

Decision Maker: EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

**For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Education Policy
Development and Scrutiny Committee on 30th January 2014**

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: UPDATE ON PROPOSED SCHOOL EXPANSIONS

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

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report asks Members to consider the Council's approach to pupil place planning at secondary age as described in the document Planning For Growth: Review of Secondary Education and to consider the comments and recommendations of the School Places Working Group on 25 November 2013.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That Members of the Education PDS Committee are requested to consider and comment on the document Planning For Growth: Review Of Secondary Education appendix 1a

2.2 That Members of the Education PDS Committee are requested to consider the comments of the School Places Working Group following the review of the document Planning For Growth: Review Of Secondary Education at its meeting on 25 November 2014 appendix 1

2.3 That the Education Portfolio Holder is recommended to endorse the recommendations of the School Places Working Group, taking into account the views of the Education PDS Committee that comprise:

1) The review be accepted as the basis for secondary place planning;

- 2) The higher Greater London Authority (GLA) alternate roll projection methodology be adopted as the basis of forecasting for 2014/15 and beyond;**
 - 3) A margin of 5% be considered above projection to provide for parental choice in order to improve the rate of first choice allocations;**
 - 4) A new Catholic secondary school provision in the Borough be supported in principle;**
 - 5) Further reviews of existing secondary capacity be carried out using the Department for Education's revised space standards to validate options for growth at existing schools as the basis for capital bid applications.**
- 2.4 That Members note the additional £42,302,064 allocation of DfE Basic Need Capital Grant allocated to Bromley to fund additional school places in 2015-16 and 2016-17.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status :New Policy: Secondary School Development Plan
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Non-Recurring Cost
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Basic Need Capital Grant, DSG (revenue costs)
 4. Total current budget for this head: £62,040,005
 5. Source of funding: DfE Basic Need Capital Grant, DSG (£231m)
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Staff

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

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement 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 careers of some 3,473 new admissions to secondary school at Year 7 each year, rising from 2015-16 as set out in this report.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Ward Councillors will be consulted on proposed school expansions.
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: n/a

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The local authority has statutory responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient school places in the borough.
- 3.2 To date pupil place planning has concentrated on ensuring sufficient supply of primary places. However, demand for secondary places is forecast to increase from 2015-16 and the Council is now setting out its strategic approach to meeting this need.
- 3.3 The number of pupils at year 7 is projected to increase from 3,473 in 2013/14 to a peak of 4,100 in 2021/22. This is equivalent to 21 additional year 7 classes.
- 3.4 Considering the proposed future growth in demand for school places at secondary age an officer review was undertaken during summer and autumn 2013, including consultation with secondary head teachers to identify the principles underpinning future secondary school expansion.
- 3.5 At its meeting on 2 September 2013 the Primary School Development Plan Working Party agreed to extend its work to cover secondary age. The review *Planning for Growth: Review of Secondary Education* was considered by the first meeting of the School Places Working Group held on 25 November 2013. Its comments and recommendations are included in Appendix 1, 1a -1d..
- 3.6 The School Places Working Group accepted the main recommendations of the review and accepted *Planning for Growth: Review of Secondary Education* as the basis for pupil place planning at secondary age. It also recommended that a further review of the existing secondary school estate be undertaken, in line with the Department for Education's current funding and space standards, in order to validate the options for growth at existing schools.
- 3.7 On 18 December 2013 the Department for Education announced £2.05 billion additional Basic Need funding for local authorities for the period 2015-17. Bromley has been awarded £42,302,064 to fund additional school places in 2015-16 and 2016-17, bringing the Council's total Basic Need Capital Grant allocation received to date to £62,040,005. A Basic Need Update report will be brought to the Education PDS Committee in March 2014 that will set out provisional allocation of this grant.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The need to ensure sufficient places and the efficiency of school 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 Portfolio Plan, particularly the outcome that "Children and young people enjoy learning and achieve their full potential".

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has been allocated £62,040,005 in 100% capital grant for the financial years 2011-17 to meet the basic need provision in schools. This report makes no changes to the allocations set out in Basic Need Programme Update Report 6 considered by the Education PDS Committee on 17 September 2013. The next Basic Need update report will be considered by the Education PDS Committee on 18 March 2014.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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 available to meet the needs of pupils in its area.

7 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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)	UPDATE ON PROPOSED SCHOOL EXPANSIONS FOR 2014/15 considered by Education PDS Committee on 17 September 2013 BASIC NEED PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT 6 considered by Education PDS Committee on 17 September 2013