

**AGENDA ITEM: 7**

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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	27 September 2011
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Permanent expansion of primary school provision in the Colindale area</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
Summary	This report sets out the proposed permanent expansion of primary school provision in the Colindale area. It outlines the methodology used to determine the schools identified for expansion and the resources available to expand them. It seeks agreement to commission through the Strategic Partnering Agreement with Kier London.

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Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	None
For decision by	CRC
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That Members agree to commission the permanent expansion of primary school provision in the Colindale area as set out in this report, using £15.725m from the Children's Capital Programme (urgent primary places permanent unallocated) which is funded by Basic Needs Grant, subject to statutory consultation and proposals.**
- 1.2 That Members agree to the commissioning of the permanent expansion through the Strategic Partnering Agreement with Kier London, subject to the demonstration of value for money.**
- 1.3 That Members agree to the provision of temporary accommodation at the current Orion site, subject to planning, and give approval for quotations to be sought and funded by £150,000 from the Children's Capital Programme (urgent primary places permanent unallocated) which is funded by Basic Needs Grant.**
- 1.4 That Members note the continuing pressure on primary school provision and note that further expansion proposals will be brought forward for approval as they are developed.**

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 Cabinet Report 6 September 2010 'Investment strategy to meet demand for primary school places' - decision item 11. Cabinet agreed all recommendations, including to redirect resources to invest in primary school places as set out in the report.
- 2.2 Cabinet: 5 December 2005 - Building a future for Barnet's Children: the Primary School Capital Investment Strategy
- 2.3 Cabinet, 4 September 2006 - Primary Schools: Wave 1 schools and financing
- 2.4 Cabinet, 3 April 2008 – Selection of Strategic Partner for Primary Schools Capital Investment Programme
- 2.5 Cabinet Resources Committee, 28 April 2008 - Decision item 9, Monitoring report.
- 2.6 Cabinet Resources Committee, 17 June 2008 - Decision item 5, Use of Primary Capital Programme funding.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 To 'Ensure every school is a good school for every child and sufficient school places are available' is a strategic objective in the Corporate Plan 2011 - 2013, under the corporate priority 'a successful London suburb'. This reflects our partnership priorities set out in Barnet's Children and Young People Plan 2010/11-12/13 to provide high quality educational provision for children,

young people and for the benefit of the wider community at the heart of local communities.

- 3.2 Barnet Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure that sufficient schools for providing primary (and secondary) education are available in the area.

#### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 If there were insufficient primary school places to offer to children of school age in the borough, Barnet would not be able to fulfil its statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996.
- 4.2 There is a risk that pupil roll projections are inaccurate. The projection methodology has been scrutinised by a Task and Finish Group. Barnet uses the Greater London Authority's roll projections; accuracy has been improving, with the GLA projecting Reception rolls for 2010/11 to an accuracy level of - 0.7% three years in advance and of 1.0% one year in advance. There has now been a sustained increase in the number of births in Barnet and corresponding demand for Reception places. However, no projections can ever be completely accurate so a risk remains that too many or too few places could be provided.
- 4.4 There is a risk that if the Council does not invest in permanent expansions, it would largely continue to be reliant upon temporary additional classes and the Council will eventually run out of viable options for temporary additional classes.
- 4.5 There is a risk that the project costs could escalate - the projects will be offered at a Gross Maximum Price to control costs; there will also be a provision for abnormalities and contingency held within the budget.

#### **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The proposed expansions would help to provide sufficient primary school places for children in the borough. This applies to all children regardless of gender, faith, ethnicity, disability or other differences.
- 5.2 In the more ethnically diverse areas there is high demand for community school places. Barnet is a very diverse borough and this is set to increase over the next few years. Comparing 2010 with 2013, ONS population projections indicate the largest increases in the 0 to 4 population will be among Pakistani, Other Asian and those classified by the GLA as 'other', the White population is projected to decrease and the Black African population to remain stable.
- 5.3 The expansions proposed in the Colindale area would permanently expand community provision by 60 new Reception places each year and Catholic provision by 30 places. They would also enable a further 30 permanent places

to be created on the current Blessed Dominic site. It is yet to be determined which type of provision these 30 places would be.

- 5.4 Edgware Jewish Primary School joined the maintained sector in January 2011 and a new free primary school Etz Chaim opens in September 2011, serving Jewish and local communities. Further information is given in paragraph 9.2.

## 6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

### Financial implications

- 6.1 Cabinet (6 September 2010) allocated resources within the medium-term financial strategy to provide both permanent and temporary primary school places. Within the agreed funding package, the permanent expansion of Broadfields Primary School (£3m) is now underway. This report outlines the next phase of activity based on our prioritisation process (see below) – the activity is centred in the Colindale area.
- 6.2 The projects identified can be contained within the resources within the medium term financial strategy. As set out in the medium term financial strategy, the first phase of activity assumes that government capital grant for 2011/12 will be repeated for 2012/13 and 2013/14. The Government has recently also announced additional funding nationally for primary places in 2011/12.
- 6.3 It is anticipated that the total budget costs of providing four additional forms of entry in the Colindale area will be £15.725m. This reflects good value for money based on the average estimated cost in neighbouring boroughs of providing each additional form of entry at between £5m-£6m.
- 6.4 The outline indicative budget comprises:
- Provision of new four form entry school building for the relocation and expansion of the Orion school
  - The expansion and relocation of Blessed Dominic School
  - The purchase of the remaining lease at site
- 6.5 A further £0.150m will be required to provide temporary accommodation for additional pupils on the current Orion site prior to completion of the proposed permanent expansion.
- 6.6 The phasing of expenditure may be subject to re-profiling as the project progresses through the consultation, planning and delivery stage. The current anticipated profiling of expenditure is:

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
Work enabling permanent expansions of The Orion and Blessed Dominic	1,275	10,500	3,950
Provision of interim temporary	75	50	25

accommodation			
Total	1,350	10,550	3,975

## Property and land implications

6.7 Agenda Item 6.

## 7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 Barnet Council has a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient schools for providing primary (and secondary) education are available in the borough.

