

CABINET

8 April 2014

Title: Extension of Age Range at Eastbrook and Eastbury Comprehensive Schools and Expansion of Eastbrook School	
Report of the Cabinet Member For Children's Services	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: Eastbrook, Eastbury and Longbridge	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 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 arrangements that had been agreed with Head Teachers and Governing Bodies to meet immediate demand issues at a number of the Borough's schools. A further meeting on 18 December 2013 (Minute 72) informed of the continuing support from the DfE for Eastbury Comprehensive School under the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP). This report seeks to formalise those arrangements through the permanent expansion of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eastbrook Secondary School to become a 12 form of entry (FE) Secondary School and to become an all-through school through the provision of a nursery and a 3FE Primary School.• Eastbury Secondary School to become an all-through school through the provision of a nursery and a 2FE Primary school. 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.	

Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- (i) The extension of the age range for pupils attending Eastbrook Secondary School in order to accommodate primary aged pupils (three forms of entry) and also nursery aged pupils (39 places) from September 2016;
- (ii) The expansion of Eastbrook Secondary School from 10 to 12 forms of entry from 1 September 2017; and
- (iii) The extension of the age range for pupils attending Eastbury Secondary School in order to accommodate primary aged pupils (two forms of entry) and also nursery aged pupils (26 places) from September 2016.

Reason(s)

To assist the Council in achieving its Community Priority whereby “every child is valued so they can succeed” and in fulfilling its duty to provide every child in the Borough with a school place.

1. Introduction and Background

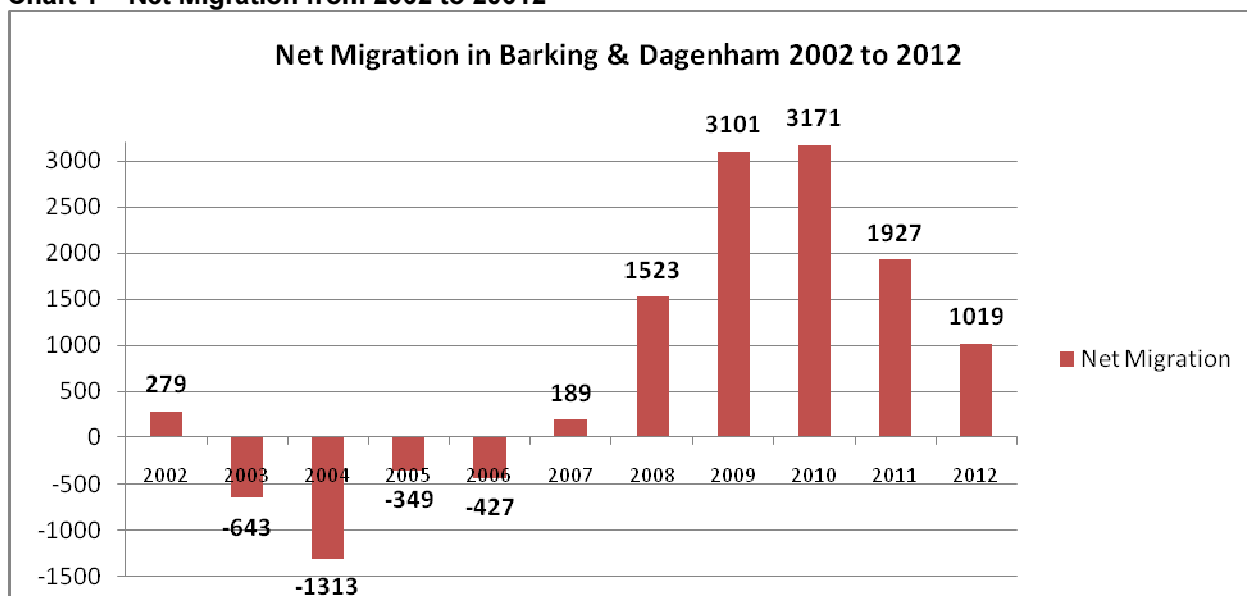
- 1.1 As reported to Cabinet on 22 May 2012 (Minute 5 refers), the Borough has seen an unprecedented rise in births since 2003/04 and the Council has planned for steady expansion of school places since 2007. The impact of this was first seen in the Reception Cohort in 2008/09.
- 1.2 The additional school 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 has started 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.
- 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. The cumulative total of additional primary classes to date is 155 across the primary sector 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 continue increasing the number of classes it provides year on year.
- 1.4 In the Secondary sector, a total of twelve additional Year 7 and Year 8 classes have been provided. This can be summarised as follows:

Additional Secondary School Classes as at September 2013

Secondary School	Number of Additional Year 7 classes	Number of Additional Year 8 Classes	Total
Dagenham Park Church of England School	1	1	2
Riverside School	4	4	8
Sydney Russell School	2		2
Total	7	5	12

- 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 103.4% and means that we continue to have more children moving into the borough than were born here. Prior to 2006/2007 this rate was below 100%. 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 2012



Source: Office of National Statistics – released October 2013

Appendix 1 (Table 1) further details migration flows from 2002 to 2012.

