

CABINET

21 DECEMBER 2010

REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

Title: Proposed Expansion of Primary Schools	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>At its meeting on 16 March 2010 (Minute 139), the 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 age range. The report to the 16 March meeting, together with several previous reports, outlined interim arrangements that had been agreed with Headteachers and Governing Bodies to meet immediate demand issues at a number of the Borough's schools. This report seeks to formalise those arrangements through the permanent expansion of the following schools with effect from 1 September 2011:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ripple Primary School: To expand from three to five forms of entry by bringing the Westbury Centre back into use as a school building, together with 26 FTE nursery places.• Thames View Junior School: To expand from three to four forms entry, by providing an extension of four classrooms and expanding the existing staff room.• St Peter's Primary School: To expand from one and a half to two forms of entry, through a number of internal and building alterations to add three additional class spaces.• Cambell Junior School: To expand from three to four forms of entry. This to be achieved through internal refurbishment and bringing into use redundant areas of the building.• There are also an additional three forms of entry being provided on the St George's Halbutt Street site. Permanent management arrangements for this site are being explored. <p>The benefits of this proposal will be to increase school places in the primary 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.</p> <p>Wards Affected: Gascoigne, Eastbury, Thames, Goresbrook and Heath Wards.</p>	
<p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Agree the formal expansion of the Ripple and St. Peter's Primary Schools and Thames View and Cambell Junior Schools with effect from 1 September 2011 as	

detailed in the report.

- ii) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Lead Member, to agree the permanent expansion arrangements in relation to the primary school extension at the St George's Road site, following appropriate discussions with relevant Headteachers and Governing Bodies.

Reason(s)

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.

Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

There is a lag in funding increases in pupil numbers and there will be insufficient funding to meet the costs from the 2011/12 Dedicated School Grant (DSG) allocation. These costs should be met from the provisions set aside from the DSG in this financial year.

The capital grant to fund the expansion has not been confirmed at the time of writing this report but is expected to be announced by 21 December.

Comments of the Legal Partner

The Legal Partner has confirmed that relevant legal issues are set out in section 4 of the report

Head of Service:

Jane Hargreaves

Title:

Head of Quality and School Improvement

Contact Details:

Tel: 020 8227 4148

E-mail:

jane.hargreaves@lbbd.gov.uk

Cabinet Member:

Councillor R Gill

Portfolio:

Lead Member for Children and Education

Contact Details:

Tel: 020 8724 2892

E-mail: rocky.gill@lbbd.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has planned for steady expansion of school places in the primary sector over the past few years. The requirement to make the right number of places available and being able to satisfy demand involves analysis of demographic data for which there are established methods for planning pupil places which we have followed.
- 1.2 However, the borough has seen an unprecedented rise in births since 2003/04 and the impact of this was first seen in the Reception Cohort in 2008/09. It followed, demand being such, that an additional seven Reception classes were made available in 2008/09 in addition to the two planned Reception classes.
- 1.3 Similarly, for 2009/10, thirteen additional Reception classes were made available together with the two planned classes.

- 1.4 For 2010/11 to date an additional sixteen Reception classes have been made available. These additional classes include permanent expansions and one-off 'blip' classes that will move through the school year on year.

Table 1

Number of births in Barking & Dagenham (adjusted to Academic Year)

Year of Birth	Number of Births
2000/2001	2,380
2001/2002	2,416
2002/2003	2,535
2003/2004	2,698
2004/2005	2,907
2005/2006	3,134
2006/2007	3,325
2007/2008	3,541

Source: Office for National Statistics

- 1.5 In addition to the increased births, Admissions are also receiving high numbers of late applications for Reception age and Year 1 children and this has compounded the difficulty in planning for the right number of school places. As an example, the closing date for applications into Reception for 2010/11 was 29 January 2010. As at 30 September 2010, Admissions had received 573 late applications. Last year, approximately 500 late applications were received. Further, the number of casual admissions into Year 1 and Year 2 has risen substantially compared to previous years.
- 1.6 A further issue is the change in the retention rate regarding the number of children born in the borough requiring a Reception place. This had been averaging 96% but over the past few years has been over 100% as new residents move to the Borough with larger families.
- 1.7 This increase in pupil numbers is being reflected in many London boroughs including our neighbouring boroughs Redbridge, Newham and, to a lesser extent, Havering.
- 1.8 In response to this need for additional places, the following additional classes were created at the following schools in September 2010:

School	No. of Additional Classes	No. of Additional Places
Ripple Primary	4 classes	120 places
St Peter's Primary	0.5 classes	15 places
Cambell Juniors	1 class	30 places

- 1.9 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 in the primary phase.

