

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**Information Briefing for Education
Portfolio Holder and
Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee
2nd July 2013**

**Education Portfolio Plan (Spring Term Update)
Including Education Commitments**

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1. Summary

The purpose of this information briefing is provide the Education Portfolio Holder and PDS Committee with a spring term update of the Education Portfolio Priorities agreed at the Education PDS meeting on the 23rd January 2013.

As part of this briefing a full spring term update has been attached for information, the majority of planned actions have been completed and work has commenced on the summer term actions which will be reported to members in the autumn.

2. THE BRIEFING

As part of the spring term update we have taken the opportunity to highlight the links between the Education Covenant and Commitments with both being included within the Education Portfolio Plan 2013. Over the course of the year the Portfolio Holder and PDS committee have been presented with a range of reports, again these have been included as reference library (via hyperlinks) at the end of the plan (attached as appendix 1).

The January report highlighted a number of areas that would form the basis of the Education Portfolio Priorities and work programme for 2013. These included the challenges that the LA could experience as more schools/ governing bodies become academies, with it becoming less viable for the Borough to maintain central services for what is a diminishing number of schools. The role of the Borough as a local education authority also changes.

Focus on seven key priorities was the theme of this plan, covering both the changing environment and the statutory duties of the local authority (ensuring an adequate supply of places, and determining the special educational needs of qualifying pupils).

Each of these seven priorities had clearly defined aims, actions planned across three school terms and measures to monitor achievement (at the end of the year).

Good progress has been reported across all priorities for the Spring Term 2013. A full update is attached as appendix 1. With key notable successes being around:

- Following adoption of the new policy framework for accelerating academy conversions with 17 academy conversions in process and a further 12 potential conversions;
- Transparency and targeted support for schools requiring to improve;
- Increased capacity in primary and special schools with in principle agreements for three new primary free schools, funded by the EFA;
- Identification of a range of different models for the delivery of the behaviour service and continuing work to identify the best one for the future;

The table below shows the summary progress for each priority:

Priority	Spring Term Actions (RAG)
Promote educational opportunity in the borough ensuring all families have a choice of good and outstanding schools and early years providers;	Nine actions complete (Green) 1 action underway (Amber)
Work with governing bodies, the Department for education and others to expand popular and successful schools;	Five actions complete one action has moved to Summer Term (Green)
Use the academy and free school programme to promote and develop further that choice;	All five actions complete (Green)
Support all maintained schools to enter into the academy programme to allow them to benefit from the opportunities it presents;	All five actions complete/ underway (Green)
Encourage parents, faith groups and others to work with the borough to increase the range & diversity of the outstanding schools on offer;	All four actions complete (Green)
Ensure those pupils with special educational needs have good outcomes;	7 actions complete/ underway (Green)
Ensure high quality provision continues for those leaving school and others over the school leaving age whether through preparation for employment, apprenticeships or higher education;	All 10 actions complete (Green)

Key challenges remain across all areas with particular focus continuing on:

- Primary and Secondary Place Planning to continue to identify capacity to meet the growing needs;
- Introduction of online applications as default;
- Implementation of the additional early years places for 2 year olds;
- Integration of provision for children with special educational needs;

3. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Appendix 1 Education Portfolio Priorities Spring Term Update