

**SUPPLEMENTARY 3**

**THE EXECUTIVE**

**Tuesday, 18 November 2008**

**Agenda Item 16. Additional Pupil Places – Primary Schools  
(Pages 1 - 5)**

Contact Officer: Sola Odusina  
Telephone: 020 8227 3103  
Fax: 020 8227 2171  
Minicom: 020 8227 2685  
E-mail: [sola.odusina@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:sola.odusina@lbbd.gov.uk)

This page is intentionally left blank

## THE EXECUTIVE

18 NOVEMBER 2008

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

The Chair will be asked to determine whether this report can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency so as not to delay consideration of proposals to provide additional pupil places.

<b>Title: Additional Pupil Places – Primary Schools</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b> This report outlines the position with regard to primary school place demand over the Summer recess and identifies ways to provide some temporary school places.</p>	
<p><b>Wards Affected:</b> All Wards – in particular Alibon, Parsloes and Mayesbrook Wards.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation(s):</b> The Executive is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) agree that the building formerly used by B&amp;D Training Services be brought back into use as a primary school annex linked, in principle, to Roding Primary School, subject to discussion with the Headteacher and Governors;</li> <li>ii) agree that funding of £650,000 from the Exceptional Basic Need Grant of £16,204,438, less commitments of £9.5m Eastbury Primary and £5m Northbury Infant and Junior, be set aside to support the start of this project. (Note: This will leave a balance of £1,054,438 to be allocated);</li> <li>iii) agree that the Corporate Director of Children's Services be authorised to place orders for any refurbishment work to secure the use of this building quickly; and</li> <li>iv) require the Corporate Director of Children's Services to bring forward a report on how this project might be progressed to provide a new school.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Reasons:</b> To assist the Council to achieve its statutory responsibilities under the provisions of Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 and the Community Priority of "Better Education and Learning for All".</p>	
<p><b>IMPLICATIONS:</b></p> <p><b>Financial:</b> There are financial implications of meeting this statutory requirement to provide school places and this is dealt with in the main body of the report under Section 4. In short, this will mean utilising £650,000 of Exceptional Basic Need Grant funding secured from DCSF.</p>	

**Legal:**

The Council is required, under the provision of Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to provide sufficient school places for all children of compulsory school age.

**Risk Management:**

An analysis is being made about identifying risks both to users of the St George's site and to pupils who might attend the site.

**Social Inclusion and Diversity:**

The building which it is proposed to use has a positive ethos which will allow all pupils access who require it. There are areas which the public will need to access but these will be limited to existing reception areas.

**Crime and Disorder:**

The provision of this facility will provide school places. Any issues required by the technical support officers to address crime and disorder will be provided. The building has until very recently been in use and has an intruder alarm system in place to help protect content and the building.

**Options Appraisal:**

Other options to provide additional school places have been, and are continuing to be, explored. Further reports will be submitted to the Executive to explain how the issue of managing the creation of additional school places is being progressed.

Mike Freeman

Group Manager Asset  
Management & Capital

Tel: 020 8227 3492

Fax: 020 8227 3148

E-mail: [mike.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:mike.freeman@lbbd.gov.uk)**1 Background**

- 1.1 Reports have previously indicated a need to provide additional pupil places as the population in the Borough increases due to housebuilding and changes in the population.
- 1.2 Over the Summer recess, demand from families moving into the Borough has continued to put pressure on the need to create additional school places. The extent of this and the options for moving this forward are discussed further below.

**2 Extent of the Demand**

- 2.1 Over the Summer recess, there was a need to respond in providing additional pupil places, which included the creation of additional places at:

Rush Green Infants	28 places	(Year 1)
Richard Alibon Primary	30 places	(Reception)
Northbury Infant School	90 places	"
Northbury Junior School	120 places	"
Beam Primary School	30 places	"
Cambell Infant School	29 places	"
Five Elms Primary School	30 places	"
Marsh Green Primary School	30 places	"
Thames View Infant School	30 places	"
<b>Total</b>	<b>417 places</b>	

A separate report about some of these works to create places quickly is being presented to the Executive to endorse actions taken.

