

	<b>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY OFFICER 15 July 2016</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Permanent Expansion of Childs Hill Primary School</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Commissioning Director, Children and Young People
<b>Wards</b>	Childs Hill, Golders Green, Garden Suburb
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1: Childs Hill Expansion Statutory Notice
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## Summary

This decision authorises the permanent expansion of Childs Hill Primary School by 0.5 form of entry for September 2016.

## Decisions

- To authorise the permanent expansion of Childs Hill Primary School from one and a half to two forms of entry for September 2016. It is estimated that the expansion will cost £365,000. These costs will be met from the Council's Basic Need Allocations (funding from the Department for Education).**

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

- 1.1 This report is needed to record the decision to expand Childs Hill Primary School from one and a half 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 in the Corporate Plan:
- ‘Barnet’s children and young people will receive a great start in life’ and that
  - ‘Barnet schools will be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all and with all children achieving the best that they can’.
- 2.4 Demand for primary school places in Barnet is growing rapidly. There has been a 24% increase in births between 2002 and 2013 in Barnet. Since 2002, the number of children born in the local area (Childs Hill, Golders Green and Garden Suburb wards) has increased by 23.4% (from 685 to 845). The Brent Cross regeneration scheme (providing an additional ~7600 units) will attract new families, creating further demand for school places. In order to meet the need for additional school places in the local area, the Council is planning ahead in proposing to permanently expand Childs Hill Primary School.
- 2.5 Childs Hill Primary School is a one form entry school, with 45 Reception children starting each September. Childs Hill Primary School has been rated ‘good’ by Ofsted. It is proposed to permanently increase the Admission Number for Childs Hill Primary School by 15 places in 2016/17 to 60 places to provide sufficient places for children in the south of the borough. The school would eventually cater for 420 pupils aged 5-11.
- 2.6 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 The council could build a new school, however identifying sites in London is challenging and very expensive.
- 3.2 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. Childs Hill 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 2016.

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

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

- 5.2 Increasing the number of children who can access a good local school ensures appropriate and sufficient local school places are available. This supports the delivery of the council's Corporate Plan to ensure that 'Barnet's children and young people will receive a great start in life' and that 'Barnet schools will be amongst the best in the country, with enough places for all and with all children achieving the best that they can'.

##### **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 Childs Hill Primary school. The project's progress is monitored by the Council's Education Capital Board. It is estimated that the expansion will cost £365,000, which provides good value for money compared to similar permanent expansions in Barnet. These costs will be met from the Council's Basic Need Allocations (funding from the Department for Education).

###### **5.3.2 Sustainability**

A larger budget for the school offers more opportunities to focus expenditure on teaching and learning rather than administration, supporting the school in managing their finances long term.

###### **5.3.3 Staffing**

Expanding Childs Hill 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 2016, 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 23.4% increase in births in the Childs Hill, Golders Green and Garden Suburb wards since 2002.

#### **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 Childs Hill 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 Childs Hill Primary School will help to meet the 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 consultation was launched at Childs Hill primary school on 21 April 2016 by a presentation from Council officers and question and answer session for governors, staff and parents. The presentation was uploaded to Barnet's engage space so that those unable to attend the meeting were able to read the presentation to make an informed decision on the proposal.
- 5.12 The online survey for the consultation on the expansion of Childs Hill primary school ran from the 21 April 2016 until 6 June 2016. Four out of six respondents supported the proposal (of which three strongly supported the proposal). A further respondent neither supported nor opposed the proposal, and one respondent strongly opposed the proposal. Two respondents raised concerns around the impact of increased traffic on air quality and parking. Childs Hill Primary School has recently applied for Gold status for TfL's sustainable transport accreditation scheme, STARS (Sustainable Travel Active Responsive Safe), for which the school must demonstrate a reduction in car usage by 6%, and must have successfully implemented a range of initiatives to reduce traffic. Childs Hill Primary School has had a travel plan in place since 2008, and has updated it annually since then. The school was awarded Bronze STARS status in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. The governing body of the school considered the responses to the online survey and were satisfied that the concerns raised could be managed. 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 16 June to 14 July 2016.

- 5.13 One representation was received during the representation period from Camden Council, which had no further comments or any objections to the proposed expansion.
- 5.14 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 Childs Hill primary school.

## **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 Childs Hill Primary School from one to two forms of entry. It is estimated that the expansion will cost £365,000. These costs will be met from the Council's Basic Need Allocations (funding from the Department for Education).

**Signed** Chris Munday, Commissioning Director, Children and Young People

**Date** 15/07/2016