	<p><b>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER 5 February 2015</b></p>
<b>Title</b>	<p><b>Permanent Expansion of Monkfrith Primary School</b></p>
<b>Report of</b>	<p>Education and Skills Director</p>
<b>Wards</b>	<p>East Barnet, Brunswick Park, Oakleigh</p>
<b>Status</b>	<p>Public</p>
<b>Enclosures</b>	<p>Appendix 1: Monkfrith Expansion Statutory Notice</p>
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	<p>Alison Dawes, Head of Education Partnerships &amp; Commercial Services  <a href="mailto:Alison.dawes@barnet.gov.uk">Alison.dawes@barnet.gov.uk</a>  020 8359 7698</p>

## Summary

This decision authorises the permanent expansion of Monkfrith Primary School by 1 form of entry for September 2015.

## Decisions

1. To authorise the permanent expansion of Monkfrith Primary School from one to two forms of entry for September 2015.

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 This report is needed to record the decision to expand Monkfrith Primary School from one to two forms of entry.

## **2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS**

- 2.1 The Council has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to ensure there are sufficient school places available in the local area.
- 2.2 The Local Authority can only enforce school attendance if they have offered a school place within a safe “walking distance”, defined under the Education Act 1996 in section 444(5) of 2 miles for children ages 0-8 and 3 miles for children over 8 years of age.
- 2.3 Increasing the number of children who can access an outstanding local school helps the Council to meet the following priorities:
- Corporate Plan 2013-2016, Corporate Priority 3: “to create better life chances for children and young people across the borough.”
  - Barnet Children and Young People’s Plan 2013-2016, Primary Priority 1: “Provide exciting and supportive learning experiences in welcoming schools.”
- 2.4 Demand for primary school places in Barnet is growing rapidly. The number of babies born in Barnet has risen very quickly since 2002, and is continuing to rise in the East Barnet, Brunswick Park and Oakleigh areas. Many of these children will need a school place over the next few years and projections overall for Barnet show a continuing rise in primary numbers.
- 2.5 All the schools within the local area continue to be oversubscribed. Additional temporary Reception places have been added in the East Barnet, Brunswick Park and Oakleigh areas every year since 2009 to meet demand and there is a continuing need for more permanent places.
- 2.6 Monkfrith Primary School is a one form entry school, with 30 Reception children starting each September Monkfrith Primary School is a popular school which has been rated ‘outstanding’ by Ofsted. For September 2014, 54 applicants selected Monkfrith Primary School as a preferred choice. There are 30 permanent places available, which provides limited scope to meet parental preference. Permanently expanding Monkfrith Primary School will help to meet the clear need for additional school places in the local area. It is proposed to permanently increase the Admission Number for Monkfrith Primary School by 30 places in 2015/16 to 60 places to provide sufficient places for children in the east of the borough, and to help meet parental preference. The school would eventually cater for 420 pupils aged 5-11.
- 2.7 Expanding an existing small school enables the school to become more financially sustainable, as revenue funding is driven by the number of pupils. A larger budget offers more opportunity and more future financial security to the school.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

- 3.1 Osidge Primary school was initially considered for expansion in the local area. However, during the consultation process the council was made aware that Ashmole Academy, a school within very close proximity to Osidge Primary, would be submitting an application for a primary free school to the Department for Education. The council made a strategic decision not to expand Osidge, as the close proximity of the two schools would mean that both schools would serve a similar immediate catchment area.
- 3.2 The council could build a new school, however identifying sites in London is challenging and very expensive.
- 3.3 When considering schools for expansion, the council takes a range of factors into account, including parental preference, site constraints, the school's vision and ambition, and whether the school is Ofsted good or outstanding. Monkfrith Primary school was chosen as it satisfies these factors.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 This decision is subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation. If it is approved by Planning Services, building works will commence so that 60 Reception places can be accommodated for September 2015.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

5.2 Increasing the number of children who can access an outstanding local school helps the Council to meet the following priorities:

- Corporate Plan 2013-2016, Corporate Priority 3: "to create better life chances for children and young people across the borough."
- Barnet Children and Young People's Plan 2013-2016, Primary Priority 1: "Provide exciting and supportive learning experiences in welcoming schools."