- 2.2 All of the school places which have been created were allocated and the demand for additional places continued over the Summer, culminating in a surplus number of applications which we are not able to meet from the existing places available. The numbers of pupils for which no school place in primary schools can be identified immediately is as follows:

Reception	60 pupils
Year 1	48 pupils
Year 2	21 pupils
Year 3	11 pupils
Year 4	7 pupils
Year 5	8 pupils
Year 6	12 pupils

**Total 167 pupils**  
(figures correct as at 02.10.08 )

- 2.3 This is a significant number and whilst the Admissions Team in Children's Services are constantly working with schools to identify any spare places – pupils moving or not taking up the offer of a school place – it is unlikely that it will be possible to identify places for all pupils demanding education through Borough schools. Further, the Admissions Team is receiving between 30-50 new applications per week across the whole school range, although the majority of these applications are for primary school places.

### **3 Proposed Solution**

- 3.1 Discussions with schools about the possibility of taking an additional class of pupils are being pursued where it can be identified that there is potential capacity.
- 3.2 Additionally, dialogue is continuing with schools about taking additional pupils in classes where there are less than 30.
- 3.3 The real issue is a need to create a new school or an annex of an existing school. In assessing this, the possibility has been explored with the Headteacher at Roding Primary School to establish an annex to the school – currently 420 places – so that it could expand to 3 forms – 620 places. The site of the school is currently restricted and it would not lend itself to expansion on the present site.
- 3.4 As an interim arrangement, the Executive is asked to agree that an annex to the school be established, on a temporary basis, at the former Barking and Dagenham Training Services building on the site of St George's Centre. This building is currently empty as B & D Training Services have recently co-located to the Adult College site in Fanshawe Avenue. The building at St George's would need some work to make it fully usable and the extent and cost of this is being assessed with colleague in DRE. There is also a need to provide some play space, toilets and separate access. These issues are not insurmountable.

- 3.5 Whilst this may not be the best ultimate solution, it is achievable in the short term and much quicker than purchasing demountable classroom accommodation.
- 3.6 It would be the intention to develop a new school on a separate site to house these pupils once a new site has been identified.
- 3.7 As would be expected with an existing and occupied site, there are a range of issues which will need to be overcome. They include:
- site access and restriction;
  - relocation of storage by others – aids and adaptations;
  - provision of play space.

However, even with these issues it is felt that given the timescales and needs of unplaced pupils this is the preferred short term solution.

#### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The extent of the works at the former B & D Training Services unit is not extensive, and is estimated with external works to cost £650,000. This sum can be funded through a grant from the DCSF for Exceptional Basic Need, of which £1,704,438 is currently unallocated. Whilst this is a lot of funding for temporary facilities, it is anticipated that it will be useable for 5-6 years whilst other facilities are being developed in various places across the Borough. It will act as a resource to support provision of school places where demand is high. These costs are very broad brush and subject to further examination in consultation with technical advisers. Works will be undertaken by term maintenance contractors where appropriate.
- 4.2 There will be revenue costs associated with the establishment of these additional school places, but funding will follow from the Direct Schools Grant, subject to a report to the Schools Forum.

#### **5 Procurement**

- 5.1 In order to progress this project quickly, it is intended to utilise term maintenance contractors to undertake most of this work. They will come from a variety of disciplines.

#### **6 Consultation**

- 6.1 The following Members and officers have been consulted about the content of this report.

Councillor J Alexander – Lead Member Children’s Services  
Rob Whiteman – Chief Executive  
Roger Luxton – Corporate Director Children’s Services  
Anne Bristow – Corporate Director Adult & Community Services  
David Woods – Corporate Director Customer Services  
Jennifer Dearing – Corporate Director Regeneration  
Bill Murphy – Corporate Director Resources  
Melanie Field – Legal Partner  
Fiona Taylor – Deputy Legal Partner  
Joe Chesterton – Divisional Director of Finance  
Paul Kelly – Group Manager Children’s Services

## **7 Background Papers**

- 7.1 This report takes into the projection of pupil numbers set out in the 10 year Primary Pupil Places Planning Report – 2006/07 to 2016/17.

This page is intentionally left blank