

Report No.  
ED13078

## London Borough of Bromley

### PART ONE - PUBLIC

**Decision Maker:** EXECUTIVE

**Date:** 11th September 2013

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

**Title:** GLEBE FOUNDATION SPECIAL SCHOOL  
(CAPITAL WORKS)

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**Chief Officer:** Executive Director of Education, Care & Health Services

**Ward:** West Wickham;

1. Reason for report

This report is to inform the Executive of the outcome of the statutory consultation for the enlargement of Glebe Foundation Special School by 104 places, and to request permission to engage a consultant to undertake initial feasibility and planning work.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Executive note the Education Portfolio Holder's decision on the expansion of Glebe School taken at the Education Portfolio Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013
- 2.2 Authorise the Education Portfolio Holder to agree the procurement of consultants to undertake the development of proposals including feasibility, design development, production of tender documentation and supervision.
- 2.3 That the project be brought back to the Executive and Full Council following feasibility for consideration of inclusion within the Council's capital programme
- 2.4 Authorise the Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services to seek planning consent at the appropriate time.

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost - £4.8m
  2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Dedicated Schools Grant
  4. Total current budget for this head: £128m
  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 Education Act 1996 (as amended)
  2. Call-in: Applicable
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 104 parents and carers
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
  2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: None given although support was given by Ward Councillors at the consultation stage

### **3. COMMENTARY**

- 3.1 There is an increasing need for additional, in-borough provision for secondary aged pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The number of children now diagnosed with ASD is growing, resulting in a projected shortfall of specialist ASD places by 2021 of 120 11-16 year olds and 36 post 16 places.
- 3.2 On 25 July 2012 the Executive gave in principle approval to, subject to statutory consultation, the expansion of Glebe School by 2 Forms of Entry (FE), i.e. 16 children in each year group, from September 2014, with 12 in years 12 and 13, a total of 104 places. At the meeting the Executive requested that outcome of the consultation be reported back and, subject to a satisfactory outcome, that the Executive approve a loan from the Council's reserves of £4.8m to complete the necessary building works to be repaid by the Dedicated Schools Grant over 6 years and the procurement of the consultancy relating to the building.
- 3.3 Members also requested further information about the number of pupils receiving schooling out of borough who may choose to return to Bromley and those that might be placed in this Bromley provision by other local authorities. Every endeavour is made to prompt families to consider in borough provision if space is available, and in many cases, where the local authority has indicated it has in-borough provision available that can meet needs, it would through the statutory procedures consult and name local provision. However this additional provision will be built up over time commencing with year 7 pupils in the first year, increasing year on year as each new year group is established. This provision will ensure that pupils moving through the system at primary age into secondary school will remain in Borough in local and high quality specialist provision. With regards to placements of pupils from out of borough taking up places in Bromley specialist provision, the aim would be to ensure early statutory reviews of Bromley pupils with the view of block placements of Bromley pupils into the specialist provision available.
- 3.4 Subsequent to the July 2012 meeting, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2012/13 was underspent by £5.4m, negating the requirement for the loan from reserves. This underspend will be carried forward into future years until required.
- 3.5 The project will be funded from the £800k contribution to capital in the DSG budget, supplemented by the DSG carry forward as and when required.
- 3.6 Informal consultation on the proposal to expand the Glebe School ran from 11 January to 15 February 2013.
- 3.7 The outcomes of informal consultation were reported to Education PDS on 19 March 2013 and it was agreed to proceed to statutory consultation. The statutory notice was published in the Bromley News Shopper on 12 June 2013 on behalf of the Governors.
- 3.8 Statutory consultation took place during Summer 2013. No comments or objections were received and outcomes were reported to the Education Portfolio Meeting on 21 August 2013.
- 3.9 At the Education Portfolio Meeting on 21 August 2013 the Education Portfolio resolved that the expansion of the Glebe Foundation School with effect from 1st September 2014 be approved as set out in the statutory notice.

### **4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The numbers of secondary age students being diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder is growing and the proposal to expand Glebe School will enable more students to be placed in an appropriate setting within the borough. This will allow them to maintain local contacts and make it easier for parents and carers to support their children in the school. Glebe has already

developed a substantial expertise in this area and the expansion will allow this good practice to be extended. Placing children in out borough schools also diverts money away from local schools, and the provision is more difficult to monitor.

- 4.2 The proposal was widely supported at the consultation stage by parents, carers, other schools and agencies with an interest in this area of special educational needs.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The expansion of the school will require building alterations to accommodate the additional numbers, at an estimated cost of £4.8m. This will be funded from the Dedicated Schools Grants (DSG) budget, in addition to the DSG underspend carried forward from 2012/13.
- 5.2 Initial works will be funded from the feasibilities studies funding in the capital programme, which will be added to the costs of the expansion project, or charged to revenue (DSG funded) if the project is not approved.
- 5.3 The costs of educational placements (both maintained and non-maintained and in/out borough) is funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the cost of transport through the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). By placing children in Glebe rather than out of borough the Council would save £6.1m on DSG and £924k on RSG over a 7 year (cumulative) period, taking into account the full savings in the year after completion. The calculations for the savings totals are detailed in Report ED12015.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The LA has a duty to implement proposals from the statutory consultations on expanding the school once decided.
- 6.2 In order to deliver the works, the school will need to obtain a licence to undertake works at a Foundation School.
- 6.3 The distribution and application of monies received from Central Government is subject to guidance and advice from the Department for Education. Under Section 14 Education Act 1996 the Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are enough primary and secondary school places are available to meet the needs of pupils in its area.

## 7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In delivering the expansion the school will require support. Implications may include the grading for the Head Teacher as the Individual School Range may be affected, and the number of teaching Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff required to facilitate the curriculum and support the infrastructure.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	N/A
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	DEVELOPMENT OF AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) SECONDARY PROVISION AT GLEBE SPECIAL SCHOOL – EXEXECUTIVE 25 JULY 2012  CONSULTATION OUTCOMES: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND GLEBE SCHOOL: EDUCATION PDS 19 MARCH 2013  GLEBE SPECIAL SCHOOL - DETERMINATION OF STATUTORY NOTICE 21 AUGUST 2013