

15/00909 Harris Academy Beckenham, Manor Way, Beckenham**Education – Officer Comments (post 13th July 2015)**

The 13th July 2015 DC Committee report set out the education need at Boroughwide and local level. The information was sourced from the Councils Primary School Development Plan (PDSP), considered at the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny committee on 27th January 2015 and approved by the Portfolio Holder for Education 29th January 2015 and based on detailed information relating to planned admission numbers. This can be viewed in full at <http://cde.bromley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=584&MId=4848&Ver=4> (Item 50a)

The Local Authority uses “Education Planning Areas” to assist it in its school place planning. These areas are used by Government and the Greater London Authority to project future demand, record fluctuations in pupil numbers and inform proposals for meeting need.

The table below, relating to Planning Area 2, is an extract from the Boroughwide Planned Admission table set out in the PDSP. It sets out the position in respect of Education Planning Area 2 (updated only to include the additional 30 places provided in a bulge class at Marian Vian this year, as was referred to in the July 13th DC report). The proposed Langley Park Primary School was flagged in the PDSP tables but since it had not received ministerial approval was not included at that stage in the calculations.

SCHOOL	School Census	PLANNED ADMISSION NUMBERS BY PLANNING AREA (2) WITH HARRIS BECKENHAM							
	Sep-14	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bromley Road	29	90	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Clare House	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Harris Beckenham				60	60	60	60	60	60
Marian Vian	89	90	90	120	90	90	90	90	90
St Mary's RC	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
Unicorn	88	60	90	60	60	60	60	60	60
Worsley Bridge	57	60	60	90	90	90	90	90	90
Total capacity	383	420	390	480	450	450	450	450	450
2014 GLA Forecast		407	403	433	424	429	435	439	443
Surplus/Deficit Places		13	-13	47	26	21	15	11	7
2014 GLA Forecast+5%		427	423	455	445	450	457	461	465
Surplus/Deficit Places		-7	-33	25	5	0	-7	-11	-15

As set out in the Development Control Report, and illustrated in the table above, there is currently a total capacity of 480 reception school places including the bulge class at Marian Vian School. (This capacity will reduce to 450 in subsequent years). The GLA projections indicate that demand for school places in Planning Area 2 will increase from 433 in 2015/16 to 443 in 2020/21.

Based on the projections in Planning Area 2, including Harris Beckenham, there would be 47 surplus places in 2015 (total capacity minus the 2014 GLA forecast),

falling to 7 surplus places in 2020/21. Without the 60 places at Harris Beckenham there would be a deficit of 13 reception places in 2015/16, rising to 53 by 2020/21.

Council policy adds 5% to the basic projections to provide a contingency for changes in demand and to support diversity and choice. Including the 5%, but without Harris Beckenham there would be a deficit of 35 reception places in pupil place Planning Area 2 in 2015/16 rising to 75 by 2020/21. Without Harris Beckenham Primary Academy the Local Authority would not be able to meet its statutory requirement to provide sufficient local school places and every child an offer of a school place.

In a letter of 12th August Kelsey Estate Protection Association (KEPA) suggested that the Development Control Committee were misled and raised a number of points, responses to which are summarised below. The full response with the detailed statistics was previously provided to KEPA is set out in the Council's reply dated 4th September 2015.

- In providing primary school places the Local Authority needs to provide sufficient schools places that also satisfy the statutory requirement to provide a reasonable offer of a place to each child. The proximity distances for schools offering places surrounding Harris Primary Academy have reduced in recent years as the pressure for places has increased. In 2015 Bromley Road's proximity is 0.682 miles (1FE), Clare House 0.327 miles (2FE), Marian Vian 0.624 (3FE+bulge) and Unicorn 0.593 (2FE). Without Harris Primary Academy Beckenham there would be a shortage of school places in central Beckenham surrounding the Manor Way Harris Beckenham site.
- The Council's policy to ensure adequate provision in school place planning to meet its statutory duty for sufficient school places includes a 5% uplift for contingency and choice. On this basis by 2018/19 further provision, in addition to the 60 additional places at Harris Primary Academy Beckenham will be required in Planning Area 2.
- Harris Primary Academy Beckenham was approved by the Minister for Education in an early Free School wave with an original target opening date of September 2014, deferred until 2015. The school has the benefit of an approved temporary permission now guaranteeing its ability to open and places have been offered by the school in line with the Council Primary School Development Plan.
- Langley Park Primary School, highlighted by KEPA, was approved in a later wave as a 2FE and does not have a permitted site nor a planning application submitted.
 - Whilst there is current Local Plan consultation on a proposed site (the existing Langley Schools Complex) there is a significant Local Plan process probably including Examination in Public in 2016 before any Local Plan allocation can be adopted.
 - KEPA highlight the potential for Langley Park Primary to use temporary accommodation, in particular under the permitted development rights. Both Langley Park School for Boys (114%) and Langley Park School for Girls (103.3%) are currently operating above their premises' capacity and the Council has received no notification of a proposed temporary opening under permitted development to accommodate Langley Park Primary in 2016. Failure to find suitable accommodation

can result in deferred opening as has been the case with both Harris Beckenham and The Crystal Palace Free School.

