

DELEGATED POWERS REPORT NO.

1707

SUBJECT: Permanent Expansion of Brunswick Park Primary School

Control sheet

**All of the following actions MUST be completed at each stage of the process and the signed and dated report MUST be passed to the Governance Service for publishing**

All reports		
1. Governance Service receive draft report	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 19/06/2012
2. Governance Service cleared draft report as being constitutionally appropriate	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 21/06/2012
3. Finance clearance obtained ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of Fin. officer Date	Kerry-Anne Smith 05/07/2012
4. Staff and other resources issues clearance obtained ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of Res. officer Date	Rena Abrahams 09/07/2012
5. Strategic Procurement clearance obtained ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of SPO Date	Lesley Meeks 22/06/2012
6. Legal clearance obtained from ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of Legal officer Date	Margaret Boon 21/06/2012
7. Policy & Partnerships clearance obtained ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of P&P officer Date	Andrew Nathan 19/06/2012
8. Equalities & Diversity clearance obtained ( <i>report author to complete</i> )	Name of officer Date	Andrew Nathan 19/06/2012
9. The above process has been checked and verified by Director, Head of Service or Deputy	Name Date	Kate Kennally 10/07/2012
10. Signed & dated report, <u>scanned or hard copy</u> received by Governance Service for publishing	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 11/07/2012
11. Report published by Governance Service to website	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 11/07/2012
12. Head of Service informed report is published	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 11/07/2012
13. Expiry of call-in period	Date	17/07/2012
14. Report circulated for call-in purposes to Business Management OSC members & copied to Cabinet Members & Head of Service	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 11/07/2012

**ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBER(S) UNDER DELEGATED POWERS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION)**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Permanent Expansion of Brunswick Park Primary School</b>
<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families
<b>Date of decision</b>	10 July 2012
<b>Date decision comes into effect</b>	18 July 2012

<b>Summary</b>	This delegated powers report gives approval for the expansion of Brunswick Park Primary from one to two forms of entry on its existing site.
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<b>Officer Contributors</b>	Heather Storey, Strategy and Planning Officer, Children's Service
<b>Status (public or exempt)</b>	Public
<b>Wards affected</b>	Brunswick Park, Oakleigh, Coppetts and East Barnet
<b>Enclosures</b>	None
<b>Reason for exemption from call-in (if appropriate)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Contact for further information:</b>	Heather Storey, Strategy and Planning Officer, Children's Service 020 8359 3057

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## **1. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Cabinet, 3 November 2011 'Proposed phasing of primary school expansions and investment strategy to meet demand for secondary school places' – decision item 6. Cabinet agreed all recommendations including the next phase of projects, which included the permanent expansion of Brunswick Park School.
- 1.2 Cabinet, 20 February 2012, Decision Item 6, 'Business Planning 2012/13 – 2014/15', agreed the capital programme, including £2m for the expansion of Brunswick Park School.

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

- 2.1 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 2012 - 2013, under the corporate priority 'a successful London suburb'. This also reflects our partnership priorities set out in Barnet's Children and Young People Plan 2010/11-12/13.
- 2.2 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.

## **3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 demonstrates that pupil numbers in the Brunswick Park area will continue to grow rapidly.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 It is not considered that the issues involved are likely to raise significant levels of public concern or give rise to policy considerations.

## **4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Brunswick Park is an inclusive community primary school. Permanently expanding the school will enable more children to benefit from this popular school.

- 4.2 31% of children at the Brunswick Park are eligible for free school meals, 25% have special educational needs, and 58% have English as a second language. 75% of pupils at Brunswick Park belong to ethnic minorities and there is a 17% rate of mobility. This above the average for Barnet schools, and represents a high proportion of children with English as a second language and who are eligible for free school meals. Expanding Brunswick Park School will allow more children to benefit from the good education provided at the school.

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

### **Finance and Value for Money**

- 5.1 Expenditure of £2m was approved by Cabinet Resources Committee on 20 February 2012. This represents good value for money based on each additional form of entry costing between £2m and £6m.
- 5.2 Increasing the capacity of the school will have some revenue funding implications. However, these revenue costs are incurred when additional children are accommodated in a new school or in temporary school expansions. The school is taking additional Reception pupils in September 2012 prior to the proposed permanent expansion. As such an additional 30 pupils will be reflected in the school's revenue budget by April 2013.

### **Staffing**

- 5.3 Expanding Brunswick Park 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.

### **Sustainability**

- 5.4 Investing now in high quality permanent buildings is the best solution to meet the long term demand for places.

### **Property**

- 5.5 Brunswick Park Primary School is a Council asset. The school would be reconfigured on the current site, Osidge Lane, Southgate, N14 5DU. There is sufficient space to accommodate the new classrooms and associated facilities on the current site.

## **6. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2007) and The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment)(England)

Regulations 2009 9, sets out the statutory procedures that must be followed when expanding a school. There are statutory duties which have to be complied with when considering a proposed enlargement of the premises of the school which would increase the capacity of the school by both more than 30 pupils, and by 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser).