7.2 In order to expand the school from 2 to 3 forms of entry, the council would be required to publish and formally consult on statutory proposals to this effect pursuant to the statutory duties contained in s28 and Schedule 6 School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

7.3 A Strategic Partnering Agreement is already in place, a JCT contract would also need to be drawn up.

## 8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 Constitution part 3 – Responsibility for Functions – section 3 – Responsibilities of the Executive, and within the Contract Procedure Rules Part 5.

## 9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9.1 The unprecedented demand for primary school places has been well documented, including in the Cabinet Report on 6 September 2010 'Investment strategy to meet demand for primary school places'.

9.2 Additional Reception places have had to be added in each of the last three years: 60 permanent and 133 temporary for September 2009; 180 temporary places for September 2010 rising to 330 temporary places for September 2011. 60 permanent Reception places are being provided at Edgware Jewish Primary School and Etz Chaim Free School. Permanent expansion of Broadfields primary school is also underway.

9.3 To identify activity for the next phase of investment, four prioritisation criteria have been applied: area of demand, suitability of site and value for money, parental preference and ambition and vision of school

9.4 **Area of demand:** Primary aged children must be offered a primary school place within two miles walking distance of their home address. Sustained demand is projected over the next five years, 2012/13 to 2016/17, in the following areas.

- Colindale, West Hendon, Burnt Oak and Hendon: 4FE rising to 7FE by 2015/16

- Hale, Mill Hill, Edgware and Totteridge: 2 to 3FE
- East Barnet, Brunswick Park and Oakleigh: 2 to 3FE
- Coppetts, West Finchley, Woodhouse, East Finchley and Finchley Church End: 2 to 3FE
- Childs Hill, Garden Suburb and Golders Green: 2FE
- Underhill and High Barnet: none

- 9.5 **Suitability of Site and value for money:** to expand a school there must be sufficient space to build and sufficient outside play space. Some schools are more easily and cost effectively expanded than others e.g. conversion and re-modelling of existing space rather than the provision of new build accommodation.
- 9.6 **Parental preference:** Schools which are over subscribed provide greater certainty that any investment in expansion will result in more pupils on roll.
- 9.7 **Ambition and vision of school:** All primary schools were invited to express an interest in expansion and articulate their ambition for their school.
- 9.8 Applying the four criteria produced a prioritised list of schools. Using this list, a first proposed phase of activity in the Colindale area has been developed. The prioritisation matrix will be used to identify further future expansion activity.

#### Expansions in the Colindale area

- 9.9 As can be seen from section 9.4 (area of demand), our first and most pressing priority is for additional provision in the Colindale/Burnt Oak area to meet immediate demand from rising births and inward migration as well as housing growth.
- 9.10 Substantial regeneration is underway and planned for the Colindale/ Burnt Oak area. The first schemes are now being occupied. The most substantial schemes are: Beaufort Park, where the first few phases have been completed and a significant number of new homes have already been delivered; Grahame Park Estate where properties in the first phase are now being occupied; and Colindale Hospital where the first phase is due for occupation.
- 9.11 To meet emerging demand from the Beaufort Park development, Colindale Primary School has been expanded by 30 places in each year group. Despite this, further temporary capacity has been required in the area; 60 Reception places in September 2010 and 60 more added for September 2011. The Council is fast running out of viable options for temporary additional classes. Permanent expansions are now urgently required in order to meet demand.
- 9.12 There is particular demand for a community school; applications for community school places within two miles walking distance of the Colindale area have increased by 86% over the past four years, compared with a 43% increase in applications to Christian schools in the area and a 14% increase in applications to Jewish schools in the area.

#### Proposed permanent expansions

- 9.13 The first phase of activity proposed is to expand The Orion and Blessed Dominic schools that currently share a constrained site in the heart of Graham Park. The proposal is to relocate and expand Orion school into a new purpose built four form entry facility. The facility will be built on a site, owned by the council (see agenda item 6). This would enable Blessed Dominic to expand into the premises vacated by Orion school. This proposal would add up to four forms of new permanent capacity within a relatively short timeframe.
- 9.14 Four other schools on the perimeter of the area potentially have space to expand. However there are significant obstacles at two of the sites in terms of site topography and site ownership and three of the schools are separated from the area of highest demand by the M1 and A41. The fourth site is likely to be considered for expansion at a future stage.

#### Construction activity

- 9.15 It is proposed to commission the construction activity for these proposals through our Strategic Partnering Agreement with Kier London, subject to demonstration of value for money. If value for money cannot be demonstrated, an alternative procurement process will be followed. The future agreement of Cabinet Resources Committee will be required before any contractual arrangement is entered into for the construction activity and the demonstration of value for money will be set out.

#### Further activity

- 9.16 All pupil projections show that further permanent expansion of primary school provision will be required and future phases of activity will be developed within the funding envelope.
- 9.17 Temporary expansions to schools will continue to be needed throughout the permanent expansion programme and beyond. The costs of temporary expansions will be contained within the resources identified within the council's medium term financial strategy. It will be necessary to provide temporary accommodation on the current Orion site prior to completion of the proposed permanent expansion.

## **10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 10.1 None

Legal: MB

Finance: JH/MC