

## THE CABINET

6 July 2010

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

<b>Title:</b> Proposed Expansion of Beam Primary School	<b>For Decision</b>
<p><b>Summary:</b> This report presents a proposal for the expansion of Beam Primary School with effect from 1 September 2010, thereby increasing the standard admission number to 81 pupils and also increasing the number of places for nursery children from 52 to 78. Interim arrangements were made with effect from September 2008 to increase the intake for Reception and Year 1 to three forms of entry thereby allowing the school to grow year on year to a 3 form entry school. Therefore this proposal, in effect, formalises that arrangement as well as introducing an additional form for Year 2 pupils for September 2010.</p> <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.</p> <p><b>Wards Affected:</b> River Ward</p>	
<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to agree the formal expansion of Beam Primary School from a two form to a three form entry Primary School with effect from 1 September 2010.</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>The additional funding on a part year basis from September 2010 will be in the region of £110,000 for the additional classes for Reception to Year 2 pupils based on an estimated 24 children per class. For the additional 13 (FTE) nursery pupils, the additional funding will be in the region of £25,000.</p> <p>The part year funding required to support the additional in year pupils starting in September 2010 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</p>	

funding for children registered after the January pupil number count is retrospective and not included in the Dedicated Schools Grant until financial year 2011/12. The full year funding in 2011/12 for Reception to Year 2 will be £190,000 based on 72 additional children. This will increase if the year group intake increases to the maximum 30 places providing further funding of £48,000 on a full year basis. For nursery pupils, full year funding in 2011/12 will be £44,000 based on the additional 13 (FTE) pupils.

### **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), and the related statutory guidance.

The statutory four week consultation period commenced on the 1 May 2010 and concluded on 29 May 2010. The Local Education Authority (Cabinet) is required to make their decision as to the expansion proposal within two months of the end of the statutory consultation period, i.e. 29 July 2010, otherwise the matter has to be passed to the Schools Adjudicator to be determined.

### **Contractual**

No specific implications.

### **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 Beam Primary. 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.

- Expansion of School to Three 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.

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## 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, ten additional Reception classes were made available together with the two planned classes.

Table 1

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

<b>Year of Birth</b>	<b>Number of Births</b>
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*

- 1.4 In addition to the increased births, Admissions are also receiving high numbers of late applications for Reception age 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 5 March, Admissions had received 123 late applications. Last year, approximately 500 late applications were received.

- 1.5 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 per cent but over the past few years has been over 100 per cent as new residents move to the Borough with larger families.
- 1.6 This increase in pupil numbers is being reflected in many London boroughs including our neighbouring boroughs Redbridge and Newham.
- 1.7 In response to this need for additional places, Beam Primary School admitted an additional 27 pupils in the school year 2008/09 and a further 27 pupils in 2009/10. This has meant Reception Year and Year 1 have moved up from two forms of entry to three forms of entry whilst Year 2 to Year 6 has remained at two forms of entry.
- 1.8 The Cabinet at its meeting on 20 January 2009, approved the range of necessary actions taken by the Corporate Director of Children's Services over the Summer and Autumn of 2008 to respond to the demand for additional school places in the primary phase. This included the additional reception class for Beam Primary School which was on an interim basis, pending any longer term expansion of the school. The discussions that have followed with the School Governing Body, parents and local community have placed the school in a position to permanently expand its intake to three forms of entry and therefore formalise these interim arrangements to meet 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 and 2009 to discuss the wider proposals and support was received to expand the school permanently from two to three forms of entry from 1 September 2010 subject to accommodation provision being made available which met the School's requirements. The school will therefore continue to grow year on year with Reception to Year 2 operating at three forms of entry from September 2010. The nursery will also accommodate an additional class in the morning and afternoon moving from 52 part time equivalent places to 78 places.
- 2.2 Council officers and representatives of the School have worked together to move forward the necessary building improvements in order to enhance provision and support the objectives of the school. Capital budget provision has been agreed for this scheme as part of the Capital Programme, using grant income allocated from the DCSF.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 Letters were sent to Parents, Carers and Guardians of Pupils, Staff and Governors of Beam Primary School informing them of the proposal to expand the school and the reasons for this on 21 January 2010.
- 2.5 The Council has published a formal statutory 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 81 pupils in each year group. The notice was published in the local press on 1 May 2010 and copies of the notice were displayed

in Beam Primary School and Barking Library and sent to other neighbouring local authorities. The notice period expired on 29 May 2010.

- 2.6 No responses have been received, at the time of writing this report, regarding the published notice or from the letter sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils, staff and governors of the school. Any subsequent responses will be reported at the meeting.

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

- 3.1 The proposals in this report are in line with:

- The Children and Young People's Plan
- The Council Plan

### **4. Consultees**

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

Cllr R Gill	Lead Member for Education and Children's Well-Being
Cllr L Smith	Ward Member
Cllr IS Jamu	Ward Member
Cllr E Keller	Ward Member
Corporate Management Team	
Jane Hargreaves	Head of Quality and School Improvement
Bal Gill	Strategic Manager, Admissions
John Hooton	Finance & Commercial Services Department
Fiona Taylor	Deputy Head of Law, Safeguarding & Partnerships
Sue Lees	Divisional Director of Asset Management and Capital Delivery
Steve Cowley	Assistant Head of Finance
Marketing Team	
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 21 January 2010
- Notice Published 1 May 2010
- Cabinet report and Minute 118, 20 January 2009
- DCSF Guidance: Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a sixth form

### **6. List of appendices:**

None