

EXECUTIVE

9 MARCH 2010

APPENDIX C REFERS

NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH KINGSTON – STATUTORY CONSULTATION

In total 2,141 responses were received to the consultation. Of these 52.8% were received by post and 47.2% as online responses. This represents the largest ever response to a school reorganisation proposal in the Borough.

The consultation showed a significant majority in favour of a new school being provided in North Kingston and strong support for the school to be co-educational and non-selective. There was a more balanced response to the aspects of the proposal to base the school on the North Kingston Site and for the school to have 8 Forms of Entry. More responses agreed than disagreed with each of the aspects of the proposals with the exception of the proposed size of the school (8FE). In this case more respondents disagreed than agreed with the proposal (40.8% disagreed compared with 38.7% agreed). Details of all of the responses received are summarised below.

In addition a summary of the results of a survey conducted by the Canbury Area Residents Association and the views of the London Borough of Richmond and Grey Court School are outlined below.

NB: Respondents had the option of not answering any question. Therefore the total number of responses for each question varies. Percentages may be rounded up or down to the nearest tenth of a decimal point so may therefore not add up to 100%.

1. Do you agree that a new secondary school should open in North Kingston in September 2015?

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Yes	63.4% (1337)	69.9%	65.1%	47.8%	44.4%	60.6%	65%
No	25.9% (546)	21.5%	25%	32.5%	25.9%	26.4%	26.3%
Undecided	10.7% (226)	8.6%	9.9%	19.7%	29.6%	13%	8.8%

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following aspects of the proposal?

Co-educational (Boys and Girls)

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Strongly Agree	42% (874)	47.4%	45.3%	35.5%	35.7%	43%	54.5%
Agree	28.4% (591)	26.4%	28.4%	27.6%	28.6%	32.3%	22.1%
Undecided	12.3% (256)	11.4%	10.7%	16.8%	17.9%	10.8%	10.4%
Disagree	5.5% (114)	4.5%	4.5%	7.5%	3.6%	5.4%	1.3%
Strongly Disagree	11.8% (246)	10.4%	11.1%	12.5%	14.3%	8.6%	11.7%

Summary of additional comments	
In favour	Against
Lack of co-educational school in the north of the Borough	Girls achieve better in single sex schools
Borough needs more good quality co-educational schools. Single sex schools are well provided for	Single sex schools offer less distractions for pupils
Only a co-educational school will address the need for more places for both sexes	A mixed school neighbouring a girls school could create problems
Children benefit socially from a mixed environment and have a more balanced view of society	The best secondary schools in the Borough are single sex
Co-educational school necessary because there is only one available site	Would prefer two smaller single sex schools
Enables siblings of the opposite sex to attend the same school	Independent schools tend to be single sex because they work better

Non-selective (open to all pupils regardless of academic ability)

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Strongly Agree	41.3% (858)	46.6%	45.6%	38.4%	26.9%	45.3%	58.4%
Agree	28.8% (598)	26.7%	27.4%	27.6%	38.5%	30.4%	19.5%
Undecided	11.2% (234)	10%	9.6%	13.3%	7.7%	9.4%	5.2%
Disagree	7.6% (157)	7%	6.3%	7.7%	11.5%	7.2%	3.9%
Strongly Disagree	11.2% (233)	9.7%	11.2%	12.9%	15.4%	7.7%	13%

Summary of additional comments	
In favour	Against
Kingston already has selective schools and more places should be available to residents	Tiffin Schools are over-subscribed and the borough needs for selective places
There is no non-selective school in the north of the Borough	Comprehensive schools do not meet the needs of high or low achievers
Should be non-selective but with streaming of core subjects by ability	There is a need for a selective school which provides places to Kingston residents only
Every child should be given the chance to excel	School should select 10% of its population in accordance with its specialism
Do not want a faith school either	Should exclude non-Kingston pupils
Good for children to mix socially and academically with all abilities	New non-selective school could diminish Kingston's reputation as having the best state schools in the country
Important that the school serves all members of the community	Non-selective schools hold back faster learners and high achievers
Need for more places is across a whole range of abilities which only a non-selective should can meet	
Pupils will transfer from excellent primary schools so standards will be high	
Kingston should not provide elitist state	

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education but accessible excellent comprehensive education for all	
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Having eight Forms of entry

