

CABINET

12 February 2013

Title: Proposed Expansion of Schools from September 2013	
Report of the Cabinet Member For Children's Services	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: Longbridge, Mayesbrook, Alibon, Parsloes and Becontree.	Key Decision: Yes
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Accountable Divisional Director: Jane Hargreaves, Divisional Director of Education	
Accountable Corporate Director: Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services	
Summary: At its meetings on 10 May 2011 (Minute 133) and 14 February 2012 (Minute 109), 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, together with several previous reports, outlined interim arrangements that had been agreed with Head Teachers 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 schools. 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. Wards Affected: Longbridge, Mayesbrook, Alibon, Parsloes and Becontree.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to agree to the formal expansion of Schools as follows: (i) The Sydney Russell Comprehensive School To expand from ten to twelve forms of entry from 1 September 2013. (ii) Manor Infant School (Sandringham Rd) To expand from four to five forms of entry from 1 September 2013.	

- (iii) Manor Junior School (Sandringham Rd)
To expand from four to five forms of entry from 1 September 2016
- (iv) Roding Primary School (Cannington Rd)
To expand from three to four forms of entry from 1 September 2013.
- (v) Richard Alibon Primary School
To expand from two to three forms of entry from 1 September 2013.

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.

1. Introduction and Background

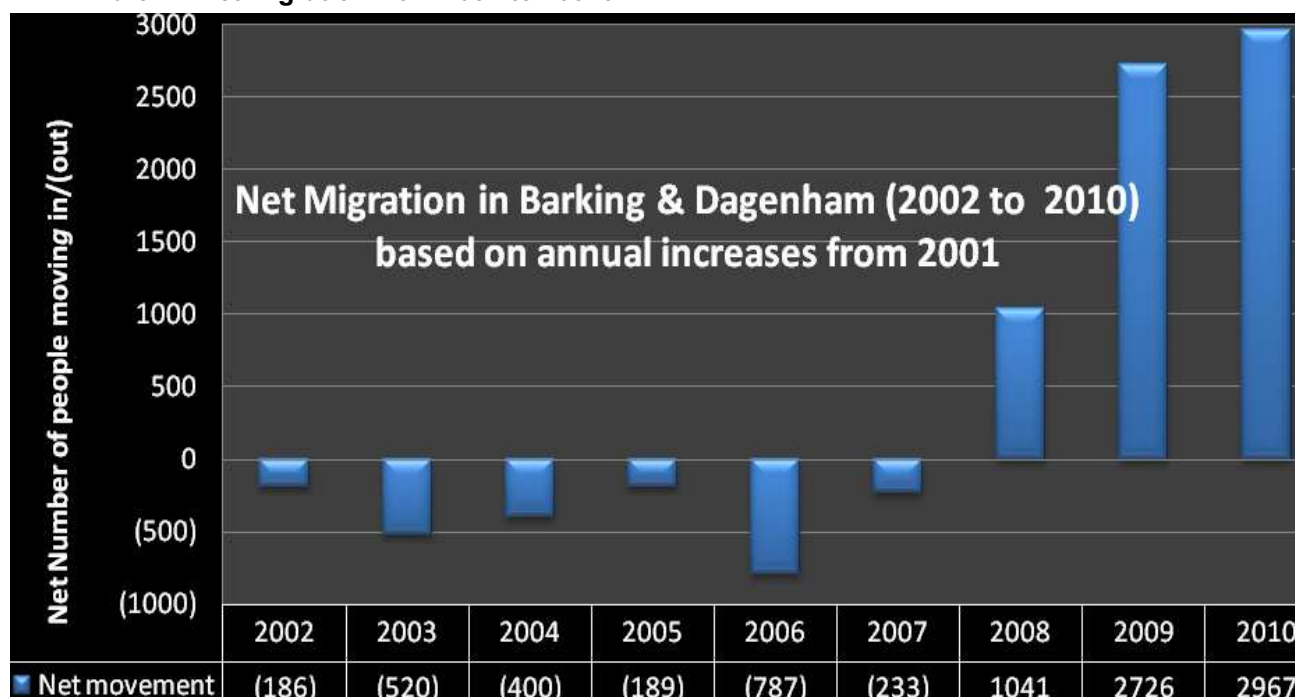
- 1.1 The Council has planned for steady expansion of school places over the past few years and the additional school places that have been created to date have predominantly been in the primary sector as this has been where the increase in demand has been. The Council will now start to embark on creating more pupil places in the secondary sector as the year groups move up from the primary sector and transfer over into the secondary sector. This will be in addition to continuing to increase school places in the primary sector as demand is forecast to continue to rise. Demographic data is used to ensure the right number of school places are available.
- 1.2 As reported to Cabinet on 22 May 2012 (Minute 5 refers), 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.
- 1.3 Additional 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. For this Academic Year, 112 additional primary classes across the Primary sector have been created since we started the expansion programme. These additional classes have been managed by a combination of expansions, blip classes and the new George Carey Church of England Primary School that will be increasing the number of classes it provides year on year. In the Secondary sector, twenty additional Year 7 places have been provided at Dagenham Park Church of England School and four Year 7 classes have been provided at the new Barking Riverside School that opened in September 2012. These four Year 7 classes are based at the George Carey Church of England Primary School as a temporary measure for one year.
- 1.4 The expansions planned are as follows:
 - the Roding Primary expansion by 1 Form of Entry on the Cannington Road site;
 - the Sydney Russell expansion by 2 Forms of Entry;

