------|------------------------|--|
| 1. | Legal Requirement: | Statutory requirement: | Education and Inspections Act 2006 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 No 1289 The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2003, School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009/1556 |
| 2. | Call in:           | Call-in is applicable  |  |
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## Customer Impact

- Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected) - The proposed expansions will provide for 210 additional pupils at Bickley, 105 pupils at Princes Plain and 210 pupils at Unicorn. The pupils filling these places and their families will be the beneficiaries.
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## Ward Councillor Views

- Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
- Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors views were included in the report on the outcomes from public consultation on these proposals (DCYP10051 - 25 March 2010)

### 3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 At the meeting on 25 March 2010, the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder considered a report on the outcomes from public consultation to expand four primary schools, due to the significant increase in demand for primary school places in the Borough. The proposal to expand Bickley, Princes Plain and Unicorn Primary Schools was approved and officers authorised to undertake the formal statutory processes. It was agreed not to expand Churchfields Primary School at the present time and to review this decision at a later date.
- 3.2 The Local Authority then undertook the necessary statutory processes, publishing a statutory proposal to make the required prescribed alteration to Bickley, Unicorn and Princes Plain Primary Schools. The full proposal was submitted to the Department for Children Schools and Families (now the Department for Education) and a formal public notice issued on 28 April 2010.
- 3.3 Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, any person could object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, BR1 3UH.
- 3.4 One objection was received from the Langley Waterside Residents Association objecting to the expansion of Unicorn Primary School (**Appendix 1**) stating that although the association fully understood the reasoning behind the proposal, they felt they had no choice but to object until the issue of parents dropping off children in a restricted parking zone was addressed. The Head Teacher of Unicorn Primary schools reports that the school has a good relationship with the residents' association and that she will continue efforts to encourage parents not to use this area. The Director of Children and Young People Services notes the issue raised by the residents association and has instructed officers to liaise with the school to consider measures to address the concerns. However, the objection is not sufficient reason to delay the expansion of Unicorn Primary school given the current demand for places in this area of the Borough.
- 3.5 No objections or comments were received in relation to the proposal to expand Bickley Primary School or Princes Plain Primary School.
- 3.6 For the proposals to proceed, the Children and Young People Portfolio Holder is required to consider any objections that have been received and, within 2 months of the end of the four week notice period, to confirm that the proposals will be implemented.

### 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. This policy also contributes to key targets within the Children and Young People Services Plan, particularly the outcome that "Children and young people are enabled and encouraged to attend and enjoy school".

### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 ("the Regulations") (as amended) provide that those bringing forward statutory proposals to expand a school **must** consult interested parties, and in doing so **must** have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance.

5.2 The Authority is obliged to consider objections when reaching its decision and the bodies cited in the statutory guidance (the local Church of England diocese; the bishop of the local Roman Catholic diocese; the LSC (YPLA) where the school provides education for pupils aged 14 and over; the governing body of a community school that is proposed for expansion; and the governors and trustees of a foundation (including Trust) or voluntary school that is proposed for expansion. may challenge the decision if any such challenge is forthcoming the Authority would be obliged to refer the matter to the Schools Adjudicator for determination. This would not seem to be the situation with regard to these proposals.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Once the schools are fully expanded (ie additional pupils across each of the year groups) the additional pupils will attract around £462,000 per year for Bickley and Unicorn Schools, and around £231,000 per year for Princes Plain School. This funding will come from the Dedicated Schools Grant which will increase proportionally for the additional pupils.

## 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 grading for the Head Teacher as the Individual School Range may be affected, the number of teaching Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff required to facilitate the curriculum and support the infrastructure.

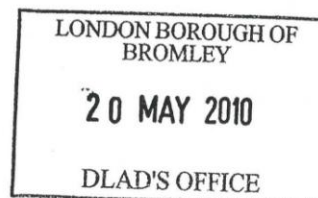
<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Not applicable
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report: Review of Primary Schools' Development Plan: Outcomes – 14.10.09 CYP PDS (Report No. DCYP09141) Report: Proposal to expand four primary schools – consultation outcomes (DCYP10051 - 25 March 2010) Report: Approval of Procurement Strategy and Outline Proposal for Schemes at Three Primary Schools (DCYP10050 – 25 March 2010)



LANGLEY WATERSIDE  
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

14<sup>th</sup> May 2010

The Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
LB Bromley  
Civic Centre  
Stockwell Close  
Bromley BR1 3UH



Dear Sir/Madam,

**Proposal to Expand Unicorn Primary School**

This proposal causes us some concern because of persistent problems with parents with children at Unicorn School partially blocking the private part of Creswell Drive every school-day morning and most afternoons. This presents risks both to road users entering and exiting Langley Waterside estate and also to parents and children using the pedestrian access to the school from both Langley Waterside and Langley Park estates. Mrs Robertson, the head teacher at Unicorn, kindly included a notice to parents in one of last term's newsletters to the effect that they should refrain from stopping and parking along this stretch but to no avail (see our attached correspondence on this matter).

With the proposed expansion to the school, we foresee the problem worsening, both because of additional numbers of parents and also due to a wider catchment causing more parents to drive. We do not see why we should suffer because the Unicorn car park is inadequate to meet demand or because the school start time is so truncated (the playground is not supervised until 8.50am so parents are forced to linger).

Although we fully understand the reasoning behind the proposal to expand Unicorn Primary School, we have no choice but to object to the expansion until the issue of parents dropping off in our restricted parking zone along Creswell Drive is properly addressed.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Wipfler  
Chairperson, Langley Waterside Residents Association

Copy:	Victoria Beadle Estate Manager OM Property Management Marlborough House Wigmore Lane Luton LU2 9EX	Mrs S. Robertson Head Teacher Unicorn Primary School Creswell Drive Beckenham BR3 3AL
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9<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Mrs S. Robertson  
Head Teacher  
Unicorn Primary School  
Creswell Drive  
Beckenham BR3 3AL

Dear Mrs Robertson,

**Parents Parking in Creswell Drive**

I am writing to advise you that from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March parking restrictions will be enforced along the private section of Creswell Drive (the part beyond the mini roundabout that leads into the school car park). There are three parking signs located along this stretch which read:

*"Parking conditions apply. No unauthorised parking. Unauthorised parking may result in a charge notice being issued to the vehicle owner. The following fee applies: parking charge notice fee £90 (£45 if paid within 14 days). UK Parking Control Limited will contact the DVLA to obtain owner details. Fees which are not paid within the given period will be passed to our debt recovery agent."*

For the past year similar restrictions enforced at the part of Creswell Drive that lies within the estate have proven to be effective in deterring unauthorised parking.

The timing of this letter is intended to give you the opportunity to warn parents of the upcoming enforcement of parking restrictions. The reason why we consider that such action is necessary in order to deal with this persistent problem is that it is both dangerous to pedestrians (many of whom are children and parents entering the school grounds by the gate near the Langley Waterside entrance) and obstructive to traffic leaving and entering the Langley Waterside estate.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Wipfler  
Chairperson, Langley Waterside Residents Association

Copy: Victoria Beadle  
Estate Manager  
OM Property Management  
Marlborough House  
Wigmore Lane  
Luton LU2 9EX