

CABINET

23 May 2017

Title: Proposed Expansion of Robert Clack and Barking Abbey Comprehensive Schools	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: Longbridge, Whalebone and Heath	Key Decision: Yes
Report Authors: Andrew Carr, Group Manager, School Investment, Organisation and Admissions Mike Freeman, Investment and Strategy Advisor	Contact Details: Tel:020 8227 2254 Email: andrew.carr@lbbd.gov.uk Tel: 020 8227 3492 E-mail: mike.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Jane Hargreaves, Commissioning Director, Education	
Accountable Strategic Director: Anne Bristow, Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration	
Summary: At its meetings on 19 April 2016 and 19 July 2016, Cabinet approved the allocation of funding within the Capital Programme to support an investment programme to respond to the demand for additional school places in the primary and secondary age range. The reports to the aforementioned meetings, outlined arrangements that had been agreed with Head Teachers and Governing Bodies to meet demand issues at a number of the Borough's schools. This report seeks to formalise those arrangements through the permanent expansion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Robert Clack Secondary School to become an 18 form of entry (FE) Secondary School and to become an all-through school through the provision of a nursery and a 3FE Primary School.• Barking Abbey Secondary School to become a 12 form of entry (FE) Secondary School. The benefits of this proposal will be to increase school places in both the primary age range and in the secondary age range in order to meet the increasing demand for school places. This increase in demand for school places is being caused by the changes experienced in the age profile of the Borough, most notably the rise in birth rates and changes in migration patterns into the Borough.	

Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- (i) The extension of the age range for pupils attending Robert Clack Secondary School in order to accommodate primary aged pupils (3FE) and also nursery aged pupils (39 places) from September 2019;
- (ii) The expansion of Robert Clack Secondary School from 10 to 18 FE from 1 September 2019 to be a phased planned expansion in collaboration with the school; and
- (iii) The expansion of Barking Abbey Secondary School from 9 to 12 FE from 1 September 2017.

Reason(s)

The decision will assist the Council in fulfilling its statutory obligations to provide a school place for every child and support the intention to the Council's Vision and Priorities, including encouraging civic pride, enabling social responsibility and growing the Borough, and delivering the ambition for excellence in education set out in our Education Strategy.

It is part of the mitigation of Corporate Risk 31 – Inability to Provide School Places.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Cabinet has received regular reports about the continuing demand for school places and the need to develop additional provision, the most recent being on 15 November 2016 (Minute 62 refers). The Borough has seen an unprecedented rise in births since 2003/04 and the Council has planned for steady expansion of school places since 2007. The impact of this was first seen in the Reception Cohort in 2008/09. Appendix 1 illustrates the actual and forecast number of births in the borough from 2000 to 2020 and also demonstrates that changes do occur in forecast birth data from year to year.
- 1.2 The additional school places that have been created to date have predominantly been in the primary sector with the secondary sector now following its lead. The Council started to embark on creating more pupil places in the secondary sector since 2013 as the year groups move up from the primary sector and transfer into the secondary sector. This is in addition to continuing to increase school places in the primary sector as demand is forecast to continue to rise albeit more slowly.
- 1.3 Additional primary classes have been put in place since 2007/08 in order to meet the increased demand for pupil places and this has been detailed in previous reports to Cabinet. These additional classes have been managed by a combination of expansions, blip classes and the new schools including George Carey Church of England Primary School, Goresbrook All-Through Free School, Riverside Secondary Free School, Riverside Primary Free School and Greatfields Secondary Free School.

- 1.4 In the Secondary sector, a total of circa 65 additional Year 7 to 11 classes have been provided since 2013. This can be summarised as follows:

Table 1 - Additional Secondary School Classes - September 2013 to 2016

Secondary School	Number of Additional Classes Per Year Group:					Total
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	
Dagenham Park Church of England School	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	4.5
Riverside Secondary School	8	4	4	4	4	24
All Saints School	2	2	2			6
Jo Richardson School	2	2				4
Sydney Russell School	2	2	2	2		8
Goresbrook Free School	4					4
Greatfields School	4					4
Elutec				5	5	10
Total	23.5	11.5	8.5	11.5	9.5	64.5