- 1.7 Of all the London Boroughs, Barking and Dagenham have had the highest growth in the 4 to 10 age range over the past 6 years. The top six highest growth Local Authorities for this age range are detailed in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Six Year Population Growth from 2008 to 2013

	4 to 10 Yrs of Age	% Growth	11 to 15 Yrs of Age	% Growth
Barking & Dagenham	4,670	26%	243	2%
Redbridge	4,208	17%	432	2%
Hounslow	3,199	16%	657	5%
Barnet	4,474	15%	277	1%
Tower Hamlets	1,930	9%	1,109	9%
Newham	2,234	8%	533	3%

Source: GLA 2012 Round Data

- 1.8 This increase in pupil numbers is being reflected in many London boroughs and as can be seen in the table above two of our neighbouring boroughs (Newham and Redbridge) are also in the top six highest growth boroughs in 4 to 15 year olds. It is worth noting that Havering is also experiencing population growth with rising numbers in the primary sector.
- 1.9 The increase in Havering's 4 to 10 year olds from 2008 to 2012 is circa 980 additional children although the 11 to 15 year olds for the same period reduced by circa 880 children. Historically, steady numbers from Barking & Dagenham have gone to Secondary Schools in Havering. This may be closing as an option over coming years. Details of Havering's 4 to 15 year old population change from 2008 to 2012 are given in Appendix 1 (Table 2).
- 1.10 The need to provide additional secondary school places can be further illustrated from the information set out in table 3 below.

Table 3 - Year 7 Secondary School Capacity and growth in pupil numbers

	Year in which pupils move up to Year 7	Number Of Pupils	Yearly Increase/ (decrease)	Current Number of places
Current Year 7 Capacity (as at September 2013)				2,550
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2010	September 2011	2,364		
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2011	September 2012	2,437	73	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2012	September 2013	2,524	87	
Number of Year 6 pupils in 2013 *	September 2014	2,667	143	
Number of Year 5 pupils in 2013 *	September 2015	2,811	144	
Number of Year 4 pupils in 2013 *	September 2016	3,028	217	
Number of Year 3 pupils in 2013 *	September 2017	3,190	162	
Number of Year 2 pupils in 2013 *	September 2018	3,531	341	
Number of Year 1 pupils in 2013 *	September 2019	3,582	51	
Number of Reception pupils in 2013 *	September 2020	3,527	(55)	

NB: * These numbers are from the October 2013 pupil count and will change during the course of the school year.

- 1.11 It should be noted that the above forecast numbers (from 2014) do not take account of in-year movements that generally increase pupil numbers such as from new housing developments. Also a number of pupils will go to out of borough schools and the Local Authority will also 'import' pupils into the borough.

- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 Eastbury Comprehensive School was judged 'Good' with outstanding leadership at its last Ofsted Inspection in January 2013.
- 1.14 Eastbrook Comprehensive School was judged 'Requires Improvement' at its last Ofsted Inspection in October 2013. At its previous Ofsted Inspection in January 2013 it was judged 'Good'.
- 1.15 The Council has been in discussions with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) regarding obtaining additional funding under the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP) for the maintenance of schools in Barking & Dagenham.
- 1.16 The EFA is the Department for Education's delivery agency for funding and provides revenue and capital funding for education for learners between the ages of 3 and 19, or the ages of 3 and 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. It also supports the delivery of building and maintenance programmes for schools, academies, Free Schools and sixth-form colleges.
- 1.17 The Council has been successful in securing a commitment from the EFA for two schools in Barking & Dagenham to be taken forward in the PSBP. The schools are Eastbury Comprehensive School and Eastbrook Comprehensive School.
- 1.18 The DfE has appointed a technical team to help the design process and ensure that the right solutions for the schools are developed.
- 1.19 Meetings with the Chair and Board of Governors of the schools have been held to discuss the wider proposals and support was received to expand the schools permanently from 1 September 2016 subject to accommodation provision being made available which meet each of the Schools requirements. This will allow the schools to grow year on year.
- 1.20 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 below) in order to meet current and future demand.
- 1.21 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 in November 2013. Unions were copied into these letters.
- 1.22 The Council has published a formal statutory notice to expand the schools with effect from the start of the Autumn Term, 1 September 2016 with standard new admission numbers as set out in section 2 below. The notice was published in the local press on 15 January 2014 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 25 February 2014.

