

EDUCATION PDS COMMITTEE
10th March 2015

ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE EDUCATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER

Oral Question to the Education Portfolio Holder received from Kerry Hood

- 1) Does the Committee feel that the Council should break their UDP policies and set the precedent of the Education Funding Agency building on Bromley open space to provide school places, or should the Education Funding Agency be required to use brown field or office space?

Reply:

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in Bromley for parents and carers seeking a place for their child at a Bromley school. However, under legislation any new schools opened need to be academies created via the Free School route, as the Local Authority is no longer permitted to open schools. The Education Funding Agency (EFA) is responsible for finding Free School sites.

Any planning application submitted by the EFA will be considered by the Council's Planning Committee. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in line with local, regional and national planning policy, and the planning case made by the applicant. For a new school to be considered to be built on open space it would need to demonstrate very special circumstances.