- 1.10 Meetings with the Chair and Board of Governors of the schools have been held over the past year to discuss the wider proposals and support was received to expand the schools permanently from 1 September 2011 subject to accommodation provision being made available which met each of the Schools requirements. This will allow the schools to grow year on year.
- 1.11 The discussions that have followed with each School Governing Body, the Diocese of Brentwood regarding St Peter's Catholic Primary School, parents and local community have placed the schools in a position to permanently expand their intake (as set out in section 2.2 to 2.5 below) and therefore formalise the interim arrangements for Ripple Primary School, St Peter's Primary School and Cambell Junior School whilst allowing Thames View Junior School to also expand to meet current and future demand.
- 1.12 Council officers and representatives of the schools have worked together to move forward the necessary building improvements in order to enhance provision and support the objectives of the schools. Capital budget provision has been agreed for these schemes as part of the Capital Programme, using grant income allocated from the DCSF.
- 1.13 A series of meetings have been held at each of the schools including meetings with teaching staff, personnel committee meetings, other various school committee meetings and Governing Body Meetings where plans for building refurbishments have been presented.
- 1.14 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 24 September 2010.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The expansion proposals are as follows:
- 2.2 **Ripple Primary School:** To expand from three to five forms of entry by bringing the Westbury Centre back into use as a school building together with 52 PTE nursery places (26 FTE).
- 2.3 **Thames View Juniors:** To expand from three to four forms entry, by providing an extension of four classrooms and expanding the existing staff room.
- 2.4 **St Peter's Primary School:** To expand from one and a half to two forms of entry, through a number of internal and building alterations to add three additional class spaces.
- 2.5 **Cambell Juniors:** To expand from three to four forms of entry. This to be achieved through internal refurbishment and bringing into use redundant areas of the building.
- 2.6 There are also an additional three forms of entry being provided on the St George's Halbutt Street site. Permanent management arrangements for this site are being explored.

3. Financial issues

3.1 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.

3.2 The part year funding required to support the additional in year pupils starting in September 2011 will be allocated from the sum approved by the Schools Forum for additional in-year pupils. This provision is required for part of the financial year as funding for children registered after the January pupil number count is retrospective and not included in the Dedicated Schools Grant until year 2012/13.

3.3 The additional funding on a part year basis from September 2010 for each school will be in the region of:

• Ripple Primary	£ 93,000
• Thames View Junior	£ 47,000
• St Peter's Primary	£ 23,000
• Cambell Juniors	<u>£ 46,500</u>
Total	<u>£209,500</u>

3.4 The additional funding costs for the school nursery places from September 2011 will be in the region of:

• Ripple Primary (26 FTE)	<u>£50,000</u>
Total	<u>£50,000</u>

4 Legal Issues

4.1 The Council has published a formal statutory notice to expand the schools with effect from the start of the Autumn Term, 1 September 2011 with new standard admission numbers for each of the schools. The notice was published in the local press on 13 November 2010 and a copy of the notice was displayed in each of the Schools and both Barking and Dagenham Library and sent to other neighbouring local authorities. The notice period for each of the schools expired on 10 December 2010.

4.2 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), and the related statutory guidance.

4.3 The statutory four week consultation period commenced on the 13 November 2010 and concluded on 10 December 2010. The Local Authority (Cabinet) is required to make their decision as to the expansion proposals within two months of the end of the statutory consultation period, i.e. 10 February 2011, otherwise the matter has to be passed to the Schools Adjudicator to be determined.

4.4 No responses have been received, at the time of writing this report, regarding the published notices or from the letters sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils,

staff and governors of the school. Any subsequent responses will be reported at the meeting.

5. Other Implications

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 Customer Impact

The increase in pupil places at the above listed schools will improve the available places for parents expressing a preference for their children to attend the aforementioned schools. 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.

5.4 Property / Asset Issues

The school estate portfolio will be increased with regards to the expansion of Ripple Primary School as the Westbury site is to be used as an annex to the main school site.

6. Options appraisal

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

7. Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Legislation which allows this – Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Consultation letters dated 24 September 2010
- Notice Published 13 November 2010
- Previous Cabinet Reports: 20 January 2009 [Minute 118], 18 November 2008 [Minute 90], 11 December 2009 [Minute 108], 16 February 2010 [Minute 122], 16 March 2010 [Minute 139], 8 June 2010 [Minute 10], 6 July 2010 [Minute 23]
- DCSF Guidance: Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a sixth form

8. List of appendices:

None.