- the Manor Infants expansion by 1 Form of Entry on the Sandringham Road site;
- the Manor Juniors expansion by 1 Form of Entry on the Sandringham Road site;
- the Richard Alibon expansion by 1 Form of Entry.

1.5 Also, as reported to Cabinet on 22 May 2012, in addition to the increased births, the Admissions Team in Children’s Services are continuing to receive 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 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 107% compared to five years ago when the retention rate was 100.1%. This and the information set out above high-lights the number of new residents moving to the Borough with larger families. This is backed by data from the Office for National Statistics and the GLA that shows a growth in migration into the borough (see chart 1 below).

Chart 1 – Net Migration from 2002 to 2010



Source: GLA Net Migration figures December 2012

1.7 Further, it was reported by the GLA that Barking & Dagenham had the largest population growth in 2010. Table 1 below details the change in the 0 to 15 year age band.

Table 1: Detailed Components of Population Change (0 to 15 years of age)

Year	Population (for 0-15 Years of Age)	Change in population (5yr, 2yr and 3yr)	Cumulative change (Base Year - 2001)	% Change (5yr, 2yr and 3yr)	Cumulative % Change (Base Year 2001)
2001	36,200				
2005	39,100	2,900	2,900	8.0%	8.0%
2007	40,600	1,500	4,400	3.8%	12.2%
2010	44,700	4,100	8,500	10.1%	23.5%

Source: Office for National Statistics

Date: 25 September 2012

- 1.8 This increase in pupil numbers is being reflected in many London boroughs including our neighbouring boroughs Redbridge, Newham and, to a lesser extent, Havering.
- 1.9 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, and these proposals endorse the earlier decisions.
- 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 2013 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, parents and the local community have placed the schools in a position to permanently expand their intake (as set out in section 2.1 below) and therefore formalise the interim arrangements for Richard Alibon Primary School and Roding Primary School (Cannington Road), whilst allowing The Sydney Russell Comprehensive School, Manor Junior School and Manor Infant School (both at Sandringham Road) 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 DfE.
- 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 26 October 2012. Unions were copied into these letters.

- 1.15 The Council has published a formal statutory notice to expand the schools with effect from the start of the Autumn Term, 1 September 2013 with standard new admission numbers as set out in section 2.1 below in each year group. The notice was published in the local press on 22 December 2012 and copies of the notice were displayed in each of the schools and both Barking Library and Dagenham Library and also sent to other neighbouring local authorities. The notice period expired on 18 January 2013.
- 1.16 At the time of writing this report, two responses have been received following the published notice and the letter sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils, staff and governors of the school.
- 1.17 The letters, one from a parent of children at Manor Infant School and one from a parent of children at Sydney Russell Comprehensive School, made reference to the following:

Manor Infant School

- a higher number of children for staff to be responsible for;
- a greater volume of traffic will ensue.

