

## THE EXECUTIVE

16 FEBRUARY 2010

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

<b>Title:</b> Proposed Expansion of Cambell Infant School	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b> This report presents a proposal for the expansion of Cambell Infant School with effect from 1 September 2010, thereby increasing the standard admission number to 120 pupils in each of the three year groups (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2). Interim arrangements were made with effect from September 2008 to increase the intake for Reception and Year 1 to four forms of entry. Therefore this proposal, in effect, formalises that arrangement as well as introducing an additional form for Year 2 pupils.</p> <p>The benefits of this proposal will be to increase school places in the infant 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.</p> <p>At the Executive meeting on 11 August 2009 (Minute 45 refers), Members approved procurement and funding proposals relating to the building of new classrooms, a nursery area, toilet facilities and storage space in the form of a single storey building as an extension to the Infant School. These works are integral to the proposed expansion of the Infant School and the rationalisation of space with the Junior School, which will also see the development of an Additional Resource Provision for pupils aged 8 to 11.</p> <p><b>Wards Affected:</b> Goresbrook Ward</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>The Executive is recommended to agree the formal expansion of Cambell Infant School from a three form to a four form entry Infant School with effect from the start of the Autumn Term 2010 as detailed in the report.</p>	
<p><b>Reason(s)</b></p> <p>To assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of "Inspired and Successful" and in fulfilling its duty to provide every child in the borough with a school place.</p>	
<p><b>Implications</b></p> <p><b>Financial</b> There are additional revenue costs associated with the increased intake of pupils and these will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget allocated for this purpose from Central Government. Schools receive funding based primarily on pupil numbers and the increase in pupil numbers will generate sufficient funding to meet revenue costs.</p> <p>There are no specific capital costs associated with this proposal. The capital costs relating to the necessary building works were detailed in the previous report on 11</p>	

August 2009 as follows:

£720,000 - from the Basic Need Safety Valve Fund - a Grant from the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF)  
£500,000 - from the Primary Capital Programme  
£780,000 - Section 106 Agreement Funding

It has been confirmed that the cost to build the Infant school extension and also rationalise the site, could be delivered for the £2,000,000 budget available.

### **Legal**

The expansion proposals have been published in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the required procedural and implementation arrangements are being followed, in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

The formal consultation process commenced on the 28 November 2009 and concluded on 26 December 2009.

### **Contractual**

No specific implications (the procurement issues were covered in the report to Executive on 11 August 2009).

### **Risk Management**

The Council has a statutory obligation to make provision for additional pupil places in the Borough and these proposals mitigate the risk of failing to provide suitable numbers of places for pupils' learning.

### **Staffing**

The school 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.

### **Customer Impact**

The increase in pupil places at the school will improve the available places for parents expressing a preference for their children to attend Cambell Infants. It will also ensure that pupils have better access to education provision in the primary sector and are more likely to be able to attend schools in their local area.

### **Safeguarding Children**

No specific implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

No specific implications.

### **Property / Assets**

No specific implications.

### **Options appraisal**

- 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.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expansion of School to Four Form Entry – This preferred option has the support of the School Governing Body and the local community and forms part of the wider development of the School for which funding has been made available within the Capital Programme.</li> </ul>		
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## 1. Background

- 1.1 With the regeneration of Barking Town Centre and other parts of the borough, new homes are being created, being replaced or being refurbished. This investment is attracting more families to the area and with this comes demand for more school places, particularly in the primary school sector. There is also an element of demographic change which is having an impact as properties built for families are once again being occupied by families.
- 1.2 In response to this need for additional places, the School admitted an additional 30 pupils in the school year 2008/09 and a further 30 pupils in 2009/10. This has meant Reception Year and Year 1 moving up from three forms of entry to four forms of entry whilst Year 2 has remained at three forms of entry.
- 1.3 As referred to earlier, the Executive on 11 August 2009 agreed a range of proposals that have enabled the Infant School to be in a position to permanently expand its intake to four forms of entry and therefore formalise these interim arrangements, and at the same time help in responding to current and future demand.

## 2 Proposal and Consultation Process

- 2.1 Meetings with the Chair and Board of Governors of the school were held in 2008 to discuss the wider proposals and support was received to expand the school permanently from three to four forms of entry from 1 September 2010 subject to accommodation provision being made available which met with the School's requirements.
- 2.2 Council officers and representatives of the School worked together to move forward the necessary building improvements, including the securing of the necessary funding, in order to enhance provision and support the objectives of the school.

- 2.3 The building works were planned to commence in January 2010 for completion in July 2010.
- 2.4 A series of meetings have been held including meetings with teaching staff, personnel committee meetings, other various school committee meetings and Governing Body Meetings where plans for the new build were presented. These plans were also been presented at the school's parents evening held in March 2009 in order to allow parents to bring forward any questions they may have.
- 2.5 Letters were sent to Parents, Carers and Guardians of Pupils, Staff and Governors of Cambell Infant School informing them of the proposal to expand the school and the reasons for this on 28 September 2009.
- 2.6 The Council has published a formal notice to expand the school by one form of entry with effect from the start of the Autumn Term, 1 September 2010 with a new standard admission number of 120 pupils in each year group. The notice was published in the local press on 28 November 2009 and copies of the notice were displayed in Cambell Infant and Junior Schools and Barking Library. The notice period expired on 26 December 2009.
- 2.7 No responses have been received regarding the published notice or from the letter sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils, staff and governors of the school.

### **3. Links to Corporate and other Plans and Strategies**

3.1 The proposals in this report are in line with:

- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- The Council Plan

### **4. Consultees**

The following have been consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Cllr L Smith, Leader of the Council
- Cllr R Gill, Lead Member for Education and Children's Well-Being
- Cllr RJ Barnbrook, Ward Member
- Cllr TA Lansdown, Ward Member
- Cllr W W Northover, Ward Member
- Corporate Management Team
- Jane Hargreaves, Head of Quality and School Improvement
- Bal Gill, Strategic Manager, Admissions
- John Hooton, Strategic Finance Controller
- Fiona Taylor, Acting Legal Partner, Safeguarding & Partnerships
- Debra Nicholls, Senior Lawyer, Procurement and Contracts
- Sue Lees, Divisional Director of Asset Management and Capital Delivery
- Shenis Hassan, Group Manager, Children's Services Finance
- Leann Kenny, Communications Manager
- Simone Mills, Internal Communications

**5. Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Legislation which allows this – Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Consultation letter dated 28 September 2009
- Notice Published 28 November 2009
- Executive report and Minute 45, 11 August 2009
- Executive report and Minute 118, 20 January 2009
- DCSF Guidance: Making changes to a maintained mainstream school

**6. List of appendices:**

None