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Strongly Agree	16.4% (338)	19.1%	16.7%	13.8%	11.1%	15.5%	19.5%
Agree	22.3% (460)	21.5%	23%	20.4%	29.6%	19.3%	24.7%
Undecided	20.6% (424)	20%	20%	29.4%	14.8%	18.2%	14.3%
Disagree	12.5% (257)	12.3%	10.7%	8.9%	11.1%	18.2%	13%
Strongly Disagree	28.3% (583)	27.1%	29.5%	27.5%	33.3%	28.9%	28.6%

Summary of additional comments	
In favour	Against
Large size is no disadvantage, many Richmond secondary schools of this size provide a good education	Too large. Site will require highly intensive development with little space for adequate facilities
School should be as large as possible to cope with demand and ensure access to residents outside north Kingston	Traffic problems that will arise from an additional 1680 pupils will be huge and make current congestion even worse
8FE only if the site size can be expanded	Two smaller schools should be built instead
If additional FE is required, it makes sense to provide 8FE of this in a new school	Prefer a smaller school, where behaviour is likely to be better and pupils will feel less intimidated
The need for bulge classes/expansion suggests that a new secondary school is needed	Staff cannot get to know all children in an 8FE. Would be too impersonal
If 8FE is necessary to cope with rising numbers of children, it needs to be this size	Proposed site is not large enough to accommodate such a large school
8FE will provide a good school where a wide range of activities will be available	Local bus routes are already at capacity and won't be able to cope with this number of pupils
The school should be large enough to	Large schools are good for economies of

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accommodate future population growth	scale but not for children
	6FE would provide sufficient numbers of places in this location to deal with demand
	Too little outside space available
	Projected number of secondary school pupils is too high given the degree of take-up of independent secondary school places
	Large schools lack identity, sense of community and are more likely to have problems with under-achievement
	Better to build a smaller school and then expand later if necessary

Being based on the North Kingston Centre site

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Strongly Agree	21.5% (451)	24.8%	23.7%	15%	14.3%	22.4%	21%
Agree	25.1% (526)	26.7%	25.9%	19.5%	14.3%	22.4%	28.4%
Undecided	14.4% (303)	14.5%	14.1%	16%	14.3%	9.9%	8.6%
Disagree	7.8% (164)	6.9%	7.7%	8.4%	7.1%	8.3%	6.2%
Strongly Disagree	31.1% (653)	27.1%	28.6%	41.1%	50%	37%	35.8%

Summary of additional comments	
In favour	Against
Important that school is within north Kingston as this is where the demand for a new school is	Site is too small for a school of this size
Limited options so this is logical	Loss of local Adult Education facilities is unacceptable
Site has always been for educational purposes so proposal makes sense	Loss of existing sport facilities for Tiffin Girls School and the local community is unacceptable
Was previously a secondary school and	A comprehensive adjacent to Tiffin Girls

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is currently an under-utilised resource	and Fern Hill Primary is inappropriate
Proposal protects valuable Borough green space from development	Parking for staff and parents/carers will be a huge problem
Would be located on a main bus route and additional services should be added	Infrastructure of North Kingston is incapable of sustaining a large secondary school
Tiffin Girls School facilities should be shared with the new school	Traffic congestion would be worse
A school in north Kingston will enable many to walk and cycle to school	Location would have an adverse effect on Grey Court School
Start and finish times will need to be staggered	Tiffin Girls School site should be used for the new school and they be relocated elsewhere
Adult Education provision must be relocated in north Kingston during construction and should be included in the new school from 2015	Other parts of the borough would also benefit from provision of a new secondary school
The Hawker Centre should not form any part of the main school proposal	Site is too close to Local Authority border and too many Richmond pupils could have priority over those living in the borough
	A more suitable site should be found
	More detail of the plans for relocation of Adult Education should be provided

Proposed specialism's of Music and Humanities

Response	All	Parent/Carer with school aged children	Resident	NKC User	NKC Staff	Teacher/School Staff	School Governor
Strongly Agree	11.2% (226)	11.2%	11.1%	9.4%	11.5%	15.6%	17.8%
Agree	25.3% (511)	24.6%	24.6%	25.7%	46.2%	25.1%	20.5%
Undecided	39.4% (797)	41.3%	39.5%	36.6%	38.5%	40.8%	43.8%
Disagree	10.5% (212)	10.6%	10.8%	10.2%	0%	7.3%	11%
Strongly Disagree	13.6% (276)	12.3%	13.9%	18.1%	3.8%	11.2%	6.8%

