

<u>MEETING</u> CHILDREN, EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE
<u>DATE AND TIME</u> MONDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2017 AT 7.00 PM
<u>VENUE</u> HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, LONDON NW4 4BQ

Dear Councillors,

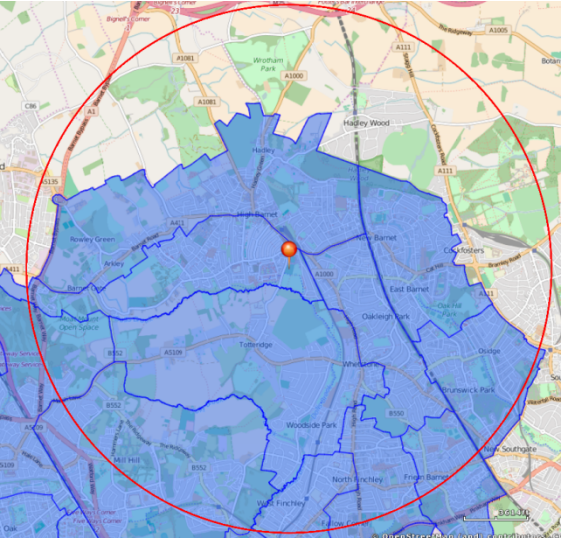
Please find enclosed the Responses to the Public Questions for the above mentioned meeting.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
1.	PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (IF ANY)	3 - 6

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Question	Agenda Item	Raised by	Question Raised	Answer
1	8	Amy Trevethan	Section: 1.11 Ark Pioneer is described as a “successful free school application already announced in Barnet”. Was this application approved by the DfE? If so, when was it approved? Did the London Borough of Barnet (LBB) have any role in ‘approving’ the application and has LBB assessed any merits or shortcomings of the Ark Pioneer application in the context of Barnet’s educational and demographic needs?	The free school programme is a central government programme administered by the Department for Education. The council has no role in assessing or approving free school applications. In more recent years, the Department for Education has invited the council to provide a view of the local need for school places.
2	8	Amy Trevethan	Section 1.16. It is noted that “fewer than expected applications were received for entry into the Reception year” for the September 2017 admissions round, across both London and Barnet. A figure of 3.3% is given for the fall in the number of on-time applications for Reception places in 2017/18 across London. What is the figure for Barnet?	The equivalent number of on-time home applications for Reception received in Barnet for September 2017 is approximately 7% per cent.
3	8	Amy Trevethan	Section 1.18 to 1.23. The descriptions of forecast primary place need in Planning Areas 1-6 indicate that Areas 1-3 in the west of the Borough will experience considerable additional demand. However, Areas 4-6 appear to have sufficient primary provision at the very least up until 2022/23, with Area 4 likely experiencing a reduction in demand in	The need for secondary school places over the next 7 years arises from the increase in pupils that are already in Barnet primary schools. There are now between 270-300 more pupils starting primary school in the east of the borough compared to 2008/9 and all of these pupils will require secondary school places. The council has a statutory duty to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of school places for children both in the west and the east of the borough.

			the longer term. Can we conclude therefore that there will be a significantly larger increase in demand for primary places in the west of the Borough compared to in the east of the Borough over the next 6-10 years?	To meet the need for children in the west of the borough, the Department for Education has approved the opening of the Saracen's High School, subject to planning consent.
4	8	Amy Trevethan	Section 1.18 to 1.23. Given the concentration of the forecast growth in primary place demand in the west of the Borough, has LBB made any assessment of where in the Borough the majority of pupils attending Ark Pioneer will travel from?	<p>Secondary school places are generally offered to pupils living within a 3 mile 'safe walking distance' of the school. The map below shows a radius of 2.8miles around the Underhill site. The good public transport links to the site may mean that in practice, pupils from a wider area may choose the school as a preference.</p> 
5	8	Amy Trevethan	Section 1.26. The table demonstrates that for 2018/19 there is already a "shortfall in forms of entry" of 8.9. How can this be given that The Totteridge	In calculating the projected shortfall, it is assumed that all current capacity, including capacity at Totteridge Academy is fully utilised. For September 2017, a number of Academies offered bulge classes

			Academy (TTA) currently has a surplus of at least 2.5 FE?	including in the east of the borough. When there are sufficient pupils, whether a school is over or undersubscribed is a result of decisions parents make for their child.
6	<u>8</u>	Amy Trevethan	Section 1.28. Is LBB currently in discussions with any secondary school Academies with regards to their potential expansion, and if so, which secondary schools have been approached?	As set out in the committee report, the council is currently funding a project that will see the expansion of St James Catholic High, subject to planning consent. A project has just been completed for the expansion of St Mary's and St John's. The council has no plans to fund further expansions as should the Ark Pioneer, the Saracen's and the Compton free schools progress, these brand new schools will meet the projected need for the foreseeable future.
7	<u>8</u>	Amy Trevethan	Section 5.2.1. Is LBB able to apply for basic need capital grants from central government to fund the construction of new schools where these schools are directly commissioned by the Council?	The council receives an annual basic need grant to provide new school places. The free school programme is the Government's programme for funding the cost of new schools. The council is not aware of any other government programme through which the council can apply for the cost of providing a new school – for each secondary school, the cost would be in the region of £30-£35m.
8	<u>8</u>	Amy Trevethan	Is LBB directly commissioning any new secondary schools in the Borough over the next 6 years?	No. The three free secondary free schools approved by the DfE to open in Barnet will meet projected need.
9	<u>8</u>	Amy Trevethan	As far as LBB is aware, does the 'blended learning' educational model remain a central feature of the educational application for the Ark Pioneer school?	Ark report that although the school will use elements of technology to enhance the teaching and learning environment, it will not be focussed on a 'blended learning' model. The Executive Principal of Pioneer is Jerry Collins, who is also Principal of Ark John Keats –an outstanding school in Enfield Each school in the Ark network adapts and uses different models to meet their needs, and this is determined by the

				school's leadership. Ark confirm that when technology is used, it is never done as a substitute for high quality teaching or to reduce staff costs, but rather when it can drive and improve student outcomes.
10	8	Amy Trevethan	Have any assessments been made of the potential impact that the operation of Ark Pioneer may have on neighbouring secondary schools, for example QEGS and TTA?	Secondary school place planning is undertaken on a borough wide basis as at the secondary stage, parental preference leads to many children travelling to a school of their choice.