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 7.1 Council Constitution, Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 3.2, details the responsibilities of individual Cabinet Members. The Cabinet Member for Education, Children and Families has responsibility 'to lead on budget and policy formulation and implementation in relation to investment in educational infrastructure in schools and libraries'.
- 7.2 Council Constitution, Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, Section 3.3 provides that Cabinet Members may discharge the executive functions that fall within their portfolio, whether or not they are also delegated to officers except for matters specifically reserved to Council, Cabinet or cabinet committees.

## **8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 8.1 Brunswick Park is a one form entry community primary school providing places for up to 210 children. It is a successful and popular school, judged by Ofsted to be good.
- 8.2 It is proposed to increase the Admission Number for Brunswick Park Primary School by 30 places from 30 to 60 places, with a corresponding enlargement of the physical capacity of the school. 60 pupils would be admitted in Reception each year from September 2013.
- 8.3 Consultation took place in April 2012 and following this, statutory proposals were published on 17 May 2012. A formal representation period followed, which ended on 14 June 2012, and a formal decision on the proposals must now be taken. If the proposal is agreed, the expansion of Brunswick Park will be subject to separate planning requirements.

### **Factors to consider when making a decision**

- 8.4 The statutory government guidance sets out a number of factors that must be taken into account when making a decision on statutory proposals to expand a school. The key factors are set out below.

### **Effect on school standards and school improvement**

- 8.5 Brunswick Park Primary School is judged by Ofsted to be good; expanding the school will allow more children to benefit from this high standard of education. 90% of Brunswick Park students achieve at least a level 4 in English and Maths at Key Stage 2 SATS with 29% achieving at least a level 5 in these subjects. This compares with an average of 80% across all Barnet primary schools.

- 8.6 The school currently has a Breakfast Club and After School Club, which are being expanded and extended to meet the increase in demand being experienced. The proposed expansion will not impact negatively on this.

### **Need for places**

- 8.7 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 Brunswick Park, Oakleigh, Coppetts and East Barnet area. 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. 112 more children born in 2010/11 (those due to enter Reception in 2014/15) than in 2002/03, in the Brunswick Park, Coppetts, Oakleigh and East Barnet wards (postcodes EN4 8, N20 9, N20 0, N11 1, N14 5, N14 7, N11 3).
- 8.8 All the schools within the Brunswick Park, Oakleigh, Coppetts and East Barnet area continue to be oversubscribed. At the moment there is almost no surplus capacity at primary schools in the area. An extra 30 temporary Reception places have been added every year for the last three years to meet demand and there is a continuing need for more permanent places in September 2012 and beyond.

### **Expansion of Successful and Popular Schools**

- 8.9 Brunswick Park is a popular school. For September 2012, 127 applicants (as at April 2012) have selected Brunswick Park as one of their preferred schools. There are 30 permanent places available, which provides limited scope to meet parental preference. Brunswick Park School took an extra 30 Reception pupils in September 2011 to help meet demand. Permanently expanding Brunswick Park School will help to meet the clear need for additional school places in the local area.

### **Admissions**

- 8.10 The admission arrangements of Brunswick Park School, including the proposed expansions fully meet the provisions of the School Admissions Code.

### **Travel**

- 8.11 The school will not be moving site, and the school travel plan will be updated in line with the proposed expansion to reflect the increased number of children attending the school.

### **Funding and land**

- 8.12 As set out in 5.1 and 5.5 capital funding and land for the proposed expansion have been confirmed.

### **Views of interested parties**

- 8.13 Parents and Residents were given consultation opportunities through a consultation meeting, and a consultation feedback form which they could respond to via an online survey, in email, by phone, or in writing. Concerns expressed included on the issues of congestion, traffic, parking and the impact on vistas in the surrounding residential area.
- 8.14 Three people responded via the online survey, with two in support and one against the proposal to expand. Concerns were raised around the preservation of the Metropolitan Open Land surrounding the school and the continued feasibility of a neighbouring school. One parent responded by post, in support of the proposed

expansion, highlighting the need for additional places and the parental preference for Brunswick Park School.

- 8.15 Staff and governors at Brunswick Park School were consulted separately and were broadly in support of the proposed expansions. Concerns were raised about the availability of parking, traffic issues and the need for additional classrooms to meet the same standard as existing ones to prevent any inequality of provision. Staff and governors were keen to ascertain that the funding is secure and sufficient to support the project. They were reassured that this is the case. There was a strong feeling that the expansion projects should be managed to minimise disruption to children's education and the workload of the Senior Leadership Teams.
- 8.16 Children at the school were consulted through the student council and classes. Most children were in favour of the proposals to expand the school. Their responses were generally positive, and they provided feedback on issues that are important to them, including greater friendship opportunities.
- 8.17 The School Organisation and Place Planning group considered the feedback set out from 8.13. Taking into account this feedback and the pressing need for primary school places in the local area, it was agreed that formal statutory notices should be published in the local paper and displayed outside the school, as is legally required. No formal representations were made.

## **9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 DCSF Statutory Guidance: Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School by Enlargement or Adding a Sixth Form (last updated 1 February 2010).
- 9.2 The detailed Statutory Proposals are available. Please contact Heather Storey on 020 8359 3057 to consult these.

## **10. DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER(S)**

**I authorise the following action:**

- 10.1 **The expansion of Brunswick Park Primary School from one to two forms of entry.**

**Signed**



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**Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Families**

**Date**

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**10 July 2012**