

Decision Maker: PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR EDUCATION

Date: For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 19 January 2016

Decision Type: Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: SECONDARY AND PRIMARY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

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Chief Officer: Director: Education (ECHS)

Ward: (All Wards);

1. Reason for report

This report asks Members to consider the Council's strategy to meet the forecast pupils numbers in primary and secondary schools to 2031 and to endorse the recommendations of the School Places Working Party held on 4 November 2015 and 9 December 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 That Members of the Education PDS Committee consider the comments of the School Places Working Group following its meeting on 13 November 2014 (Appendix 1)

2.2 That, in consideration of the reports attached as Annex 1 (Review of Primary School Development Plan) and 2 (Planning of Secondary School Places) :

- i) The projections for primary and secondary need be noted;
- ii) A margin of 5% be agreed above the Greater London Authority projection for primary and secondary place planning to provide for local variations in need and to meet parental preferences;
- iii) That discussions be undertaken with primary schools identified for expansion with a view to reporting the outcome to a future meeting of Education PDS Committee;

- iv) That feasibility studies be undertaken in consultation with identified primary schools to assess the scope and cost of school enlargement;**
 - v) Where primary school expansion is agreed, implementation be funded through the Education Capital Programme, subject to the availability of funds;**
 - vi) That the Secondary School Place Planning report be recommended to the Education PDS Committee as the basis for secondary school place planning to 2031; and,**
 - vii) That the proposals for the expansion of existing secondary schools be brought forward to the Executive for approval.**
 - viii) That local Councillors be involved with any planning proposals for the expansion or establishment of schools at the pre-planning application stage.**
- 2.3 That the Education Portfolio Holder endorse the recommendations of the School Places Working Group, taking into account the views of the Education PDS Committee.**

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: statutory provision of school places
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Education Capital Programme
 4. Total current budget for this head: £72,783,031
 5. Source of funding: DfE Basic Need Capital Grant, DfE Capital Maintenance Grant, DfE 2 Year Olds Capital Funding, S106, DSG
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Staff

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

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement Section 14 Education Act 1996
 2. Call-in: Applicable
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The local authority has statutory responsibility for ensuring that there are sufficient school places to meet demand in the borough. This report set out the Council's proposals for meet this need.

3.2 This report includes a number of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Minutes of the School Places Working Group on 4 November 2015 that considered the Primary School Development Plan

Appendix 2 – Minutes of the School Places Working Group on 9 December 2015 that considered the Secondary School Development Plan

Appendix 3 – Report pack for Primary School Development Plan including supporting data

Appendix 4 - Report pack for Secondary School Development Plan including supporting data

3.3 In common with most London authorities, Bromley uses roll projections provided by the GLA as the basis of its planning for school places. These are based on the latest ONS population data, and take into account school rolls and dwelling stock changes. For primary schools they are broken down into eight planning areas whilst for secondary they are given for the borough as a whole. The development of the strategy for school place planning is based on this data, informed by knowledge on the ground from the school admissions team and other local sources.

3.4. In 2015 the Council has added to the range of information it analyses to inform its school development plan, primarily to inform local decision making about Free Schools and school expansion. This has included analysis of school census and birth data to ward level and consideration of data on migration.

3.5 The most immediate issue facing the authority over recent years has been the significant increase in the need for primary school places, with reception intake increasing from approximately 3,400 in 2009 to 4,050 in 2014. The reception intake in 2015 was very similar to 2014.

3.6 In 2015 the Council had to introduce its first bulge classes in three secondary schools, Bishop Justus, Langley Park School for Boys and The Ravensbourne Academy due to a shortage of places in north west Bromley.

3.7 The latest GLA 2015 School Roll Projections have reduced the expected number of school places required post 2018. However, this change is driven by a drop in live births in Bromley in 2013. Since the school roll projections were published the 2014 live birth data has become available that identifies that live births have increased back to nearly 4,100 and a trend appears to be emerging with live births increasing in outer London borough whilst falling in inner London.

3.8 The Council's strategy to meet the additional demand is a combination of bulge classes, permanent expansion of existing schools and new free schools. This provides the necessary flexibility to ensure that the demand can be met whilst remaining sensitive to the preferences expressed by parents. Although forecasts are given to 2031, these long term projections are based on assumptions about birth rates being sustained and increases in dwelling stock numbers being delivered. To some extent, as children forecast to come into the system beyond 2020 are not yet born, and given that further changes in population may be driven by external factors, there has to be continuous review of this strategy.

- 3.9 For primary schools, the immediate increase in demand was initially met by bulge classes. In many cases those schools that have admitted bulge classes are now permanently expanding. The Council is grateful to governors and school leaders for the co-operation which they have shown to ensure that these places were made available on time. During the year Harris Primary Academy Beckenham admitted its first pupils and new Free Schools the Beckenham Academy, Bullers Wood School for Boys and Langley Park Primary have been approved to open from 2016 subject to planning. However, Crystal Place Free School (primary) was not successful in finding a site and will not now be opening.
- 3.10 Following last year's school development planning round the decision was taken to uplift the GLA projections by 5% to provide a margin for growth and to enhance parental preference.
- 3.11 Elsewhere on this agenda is an update to the Basic Need Capital Programme which sets out all projects being planned or delivered in support of the primary schools' development programme.
- 3.12 Change in the organisation and size of schools have a knock on effect on others. However, the Council has little control over potential sites for Free Schools apart from those suggested in the consultation on the draft Local Plan. However, when recommendations are being made for school expansions, consideration will be given to the impact upon admissions locally to ensure that, so far as possible, additional places meet local needs.
- 3.20 Additional demand continues to be felt in both primary and secondary phases for in-year admissions. The numbers affecting each school are still relatively small but increasingly will cause pressure on class sizes. Schools are understandably reluctant to reorganise class groups mid-year but this may become necessary if in year admissions continue to grow.
- 3.21 The requirement for places will continue to be kept under review and further reports will be made on a regular basis with an update of forecasts, actual rolls, financing and decisions about the opening and enlargement of schools. In this way it is hoped not only to secure sufficient places but to meet parental preferences so far as is possible.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Bromley Council has an established policy for the review and strategic planning of school places and related school organisation. The need to ensure sufficient school places, the quality of those places and their efficient 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 Education Portfolio Plan.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These are set out in the accompanying report on the Basic Need Capital Programme.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places to meet demand in its area. This report details how the Council plans to address need.

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| Non-Applicable Sections: | 7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS |
| Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer) | These are all attached as appendices |