

CABINET

22 MAY 2012

Title: Proposed Expansion of Primary Schools	
Report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Education	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: Abbey, Alibon, Eastbury, Gascoigne, Heath and Parsloes	Key Decision: Yes
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Accountable Divisional Director: Jane Hargreaves, Divisional Director of Education	
Accountable Director: Helen Jenner, Corporate Director of Children's Services	
Summary: At its meeting on 14 February 2012 (Minute 109), 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 14 February 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 2012: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parsloes Primary - To expand from two to three forms of entry.• Southwood Primary - To expand from two to three forms of entry.• Monteagle Primary - To expand from three to four forms of entry.• St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Barking) - To expand from one to two forms of entry.• St Joseph's Catholic Primary (Dagenham) - To expand from one and a half to two forms of entry.• Eastbury Primary - To expand from three to four forms of entry.• Gascoigne Primary - To expand all year groups to five forms of entry so that there is a consistent number in each year group. 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.	
Recommendation(s) The Cabinet is recommended to agree the formal expansion of the schools listed above with effect from 1 September 2012, as detailed in the report.	

Reason(s)

To assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority of “Inspired and Successful” and to fulfil 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 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 as detailed in table 1 below. The impact of this was first seen in the Reception Cohort in 2008/09.

Table 1 - Births in Barking & Dagenham

Year of Birth	Number of Births
2002	2,416
2003	2,505
2004	2,639
2005	2,909
2006	3,072
2007	3,324
2008	3,489
2009	3,676
2010	3,643
2011	3,729

Source: GLA – February 2012

- 1.3 Table 2 details the growth in Reception and the infant age range (Reception to Year 2) since 2004/05.

Table 2 – Numbers of Reception and Infant pupils on roll 2004/2005 to 2011/2012

Year	Number of Reception Pupils	Yearly Increase %		Cumulative Increase (on 2004/05) %		Infant Range (Reception to Year 3)	Yearly Increase %	
2004/05	2,283					6,971		
2005/06	2,361	78	3.4	78	3.4	6,967	(4)	
2006/07	2,418	57	2.4	135	5.8	7,123	156	2.2
2007/08	2,532	114	4.7	249	10.5	7,385	262	3.7
2008/09	2,720	188	7.4	437	17.9	7,784	399	5.4
2009/10	2,928	208	7.6	645	25.5	8,247	463	5.9
2010/11	3,125	197	6.7	842	32.2	8,924	677	8.2
2011/12	3,411	286	9.2	1,128	41.4	9,646	722	8.1

- 1.4 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 the current Academic Year, sixty eight additional classes have been created ranging from Reception to Year 6. These classes have been managed by a combination of expansions, blip classes and also the new George Carey Church of England Primary School. The expansions include the following:

- the Roding Primary expansion by 3 Forms of Entry on the Cannington Road site,
- the Valence Primary expansion on the St George's Site in Halbutt Street,
- the Ripple Primary expansion on the Westbury site, and
- the Manor Infants expansion on the Longbridge Road site;

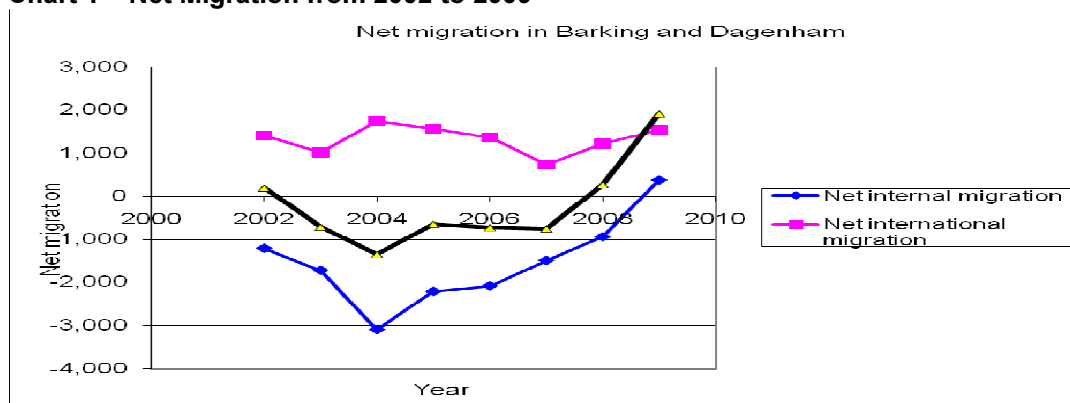
1.5 In addition to the increased births, Admissions are continuing to receive high numbers of late applications for Reception age and Year 1 children and this has compounded the difficulty in planning for the right number of school places. Further, the number of casual admissions into Year 1 and Year 2 has risen substantially compared to previous years. Table 3 details the late applications for Reception Year for the past two years and the current status on applications for 2012/13. It should be noted the late applications include those from pupils new to the borough.

Table 3 - Applications made for Reception Year

Academic Year	Number of On-time Applications	Number of Late Applications	Total Number of Applications
2010./2011	2,910	827 (up to 31 August 2011)	3,737
2011/2012	2,906	1,221 (up to 15 March 2012)	4,127 (up to 15 March 2012)
2012/2013	3,481	136 (up to 15 March 2012)	3,617 (up to 15 March 2012)

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 is now at 111% compared to five years ago when the retention rate was 104%. This and the information set out above highlights 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). Further, it was reported by the GLA that Barking & Dagenham had the largest population growth in 2010.