#### **5.3 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

##### **5.3.1 Finance**

Capital funding has been secured for the expansion of Monkfrith Primary school. The project's progress is monitored monthly by the Education Funding Agency (executive agency to the Department for Education). The budget provision for this project is £4 million.

##### **5.3.2 Sustainability**

A larger budget offers more opportunities to focus expenditure on teaching and learning rather than administration.

##### **5.3.3 Staffing**

Expanding Monkfrith Primary School will create new opportunities for both existing and new staff to work in new positions at the school. A restructure of staffing may be required and, if so, trade unions will be consulted in the usual manner at this time.

#### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.4.1 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.
- 5.4.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and the School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for proposers and decision-makers 2014, sets out the statutory procedures that must be followed when expanding a school.
- 5.4.2 The Constitution states that formal reporting of officer decisions will take place if actions or decisions involve specific statutory powers.

## 5.5 Risk Management

- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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.
- 5.8 There is a risk that the additional places will not all be needed and the expanded school will not be at full capacity. This is considered to be a low risk as birth data shows that there has been a 44% increase in births in the East Barnet, Brunswick Park and Oakleigh wards between 2001-02 and 2011-12.

## 5.9 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.9.1 In considering the proposals for expansion due regard has been given to the public authority duties as set out in s149 of the Equality Act 2010. Barnet's schools provide a diversity of provision. Expanding Monkfrith school will provide additional school places and assist Barnet in ensuring that there are sufficient school places available within the Borough to meet increasing demand, and continue to provide a diversity of provision. By expanding a community school, additional places are being provided which are available for all children in the local area to apply for. It is not anticipated that the expansion will have any discernable impact on protected groups.
- 5.9.2 Permanently expanding Monkfrith Primary School will help to meet the clear demand for additional school places in the local area, and provide more choice for children in the area.

## 5.10 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.11 The online survey for the consultation on the expansion of Monkfrith primary school ran from the 29 September 2014 until the 5 November 2014. The views expressed were mixed – 6/27 (22%) supported the proposal, 19/27 (70%) didn't support the proposal, and 2/17 didn't have a view either way. Concerns that were raised included traffic congestion and parking (issues that are considered as part of the planning process), loss of playground area, and that the school would lose its sense of community. The majority of local residents were concerned about traffic congestion and parking for staff and parents. The governing body of the school considered the responses to the online survey and were satisfied that the objections raised could be managed following the traffic impact assessment. The governing body of the school decided to proceed to the representation stage, which involves the publication

of a statutory notice (appendix 1) in view of the shortage of school places in the local area. The statutory notice was published in Barnet Press, on the school's website, and on the school's entrances. The representation stage ran from 13 November to 11 December 2014.

- 5.12 One representation was received during the representation period which mentioned traffic congestion as a concern. The governing body of the school and the council considered the responses to both the initial consultation and the representation period and is recommending the expansion of Monkfrith primary school.
- 5.13 The project is currently awaiting the results of the Traffic Impact Assessment, which will inform the traffic management measures required to alleviate known parking and traffic issues in the local area. The school is currently drafting the School Travel Plan, which will take the proposed increase in pupils into account. Examples of measures being included in this plan are as follows:
- Requesting parents to sign up to an agreement that they will support the School's Travel Plan by walking to school and not parking in certain the roads around school. There will also be a focus in school on rewarding children that walk, cycle or scoot or 'Park and Stride'.
  - A further travel survey will be carried out to investigate the possibility of a 'Walking Bus' and staggering the start time of the school day to reduce the congestion that is focused on an 8.55 start time.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Information about the online survey can be found on Barnet's [engage space](#).
- 6.2 Appendix 1 includes the Statutory notice for the expansion.

## 7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT

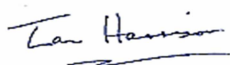
- 7.1 *I have the required powers to make the decision documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes Constitution, Scheme of Delegation, Budget and Policy Framework and Legal issues including Equalities obligations.*

## 8. OFFICER'S DECISION

**I authorise the following action:**

- 8.1 To authorise the permanent expansion of Monkfrith Primary School from one to two forms of entry.

**Signed**



**Date**

5.2.15