- 1.5 Also, as previously reported to Cabinet, in addition to the increased births, the Admissions Team in Children's Services are continuing to receive high numbers of late applications for all year groups and this has compounded the difficulty in planning for the right number of school places, as this relates to new people moving into the Borough.
- 1.6 A further issue previously reported to Cabinet is the change in the retention rate regarding the number of children born in the borough requiring a Reception place. This is now at 102.4% and means that we continue to have more children moving into the borough than were born here. The retention rate has remained above 100% since 2006/2007. This and the information set out above highlights the number of new residents with larger families moving into the Borough.
- 1.7 Of all the London Boroughs, Barking and Dagenham is amongst those that has had the highest growth in the 5 to 10 year age range over the past five years. In the following years, these pupils will move up to the secondary sector as shown in Table 2 below.
- 1.8 Table 2 below also highlights the growth in the school aged population of our neighbouring boroughs.

Table 2 - Actual and Forecast Population Growth

Local Authority	Ages 5 to 10 Years				Ages 11 to 15 Years			
	2010 to 2015 (Actual)	% Growth (Actual)	2015 to 2020 (Forecast)	% Growth (Forecast)	2010 to 2015 (Actual)	% Growth (Actual)	2015 to 2020 (Forecast)	% Growth (Forecast)
Barking & Dagenham	5,900	36%	1,200	5%	600	5%	4,100	31%
Redbridge	3,400	15%	2,800	11%	600	3%	2,600	14%
Newham	3,500	14%	2,500	9%	200	1%	1,800	9%
Havering	2,600	17%	2,800	15%	-1,100	-7%	2,500	18%

Source: GLA 2015 Trend based projections (including new housing)

- 1.9 This increase in pupil numbers has been reflected in many London boroughs. The forecast growth in the 11 to 15 year age group are the primary aged pupils making their way up to secondary school. It is worth noting that Havering is also experiencing population growth with rising numbers in the primary sector.
- 1.10 The increase in Havering's 5 to 10 year olds over the past five years will move up to the secondary sector over the next few years. Historically, steady numbers from Barking & Dagenham have gone to Secondary Schools in Havering. This may be closing as an option over coming years.
- 1.11 The need to provide additional secondary school places can be further illustrated from the information set out in tables 3 and 4 below.

Table 3 - Year 7 Secondary School Capacity and growth in pupil numbers

	Year in which pupils move up to Year 7	Number Of Pupils	Yearly Increase/ (decrease)	Current Number of places
Current Year 7 Capacity (as at September 2016)				3,099 [based on 270 places at Eastbrook]
				Potential shortfall of places
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2010	September 2011	2,364		
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2011	September 2012	2,437	73	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2012	September 2013	2,524	87	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2013	September 2014	2,673	149	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2014	September 2015	2,849	176	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2015	September 2016	3,103	254	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2016	September 2017	3,257	154	(158)
Number of Year 5 pupils in 2016 *	September 2018	3,513	256	
Number of Year 4 pupils in 2016 *	September 2019	3,672	159	
Number of Year 3 pupils in 2016*	September 2020	3,627	(45)	
Number of Year 2 pupils in 2016*	September 2021	3,709	82	
Number of Year 1 pupils in 2016*	September 2022	3,721	12	
Number of Reception pupils in 2016*	September 2023	3,740	19	

NB: * These numbers are from the October 2016 pupil count and will change during the course of the school year.

Table 4 - Year 7 Secondary School Capacity for September 2017 and growth in pupil numbers

Number of Year 7 Places in September 2016 (as above)	3099 places	Number of Year 6 pupils moving up to Year 7 in September 2017	Actual Forecast Year 7 pupils inclusive of demographic factors
Add additional places for September 2017:			
Barking Abbey School (360-279)	81 places		
Eastbrook School	90 places		
Riverside Secondary	60 places		
Total Number of Places for September 2017	3,330 places	3257 (this would give 2.2% surplus capacity)	3100 (this would give 6.9 % surplus capacity)

1.12 It should be noted that the above forecast numbers (from 2016) do not take account of in-year movements that generally increase pupil numbers such as from new housing developments. Also a number of pupils will go to out of borough schools and the Local Authority will also 'import' pupils into the borough.

1.13 The Cabinet has previously approved a range of necessary actions taken by the Corporate Director of Children's Services to respond to the demand for additional school places, and these proposals endorse the earlier decisions.

1.14 **Robert Clack Comprehensive School**

1.14.1 The school was judged 'Good' at its last Ofsted short inspection in September 2016. This followed a full inspection carried out in October 2013 when it was also judged 'Good' with outstanding for both the behaviour and safety of pupils and its leadership and management.