- 1.23 At the time of writing this report, a number of responses have been received following the published notice, the letter sent to parents, carers and guardians of pupils, staff and governors of the school and the letter sent to local residents of Eastbury Comprehensive School.
- 1.24 The responses have come from local residents of Eastbury Comprehensive School and have made reference to the following:
- the local vicinity of the school will be in need of additional street cleaning;
 - the increased traffic that will be caused to the vicinity of the school with the additional children and the need for more parking places;
 - not being aware of the plans for the expansion of the school (until a letter was sent to local residents on 18 February 2014 – the consultation period ended on 25 February 2014);
 - concern about the level of disruption to local residents caused by building works;
 - what would be replacing the portacabins and what would be the new layout for the school.
- 1.25 Any further responses received subsequent to the writing of this report will be reported at the meeting.

2. Proposal and Issues

The proposals are as follows:

2.1 Eastbrook Secondary School

1. Extend the age range for pupils attending the school in order to accommodate primary aged pupils and also nursery aged pupils. The proposal is to have ninety places (3 forms of entry) per year group for Reception Year through to Year 6 and also 39 places for nursery pupils beginning in September 2016. This would mean the school would begin with 90 places (3 forms of entry) in Reception Year in 2016 and also the nursery places and then grow year on year (for Reception through to Year 6) until all year groups are operating by September 2022.
2. Therefore, in September 2023 all Year 6 Eastbrook pupils will be able to move up to Year 7 of the same school.
3. Expand its Secondary School facility from 10fe to 12fe from September 2017. This would mean an additional 60 places (2 forms of entry) per year group beginning in September 2017 with Year 7 and then growing year by year until by September 2021, Years 7 to 11 would be operating at twelve classes per year group.
4. Therefore, regarding secondary level provision, the current admission number for the school is 300 in Year 7. From September 2017, the proposed admission number for Year 7 pupils will be for 360 places (and 90 places in reception year). From September 2023, the admission number for entry at age 11 will be 270 pupils, to allow for 90 pupils that will by then be attending the school in Year 6 to transfer from Year 6 to Year 7 (as noted in point 2 above). The overall number of pupils in Year 7 will be 360, with 90 pupils transferring from the existing school and 270 pupils being admitted through the normal secondary admission round.

5. To establish a specialist educational needs unit for 12 pupils to meet the needs of pupils with more enduring Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulties (BESD) for whom longer term intensive intervention is required.

2.2 **Eastbury Secondary School**

1. Extend the age range for pupils attending the school in order to accommodate primary aged pupils and also nursery aged pupils. The proposal is to have sixty places (2 forms of entry) per year group for Reception Year through to Year 6 and also 26 places for nursery pupils beginning in September 2016. This would mean the school would begin with 60 places (2 forms of entry) for Reception pupils in 2016 together with the nursery places and then grow year on year until all year groups (Reception to Year 6) are operating by September 2022.
2. Also, regarding secondary level provision, the current admission number for the school is 300 in Year 7. From September 2023, the admission number for entry at age 11 will be 240 pupils, to allow for 60 pupils that will by then be attending the school in Year 6 to transfer from Year 6 to Year 7. The overall number of pupils admitted in Year 7 will remain 300, with 60 pupils transferring from the existing school and 240 pupils being admitted through the normal secondary admission round.
3. It is proposed the school will expand its current Hearing Impaired Unit from 12 places to 16 places.

2.3 By September 2023 both Eastbrook Comprehensive School and Eastbury Comprehensive School will be offering all the places proposed by these alterations. This is detailed in Appendix 2.

2.4 Further considerations in connection with the Eastbury Secondary School expansion include whether it would need to change its name so as to avoid confusion with Eastbury Primary School in Dawson Avenue, Barking with regards to being an all-through school and in particular with regards to admission into the schools.