Sydney Russell Comprehensive School

- concern as to whether the school would be able to manage with an increased number of pupils;
- questioned why some other secondary schools in the borough were not at full capacity.

- 1.18 Any further responses received subsequent to the writing of this report will be reported at the meeting.

2. Proposal and Issues

- 2.1 The expansion proposals are as follows:

- The Sydney Russell Comprehensive School
To expand from ten to twelve forms of entry.
Additional classroom spaces have been provided as part of the previous BSF Programme. The proposed Admission Number will be 360.
- Manor Infant School (Sandringham Road)
To expand from four to five forms of entry by providing a new classroom block.
The proposed Admission Number will be 150.
- Manor Junior School (Sandringham Road)
To expand from four to five forms of entry by providing a new classroom block.
The proposed Admission Number will be 150. The additional year group is expected to be from September 2016, when the infant expansion cohort moves up to Year 3. (Note: The accommodation provision at the Sandringham Road Site is being explored on a shared basis.)

- Roding Primary School (Cannington Rd)
To expand from three to four forms of entry by providing a new classroom block.
The proposed Admission Number will be 120.
- Richard Alibon Primary School
To expand from two to three forms of entry by providing a new classroom block.
The proposed Admission Number will be 90.

- 2.2 This is in line with the Council's Policy House whereby we want a borough that believes in opportunity and one that recognises and champions success, where people 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.
- 2.3 The outcome would be for a borough with excellent schools, constantly improving and which are growing to meet the demands for pupil places.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 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 of the report, discussions have been held with the head-teachers of each of the schools regarding the expansion of the school, 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 News on 22 December 2012 regarding the proposal to expand the schools with effect from 1 September 2013 (1 September 2016 for Manor Junior School) 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

Completed by: Dawn Calvert, Finance Group Manager (Adult and Community Services and Children's)

- 5.1 Over the last year, Central Government has announced £75.567m of capital funding to support the Council's School and other children's services estate and to provide for the additional capacity to support school place demand. The breakdown of this announced funding is detailed below:

Redirected Basic Need Allocation (Nov 2011)	£23,914,831
Basic Need Allocation (2012/13)	£21,890,118
Additional Basic Need (2012/13)	<u>£29,762,837</u>
TOTAL	£75,567,786

- 5.2 On 14 February 2012, Cabinet approved spend of £15.6m. The balance of £60m, was approved by Cabinet on 13 November 2012. The schemes referred to in this report (section 1.4) were included in the approved spending plan of £15.6m with the exception of Sydney Russell which was approved at Cabinet in May 2011.

6. Legal Implications

Completed by: Lucinda Bell, Safeguarding Lawyer

- 6.1 The Council has a duty under Section 14 (1) of the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of "sufficient schools" for the provision of primary and secondary education in their area (Education Act 1996, section 14).
- 6.2 School organisation proposals and decisions must follow the statutory framework set out in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended. These prescribe details for publishing proposals, consultation, a period for objecting and commenting and the consideration and determination of proposals. They also impose a duty to have regard to related guidance issued by the Department for Education.

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 **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 both the secondary sector and primary sector and are more likely to be able to attend schools in their local area.

- 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.
- 7.5 **Property / Asset Issues** - Where necessary, as detailed above, the schools are in the process of being expanded with either new classrooms added or through internal and building alterations to meet the increased size of the school.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Legislation which allows this – Education and Inspections Act 2006 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended.
- DfE Guidance: Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a sixth form.
- Consultation letters dated 26 October 2012.
- Notice Published 22 December 2012.
- Previous Cabinet Reports: 22 May 2012 [Minute 5], 14 February 2012 [Minute 109], 18 October 2011 [Minute 51], 10 May 2011 [Minute 133], 16 March 2010 [Minute 139].

List of appendices: None.