- Langley Park Primary has a target opening date of 1 September 2016 therefore the Local Authority is required to include it within its admissions booklet, however, the opening is not secure as it does not have the facilities secured (subject to planning) nor a funding agreement from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and therefore the school will not be within the Local Authority co-ordinated admissions in its first year.
- KEPA raised a concern that the information presented as a need included 8% of children likely to be being privately educated, however, the Council uses GLA school roll projections which are based on school level roll data and exclude private rolls. The likely numbers of privately educated pupils would not therefore feature as a demand in the statistics presented to Development Control Committee.

Further communications from KEPA dated 7th September (Document F), 18th September (Document G) revisit a number of matters responded to above and raise some new matters which are dealt with below

- KEPA suggest that the Council officers have misinterpreted the GLA statistics in relation to 8% of children who are privately educated. However the GLA Demography Manager supports the Council's understanding and has reconfirmed that "The roll projections provided to local authorities are for state funded schools only. Assumptions about the proportion attending independent schools are implicit in the modelling."
- KEPA submitted two radial maps from the Authority's education department's yearly publication for parents and suggest that they illustrate that there is known to be no educational need. (Document G) This is incorrect. The maps reflect that the local authority acted effectively in each year to open emergency bulge classes at Unicorn when Harris Beckenham deferred opening in July 2014 and at Marian Vian in 2015 when there were insufficient places available within the co-ordinated admissions process. Harris Beckenham was not included (in line with DfE policy) in the co-ordinated admissions process for September 2015 because it had not received its funding agreement from the EFA at that time. With the Harris Beckenham being outside of the co-ordinated admissions process for September 2015 the local authority had insufficient school places to make an offer of a school place to every local applicant. It should be noted radial/proximity figures only relate to the primary school offers made to applicants who applied on time and were offered a place on national offer day in April 2015 and do not include parents who applied late or in-year admissions.

A further communication from KEPA dated 19th October revisits / raises the following matters

- KEPA highlight that "the whole of PA1 and all of PA1 schools are within a 2 mile walk of the Harris primary site and its nodal admission points and all public transport can be completed within 45 minutes and maximum one change of bus from any location within that boundary". However, the Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance relates to the distance to the school site not the nodal points. As the crow flies from the Harris site a 2mile radius extends to Anerley

Town Hall and Penge West Station, but, since the measurement of the statutory walking distances is measured “by the shortest route along which a child, accompanied as necessary, may walk with reasonable safety” in reality the 2 mile distance would be significantly closer to the school site. As previously advised the relevance of the consideration of demand for school places from other education planning areas decreases based on school proximities and the primary relevant information in determining the need for the Harris Primary is the demand for school places in planning area 2.

- KEPA highlight that the Council’s response sent 4th Sept still refers to the Stewart Fleming decision as outstanding when it was in fact permitted 19th August. KEPA are correct, however, the Stewart Fleming application was referred to in the Council’s response and it’s planning status was correct at the time of drafting that element of the response to their letter, which raised a number of detailed points. There was no intention to mislead (highlighting that the determination was due)
- KEPA suggest that James Dixon moved permanently from 2FE to 3FE from the beginning of this academic year. This is incorrect James Dixon remains a 2FE primary school, although it has taken an additional “bulge” class this year to meet some of the need.
- KEPA suggest that the emerging Local Plan is expediting the opening of Langley Primary on the Langley Site through the Local Plan, highlighting the assessment of the site as offering potential for “a policy compliant scheme” or the potential allocation for a non-compliant scheme due to “exceptional circumstances”. The Local Plan assessed a range of sites to determine their potential. The supporting Education Background Paper indicates in respect of the Langley Schools complex “Limited potential for London Plan compliant 2FE primary school otherwise ranked B (in group 3)”. A policy compliant primary school scheme would involve the use of significant existing infrastructure needed for secondary provision and would therefore involve the release from Metropolitan Open Land, requiring the demonstration of “exceptional circumstances”. The school may seek to open initially utilising the limited available space within the existing schools infrastructure. As previously stated no planning application has been submitted for primary school development. Assuming an application is received prior to the adoption of the Local Plan it will be contrary to the existing MOL designation and required to demonstrate “very special circumstances”. The draft Local Plan will be published next year prior to submission to the Secretary of State with a view to adoption later in 2016.
- KEPA also highlight the appointment of the Headteacher, and the schools inclusion in the 2016 Bromley Education publication for parents advising them to apply direct to the school. Whilst highlighted in the publication for parents the schools where the funding agreement with the EFA is yet to be finalised, such as Langley Primary Free School would not be included within the co-ordinated admissions process

In response to KEPAs letter of July 2015 which sought consideration of Planning Areas 1 & 2 the Council highlighted the deferral of the opening of the Crystal Palace Free School. Members should note that the Crystal Palace Free School has recently confirmed its withdrawal from the Free Schools Programme, which will have implications for pupil place planning in the adjacent Planning Area 1 as it was identified as providing 60 places from 2015/16 onwards in the PDSP.

Conclusion

The need for additional primary education across the Borough and specifically the provision of the Harris Beckenham Primary Academy in Planning Area 2 is evidenced in the Councils approved Primary School Development Plan (Jan 2015) and was clearly presented to the Development Control Committee. Of the schools proposed to meet the education need in Planning Areas 1 and 2 Harris Beckenham Primary Academy is one of the most advanced towards delivery. The Harris Beckenham Primary Academy is needed and should proceed without delay.