2.5 Also, the Governing Body for both Eastbury Comprehensive Secondary School and Eastbrook Comprehensive Secondary School might in due course feel that the names of their schools will need to include the words 'All Through School' once the age range has expanded. It is for the Governing Body of the schools to decide whether or when to change the name of the school, and if it does wish to change the name of the school, to what it should change.

2.6 Both schools will continue to admit pupils into Year 7 at age 11 years using the admission criteria of the Local Authority. The Governing Body for both schools believe the move to an all through structure will have positive benefits for both secondary and primary age students. Secondary and primary staff working in closer partnership will help improve the achievement of all pupils still further.

2.7 The schools have agreed to the above and the Council will work in partnership to ensure each of the two schools has the support it needs to accommodate the additional pupils. Further, the Council are working closely with the schools together

with the DfE who have indicated their support for these proposals, as mentioned above, and have given assurance that funding will be made available to improve the existing provision at each of the schools and help to create these additional school places.

- 2.8 The EFA is currently undertaking feasibility work to establish the estimated cost of redeveloping both schools.
- 2.9 This is in line with the Council's Vision which is to encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents and thereby allow every child to be valued so they can succeed. The residents of Barking and Dagenham 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.
- 2.10 The outcome would be for a borough with excellent schools, constantly improving and which are growing to meet the demands for pupil places.
- 2.11 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.
- 2.12 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. It would also mean losing the opportunity to take part in the Government's Priority School Building Programme being offered by the DfE.
- 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 1.16 to 1.20 of the report, discussions have been held with the headteachers of each of the schools regarding the expansion of their schools, 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 At a consultation meeting held at Eastbury Comprehensive School in December 2013, parents were very supportive of the proposal and idea. Concerns raised were discussed with the school and were generally misunderstandings about all through schools. The key remaining concerns that parents have is additional traffic created by the primary element of the school. Also, parents do not want any loss of playground/sports grounds for secondary students.

- 4.3 A formal statutory notice was published in The Barking and Dagenham Post on 15 January 2014 regarding the proposal to expand the schools with effect from 1 September 2016 allowing a further six weeks for views to be brought forward.
- 4.4 Ward Councillors were sent details as part of the consultation process.

5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Patricia Harvey, Interim Finance Group Manager

- 5.1 This report informs Members of the Council's Strategy of ensuring sufficient school places. Indicative budget allocations were reported previously to Members on the 25 June 2013 and subsequently 18 December 2013.
- 5.2 The expansions will be funded from within the Children's Capital Services program of works, Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) and working with the Education Funding Agency (EFA).
- 5.3 Feasibility work is currently being established to redevelop both schools and the PSBP application from the Council estimated rebuilding costs were Eastbrook £14.6m and Eastbury £21.1m. These are preliminary calculations and work is currently being undertaken with the EfA and a further update will be required with the PSBP and funding allocation announcements once the feasibility reports have been completed.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Lucinda Bell, Education Lawyer

- 6.1 There are prescribed requirements in order to make specific alterations, including to expand existing schools to add additional form groups and decrease the existing age range. The requirements are set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations, namely the School Organisation (Prescribed Alteration to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007.
- 6.2 In order to publish proposals to expand maintained schools, local authorities are required to consult stakeholders. Prior to deciding to publish proposals, the Council must consciously take account of the consultation results. If the results show that a number of stakeholders are against the proposal, the Council should consider these views, any mitigating steps which can be taken to address these views and other relevant information. In this case, relevant information will include financial information, views of other stakeholders, other viable alternatives and the requirement for school places to meet the Council's statutory duty. The Council must ensure it meets its public law duties when making decisions, including meeting its public sector equality duty. It must consider all relevant information, disregard irrelevant information, act in accordance with the statutory requirements and make its decision in a fair and transparent manner.

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 from these proposals will improve the available places for parents expressing a preference for their children to attend Eastbrook and Eastbury Secondary Schools. It will also ensure that pupils have better access to education provision in both the primary sector and secondary 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. The proposal will result in additional accessible school places and this will have a positive impact on all equality groups.
- 7.5 **Property / Asset Issues** - Where necessary, as detailed above, the schools will be expanded with new classrooms added and through internal and building alterations to meet the increased size of the school.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Notice Published 15 January 2013
(<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/Education/Pages/Home.aspx>)

List of appendices:

- Appendix 1 – LBBB Migration Data and Havering School Population Changes
Appendix 2 – Timeline of changes to Eastbury and Eastbrook Comprehensive Schools
Appendix 3 – Birth Data (Actual and Forecast) 2000 to 2018