1.14.2 At its meeting of 19 July 2016, Cabinet approved the expansion of Robert Clack School of Science, subject to the approval of the Department of Education (DfE) following formal consultation. This report forms part of the formal consultation required by the DfE, the decision of which will be sent to the DfE.

1.14.3 The funding for this proposal was also set out in the report of 19 July 2016 (Section 3) as follows:

- **DfE Basic Need Grant for 2017-2018 financial year**

A sum of £17m to be set aside from the £17,865,375 new grant identified by the DfE to support the provision of school places.

- **Existing Basic Need Grant**

The sum of £10m from the capital programme to be reserved for the Robert Clack development of the Lymington Fields site.

- **Section 106 Planning Gain**

A sum of £1.75m has been secured to support the development of education provision on the Lymington Fields site plus some land being made available. It was agreed that this funding be secured as part of the planning requirements to support the development of the school to enhance provision.

1.15 **Barking Abbey Comprehensive School**

1.15.1 The school was judged 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection in September 2012 with outstanding for the behaviour and safety of pupils.

1.15.2 At its meeting of 19 April 2016 (minute 120 refers), Cabinet were informed of the ongoing discussions with the school to provide increased capacity for additional secondary school places and it was agreed by the Governing Body to increase capacity from 9 to 12 Forms of Entry thus creating 90 extra places per year group.

- 1.15.3 A sum of £12m has been set aside for this project as set out in the aforementioned report (minute 11.1 refers).
- 1.16 Meetings with the Chair and Board of Governors of the schools have been held to discuss the wider proposals and support was received to expand the schools permanently subject to accommodation provision being made available which meet each of the Schools requirements. This will allow the schools to grow year on year.
- 1.17 The discussions that have followed with each School Governing Body, parents and the local community have placed the schools in a position to permanently expand their intake (as set out in section 2 below and Appendix 2) in order to meet current and future demand.
- 1.18 Letters were sent to Parents, Carers and Guardians of Pupils, Staff and Governors of each of the schools informing them of the proposal to expand the school and the reasons for this on 16th January 2017 for Barking Abbey School and on 28th February 2017 for Robert Clack School. Unions were copied into these letters.
- 1.19 The Council has published formal statutory notices to expand the schools as follows:
- Robert Clack Comprehensive School to be expanded from the start of the Autumn Term, 1st September 2019. The notice was published in the local press on 17th April 2017. The notice period expired on 15th May 2017.
 - Barking Abbey Secondary School to be expanded from the start of the Autumn Term, 1st September 2017. The notice was published in the local press on 6th March 2017. The notice period expired on 2nd April 2017.
- 1.20 Each of the schools have displayed a copy of their notice on their school notice board and copies of the notices were displayed at both Barking Library and Dagenham Library and also sent to other neighbouring local authorities. The standard new admission numbers for each of the schools as set out in section 2 below was set out in the notices.
- 1.21 At the time of writing this report, two responses have been received following publication of the notice and the letter sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils, staff and governors of the school.
- 1.22 The responses have come from parents of pupils attending Barking Abbey Secondary School and have raised concerns about maintaining high attainment levels, recruiting staff of a high calibre, having sufficient funding and concerns that playground space would be reduced. All responses to the consultation have been replied to and reassurances given about the concerns raised following advice from the school's inspector and the head-teacher of the school.
- 1.23 Any further responses received subsequent to the writing of this report will be reported at the meeting.

2. Proposal and Issues

The proposals are as follows:

2.1 Robert Clack Secondary School

- 2.1.1 Extend the age range for pupils attending the school in order to accommodate primary aged pupils and also nursery aged pupils. The proposal is to have ninety places (3 forms of entry) per year group for Reception Year through to Year 6 and also 39 places for nursery pupils beginning in September 2019. This would mean the school would begin with up to 90 places (3 forms of entry) in Reception Year in 2019 and also the nursery places and then grow year on year (for Reception through to Year 6) until all year groups are operating by September 2025. This will mean the school will expand on a phased basis subject to an agreed rate of increase on a yearly basis.
- 2.1.2 Therefore, in September 2026 all Year 6 Robert Clack pupils will be able to move up to Year 7 of the same school.
- 2.1.3 Expand its Secondary School facility from 10fe to 18fe. This would mean an additional 240 places (8 forms of entry) per year group beginning in September 2019 with Year 7 and then growing year by year until by September 2023, Years 7 to 11 would be operating at eighteen classes per year group. (NB: The school begun taking an additional two Year 7 classes in September 2015 and will continue to expand in an agreed manner subject to discussions between the school and the Local Authority.)
- 2.1.4 Therefore, the school would grow year on year beginning with an additional six classes for Year 7 only in September 2019 (as detailed in Appendix 2). Year 7 would therefore have 18 Forms of Entry in September 2019 and Years 8 to 11 would each have 12 Forms of Entry.
- 2.1.5 The Governing Body for the school believe the move to an all through structure will have positive benefits for both secondary and primary age students. Secondary and primary staff working in closer partnership will help improve the achievement of all pupils still further. The Governing Body have also been involved in discussions regarding the expansion of the school and have agreed to its expansion to 18 Forms of Entry.
- 2.1.6 Therefore, regarding secondary level provision, the current admission number for the school is 360 in Year 7. From September 2019, the proposed admission number for Year 7 pupils will be for 540 places (and 90 places in reception year). From September 2026, the admission number for entry at age 11 will be 450 pupils, to allow for 90 pupils that will by then be attending the school in Year 6 to transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 (as noted in point 2 above). The overall number of pupils in Year 7 will be 540, with 90 pupils transferring from the existing school and 450 pupils being admitted through the normal secondary admission round.
- 2.1.7 By September 2023 Robert Clack Comprehensive School will be offering all of its additional secondary places and by September 2025, it will be offering all of its primary places proposed by these alterations. In addition, Robert Clack has been

commissioned by West Ham Football Club to provide education support to their Football Academy and this will include up to 20 year 10 and 20 year 11 pupils.

- 2.1.8 A further consideration in connection with the Robert Clack Secondary School proposal is the Governing Body for the school might in due course feel that the name of their school will need to include the words 'All Through School' once the age range has expanded. It is for the Governing Body of the school to decide whether or when to change the name of the school, and if it does wish to change the name of the school, to what it should change to.

2.2 Barking Abbey Secondary School

- 2.2.1 Expand the schools secondary provision from 9fe to 12fe. The current admission number for the school is 279 in Year 7. From September 2017, the admission number for entry at age 11 will be 360 pupils.
- 2.2.2 By September 2021, Barking Abbey Secondary School will be offering all of its secondary places (Years 7 to 11) proposed by this alteration. This is detailed in Appendix 2.
- 2.2.3 The Governing Body have been involved in the discussions regarding the expansion of the school and have agreed to the proposed expansion of the school from to 9 to 12 Forms of Entry.
- 2.2.4 Therefore, the school would grow year on year beginning with an additional three classes for Year 7 only in September 2017 (as detailed in Appendix 2). Year 7 would therefore have 12 Forms of Entry in September 2017 with Years 8 to 11 remaining at 9 Forms of Entry.
- 2.3 Both schools will continue to admit pupils into Year 7 at age 11 years using the admission criteria of the Local Authority.
- 2.4 The schools have agreed to the above and the Council will work in partnership to ensure each of the two schools has the support it needs to accommodate the additional pupils and that the expansions are both disability friendly and utilise the latest building thinking to support CYP with a wide range of need in order to provide a good learning and support environment for all the mainstream children educated there in the future. The Council are working closely with the schools together with the DfE who have indicated their support for these proposals.
- 2.5 This is in line with the Council's Vision which is to encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents and thereby allow every child to be valued so they can succeed. The residents of Barking and Dagenham can look to the future with confidence, assured that their council will do what it can to provide the educational, academic and vocational opportunities they need.
- 2.6 The outcome would be for a borough with excellent schools, constantly improving and which are growing to meet the demands for pupil places.
- 2.7 Further, this proposal meets with the Education Strategy whereby the overarching responsibility for Education in the Borough is to improve the life chances and help

drive, support and fulfil the ambitions of all the children, young people and adults who live and study here.

- 2.8 In particular, the Education Strategy sets out the agreement for a programme for developing school places subject to the proviso that it may need revision in the light of changed demand for places and resources available.

3. Options Appraisal

- 3.1 **Do Nothing** - This is not practical due to the legal and statutory obligation placed on the Council to provide sufficient school places and the pressures currently faced across the Borough.