Chart 1 – Net Migration from 2002 to 2009



- 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 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.
- 1.9 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 2012 subject to accommodation provision being made available which met each of the Schools requirements. This will allow the schools to grow year on year.
- 1.10 The discussions that have followed with each School Governing Body, the Diocese of Chelmsford regarding St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Barking and St Joseph's Catholic School in Dagenham, parents and 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 Monteagle Primary School, St Joseph's Primary School (Barking), Eastbury Primary School and Gascoigne Primary School whilst allowing Southwood Primary School, Parsloes Primary School and St Joseph's Primary (Dagenham) to also expand to meet current and future demand.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 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 6 February 2012.
- 1.14 The Council has published a formal statutory notice to expand the schools with effect from the start of the Autumn Term, 1 September 2012 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 31 March 2012 and copies of the notice were displayed in each of the schools and Barking Library and also sent to other neighbouring local authorities. The notice period expired on 27 April 2012.
- 1.15 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.
- 1.16 The letters, one from a parent of children at Parsloes Primary School and one from a parent of children at Southwood Primary School, made reference to the following:

Parsloes Primary

- the need for ground maintenance work in the playground;
- additional children could mean insufficient playground space and dining hall space;
- the need for additional resources including stationary and hygiene facilities;
- additional information to be provided to parents on matters such as the new layout for the school and potential disruption to the school.

Southwood Primary

- how would the additional children be accommodated?
- the potential lack of space with the additional children;
- the increased traffic to the vicinity with the additional children.

1.17 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:

- Parsloes Primary: to expand from two to three forms of entry by providing a new classroom block. The proposed Admission Number will be 90.
- Southwood Primary: to expand from two to three forms of entry by providing a new classroom block. The proposed Admission Number will be 90.
- Monteagle Primary: to expand from three to four forms of entry by providing a new classroom block. The proposed Admission Number will be 120.
- St Joseph's (Barking): to expand from one to two forms of entry by providing a new classroom block. The proposed Admission Number will be 60.
- St Joseph's (Dagenham): to expand from one and a half to two forms of entry by providing a new classroom block. The proposed Admission Number will be 60.
- Eastbury Primary: to expand from three to four forms of entry through a number of internal and building alterations that will make additional classrooms available. The proposed Admission Number will be 120.
- Gascoigne Primary: to expand to five forms of entry through a number of internal and building alterations that will make additional classrooms available. The proposed Admission Number will be 150.

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 Barking and Dagenham 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 Headteachers of each of the schools and the Diocese of Brentwood in respect of St Joseph's Primary School (Barking) and St Joseph's Primary School (Dagenham) 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 also included in the consultation.
- 4.2 A formal statutory notice was published in The News on 31 March 2012 regarding the proposal to expand the schools with effect from 1 September 2012, allowing a further six weeks for views to be brought forward.
- 4.3 Ward members were sent this report prior to it being finalised as part of the consultation process.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Dawn Calvert, Finance Group Manager

- 5.1 The expansions detailed in this report require both capital and revenue funding. Capital funding to provide the new classrooms is supported by the 2011/12 School Basic Need allocation from DfE. The total School Basic Need funding for 2011/12 was £14.236m with £7.4m allocated to this round of primary expansions. Revenue funding is supported by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). A schools revenue budget is based on their January Census pupil numbers. When a new class comes on stream from September, the School receives an allocation of £46,500 (7/12ths of the Average Weighted Pupil Unit) and a lump sum of £10,000 to cover expenditure

such as staff recruitment, classroom equipment and furniture. This is received each year for the life of the form of entry, for example 7 years if the form of entry starts at reception.

- 5.2 Table 4 below summaries the capital and revenue funding for the primary expansions:

Table 4: Primary Expansions – Summary Capital and Revenue Funding

School	Capital (2011/12 Basic Need Funding)	Revenue
Parsloes Primary	£1,800,000	£56,500
Southwood Primary	£1,500,000	£56,500
Monteagle Primary	£1,300,000	£56,500
St Joseph's (Barking)	£1,400,000	£56,500
St Joseph's (Dagenham)	£2,200,000 *	£28,250
Eastbury Primary	£1,200,000	£56,500
Gascoigne Primary	£200,000	£56,500
TOTAL	£9,600,000	£367,250

*NB: This includes £200,000 from the Primary Capital Programme

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Fiona Taylor, Legal Group Manager

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of primary schools is regulated by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, as amended. These regulations impose a duty to publish proposals, consult, consider representations and have regard to statutory guidance. The Local Authority is required to make its decision in respect of the expansion proposals within two months of the end of the statutory consultation period; that is within two months of the 27.4.2012. If no decision is made by then, the matter must pass to the Schools Adjudicator for determination.

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 the 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

All of 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.
- DfE Guidance: Expanding a maintained mainstream school by enlargement or adding a sixth form.
- Consultation letters dated 6 February 2012.
- Notice Published 31 March 2012
- Previous Cabinet Reports: 14 February 2012 [Minute 109], 18 October 2011 [Minute 51], 16 March 2010 [Minute 139],

List of appendices:

None.