

Decision Maker: Education Portfolio Holder

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on 17th September 2013

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: UPDATE ON PROPOSED SCHOOL EXPANSIONS FOR 2014/15

Contact Officer: Dr Tessa Moore, Assistant Director: Education
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Chief Officer: Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

This report is an update of the Primary School Development Plan approved in November 2012 by the Education PDS Committee in the light of primary admissions for 2013/14, taking into account revised population projections and making further recommendations for changes in primary school capacity for admissions in the school year 2014/15.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 **Members of the Education PDS Committee are requested to consider and comment on the outcomes from the review of the Primary School Development Plan held on 2nd September 2013.**

2.2 **The Education Portfolio Holder is recommended to endorse the recommendations of the Primary School Development Plan Working Group, taking into account the views of the Education PDS Committee, which comprise:**

- 1) **That the higher Greater London Authority (GLA) alternate roll projection methodology be adopted as the basis of primary school planning for 2014/15 and into the future;**
- 2) **A margin of 2% be considered above projection to provide for parental choice in order to improve the rate of first choice allocations;**
- 3) **That the Primary School Development Plan Working Group be renamed the School Place Working Group to reflect the need to consider Secondary place planning into the future;**

- 4) That discussions be undertaken with schools identified for expansion with a view to reporting the outcome to a future meeting of Education PDS Committee; and
- 5) That feasibility studies be undertaken in consultation with identified schools to assess the scope and cost of school enlargement as set out below:

Planning Area 1 - Wards: Crystal Palace, Penge and Cator, Clock House

- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis to 3 FE (from 2 FE) at James Dixon Primary School for reception in 2014/15 as well as on a permanent basis.
- To consult with Harris Federation around the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis to 3 FE (from 2 FE) at Harris Primary Academy Kent House for reception in 2015/16 as well as on a permanent basis.
- To consider the potential for other schools to expand as needed following consultation and feasibility studies.

Planning Area 2 - Wards: Copers Cope, Kelsey and Eden Park

- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 2 FE (from 1 FE) at Clare House Primary School.
- To await the outcome of the free school submission proposed by Langley Park Boys and Girls Schools.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 3 FE (from 2 FE) at Worsley Bridge Community Primary School in the medium term.

Planning Area 3 - Wards: Shortlands, West Wickham, Hayes and Coney Hall

- To keep school organisation and size in the area under review.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on either a temporary or permanent basis to 2 FE (from 1 FE) at St Mark's C.E. Primary School if future demand was sufficient.

Planning Area 4 - Wards: Bromley Town, Plaistow and Sundridge, Bickley

- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 3 FE (from 2 FE) at Scotts Park Primary School.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 3 FE (from 2 FE) at Parish C.E. Primary School.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of consolidating the PAN for St George's C.E. Primary School to 2 FE (from 1.5 FE).

Planning Area 5 - Wards: Bromley Common and Keston, Petts Wood and Knoll, Farnborough and Crofton

- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 4 FE (from 2 FE) at Princes Plain Primary School on the Education Development Centre campus.
- To consider other options to meet the ongoing deficit of places in the Planning Area from 2016/17.

Planning Area 6 - Wards: Chislehurst, Mottingham, Chislehurst North

- To investigate, with Chislehurst C.E. Primary School and the Diocese of Rochester, the feasibility of relocating and expanding Chislehurst C.E. Primary School.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary or permanent basis to 2 FE (from 1 FE) at Edgebury Primary School.

Planning Area 7 - Wards: Cray Valley West and Cray Valley East

- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a permanent basis to 2 FE (from 1 FE) at Midfield Primary School.
- To investigate, with Governors, the feasibility of increasing capacity on a temporary basis by 1 FE to 2 FE at St Paul's Cray C.E. Primary School for reception in 2014/15.
- To consider scope for other schools in the Planning Area to expand as needed following consultation and feasibility studies.

Planning Area 8 - Wards: Orpington, Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom

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

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 School Development Plan
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost Further Details
 2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Basic Need capital budget, DSG (revenue costs)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £19,737,941 (capital)
 5. Source of funding: DfE capital grant, DSG (£219m)
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 3
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: 50
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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: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): parents and carers of some 3,850 new admissions each year, rising as set out in the report.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? This would be the next stage
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 School Development Plan.
- 3.2 A comprehensive review of the Primary School Development Plan (PSDP) was completed in autumn 2010 to address the significant increase in demand from primary places; outcomes from this review were reported to the Children and Young People (CYP) PDS in January 2011, and subsequently on 21 February 2012 and 12 November 2012.
- 3.3 The Education PDS agreed the membership of the reconvened Member Officer Working Party at its meeting of 12 June 2012. The Member Officer Working Party was scheduled to meet on 2 September 2013 to review updated pupil population projections. These indicate an increasing demand for reception class places for the foreseeable future. The number of reception pupils in Bromley schools has risen from 3,165 in January 2007 to 3,861 in January 2013. The numbers are projected to rise toward 4,050 until at least 2020 and 4,035 by 2030. 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. It also considered the impact of free schools due to open in 2014, and the potential for more, and whether additional places should be provided to improve parents securing their first choice of school.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The report made to the Primary School Development Plan Working Party is attached as Appendix A, with the draft minutes of the meeting set out at Appendix B.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Provision has been made in the Basic Need Capital Budget 2013-5 for minor works to primary schools to facilitate bulge classes and enlargement work. Where major expansion is proposed, this would be subject to a full feasibility study and consideration of the long term affordability in the context of future Basic Need capital allocations.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a statutory duty to keep under review the number of school places in its area and to propose amendment to ensure a sufficient supply to meet current and forecast demand. It may assist voluntary aided and academy providers to enlarge and improve schools.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate implications for staffing arising from this report. However should the proposals to restructure the schools to accommodate the rise in pupil numbers be progressed schools will require support on an individual basis tailored to their specific staffing structures. Staffing implications may arise as schools develop as dependent on pupil numbers the number of teaching Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) staff required to facilitate the curriculum and support the infrastructure is likely to increase. The potential relocation of a school site would also give rise to staffing implications. In this event detailed consultation with staff and Trade Union representatives would be undertaken and the outcome would be subject to a separate report.

Non-Applicable Sections:	[List non-applicable sections here]
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to Education PDS of Primary School Development Plan working party 9 August 2012