- 3.2 **Expansion of Schools** - This preferred option has the support of each School's Governing Body and local community and forms part of the wider development of the Schools for which funding has been made available within the Capital Programme.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 As set out in Section 1.16 to 1.20 of the report, discussions have been held with the head teachers and governing bodies of each of the schools regarding the expansion of their schools, letters were sent to all parents, carers and guardians, members of staff and members of the governing body for each of the schools allowing them six weeks to put forward any comments or views. Trade Unions were copied into the letters.

- 4.2 A formal statutory notice was published in The Barking and Dagenham Post on 8th March 2017 for Barking Abbey Comprehensive School and on 17th April 2017 for Robert Clack Secondary School regarding the proposals to expand the schools with effect from 1 September 2017 and 1 September 2019 respectfully allowing a further four weeks for views to be brought forward.

- 4.3 Ward Councillors were sent details as part of the consultation process.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Daksha Chauhan, Group Accountant, Children's Finance

- 5.1 This report requests approval for the extension of the age range for pupils attending Robert Clack Secondary School to accommodate primary aged pupils (3FE) and also nursery aged pupils (39 places) from September 2019. Approval is also sought for an expansion of the school from 10 FE to 18 FE from 1 September 2019. Approval is also sought for the expansion of Barking Abbey Secondary School from 9 to 12 FE from 1 September 2017.
- 5.2 Funding for Robert Clack is to be met from Basic Need Funding and S106 monies as detailed in Paragraph 1.13.
- 5.3 Cabinet in July 2016 approved setting aside £12m for the expansion of Barking Abbey School.

- 5.4 These schemes are within the Capital Programme and progress and any risks will be reported through the Capital Monitoring process.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

- 6.1 By Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 the Authority must secure sufficient schools for primary and secondary education. The Authority must have regard to the necessity to secure places for special educational needs pupils to ensure sufficient provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs.
- 6.2 The process of making changes to schools is governed by regulations and there is statutory, namely, Guidance for Proposers and Decision-Makers, April 2016.
- 6.3 All representations received following consultation on proposed changes must be given conscientious consideration.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** - The Council has a statutory obligation to make provision for additional pupil places in the Borough and these proposals mitigate Corporate Risk 31 - the risk of failing to provide suitable numbers of places for pupils' learning.
- 7.2 **Staffing Issues** - The schools will need to increase the numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff to support the increase in pupil numbers. This will be funded through the school's DSG budget and the increased share which the school will receive.
- 7.3 **Corporate Policy and Customer Impact** - The decision will assist the Council in fulfilling its obligations to provide a school place for every child and support the intention of the Council's Vision and Priorities, including encouraging civic pride, enabling social responsibility and growing the Borough. It is also part of the mitigation of Corporate Risk 31 – Inability to Provide School Places.

Further, the increase in pupil places from these proposals will improve the available places for parents expressing a preference for their children to attend Robert Clack and Barking Abbey Secondary Schools. It will also ensure that pupils have better access to education provision in both the primary sector and secondary sector and are more likely to be able to attend schools in their local area.

The short and long term impact of the recommendations for the coming year would be positive for customers on all counts of: race, equality, gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion.

- 7.4 **Safeguarding Children** - Adoption of the recommendation would contribute strongly to the Council's objectives to improve the wellbeing of children in the borough, reduce inequalities and ensure children's facilities are provided in an integrated manner, having regard to guidance issued under the Children's Act 2006 in relation to the provision of services to children, parents, prospective parents and

young people. The proposal will result in additional accessible school places and this will have a positive impact on all equality groups.

7.5 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - Appropriate consideration of the development of individual projects will take into account the need to design out potential crime problems and to protect users of the building facilities so to be secured by design.

7.6 **Property / Asset Issues** - Where necessary, as detailed above, the schools will be expanded with new buildings and/or new classrooms and through internal and external building alterations to meet the increased size of the schools. The projects will be subject to planning requirements in which pupil movement to and from school sites and any traffic implications will be considered as part of these applications.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Notices Published 6 March 2017 and 17 April 2017 (<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/Education/Pages/Home.>)

List of appendices:

- **Appendix 1** – Birth Data (Actual and Forecast) 2000 to 2020
- **Appendix 2** – Timeline of changes to Robert Clack and Barking Abbey Comprehensive Schools
- **Appendix 3a & b** – Primary & Secondary Forecasts
- **Appendix 4** – Number of Secondary School Places