Summary of additional comments	
In favour	Against

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Music is a strength in Kingston Primary Schools and humanities is neglected in many existing secondary schools	Should be a science, maths, engineering or other technical based specialism more in keeping with the history of the area
Would provide Kingston Music and Arts Service with a focal point	Proposed specialisms will not provide pupils with assistance in areas of skills shortages and advantages for future job prospects
Offer opportunities for Tiffin Girls School and new school to share different types of facilities	Creative specialisms not appropriate for expected academic nature of the proposed intake
Proposed specialisms represent good fit with existing pattern of Local Authority specialisms	Would prefer sport to feature in specialisms
All schools should develop specialisms alongside teaching of core subjects	Specialisms could detract from attainment of excellence in all core subjects
Specialisms would enable excellent facilities to be provided out of school hours to the community	Why does the school need specialisms? They divert resources away from the teaching of all subjects.
There should be no impact on excellent teaching of other subjects	Pupils will be attracted to the school due to location and results, not its specialisms
Good emphasis on creative skills and should be expanded to include drama and art	Latchmere is a centre of excellence for Maths which should be considered

Summary of general comments received

In favour

- New school needed to address demand for school places and long overdue
- Beneficial for large numbers of families living in the north of the Borough who do not have sufficient choice of local school
- Admissions criteria should ensure priority should be given to Kingston residents
- There is no alternative
- School should provide an excellent education for pupils of all abilities and offer places to Borough residents beyond North Kingston
- Inadequate current secondary provision in the area with children having to travel considerable distances to receive a good education
- Parents/carers are currently delighted by the quality of primary schools in North Kingston but face an anxious time when it comes to secondary provision
- A non selective, co-educational school is needed in this part of the Borough
- A fantastic opportunity to create a really high achieving school
- Whole school should be built on one site to eliminate the difficulties that would be caused by a split-site
- Will provide choice for those parents/carers who cannot access local selective schools and can't afford the independent sector

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- Parents of secondary aged children in support who wished their children would have been able to attend a school in North Kingston
- Pleased that a sixth form is included in the proposal which will have a positive effect for the school as a whole
- Why has the proposal dropped the sixth form element at the Hawker Centre?

Against

- Site is not suitable due to impact that an increased number of pupils going to and from school will have in the already congested local area
- Insufficient capacity on existing bus routes and difficulty in expanding these to accommodate additional pupils
- Represents the 'least worst' site option and an alternative should be identified
- School is too large given the size of the site
- North Kingston Centre is a highly valuable adult learning resource
- Concern about potential loss of sports facilities at Tiffin Girls if the North Kingston site is extended in size
- Could have a negative impact on the quality of education provided at the Tiffin Girls School
- Siting a selective girls school next to an all-ability comprehensive could lead to problems between the respective pupils
- A further school in the north of Kingston will place further strain on over-stretched local infrastructure
- Grey Court should be expanded to accommodate additional Kingston pupils
- Kingston and Richmond should work closely together to develop a joint solution for increased numbers of secondary aged children in the area
- Locating sports facilities at the Hawker Centre will restrict community access to a valuable resource
- A new school may not be required in the long term future
- The expectation that large numbers will walk or cycle to the school is unrealistic
- Not enough account has been taken of the needs of older residents
- Location would result in too many Richmond pupils gaining access to the school above Kingston residents
- Much better to build a smaller school and another one elsewhere in the Borough

Others/General

- Would like the school to open sooner in 2014 so current Year 2 children can benefit
- Should open for Year 7 and 8 pupils in first year
- Consider phased opening for other year groups in order to benefit older children who will otherwise travel elsewhere
- Stagger opening times and consider widening footpaths and improving cycle lanes
- Tiffin schools should offer more places to RBK residents or become comprehensive so that the size of the proposed school can be reduced

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- Tiffin Girls should be relocated elsewhere in the borough and their site be used for the new school
- The opportunity should be taken to integrate community facilities such as adult education and a local library on the school site and taking the opportunity to invest in the local history and archives service
- Backing away from use of Hawker Centre buildings welcomed as its well used local community centre
- Variety of views expressed regarding the potential school provider. Some favouring a faith school, others wanting to ensure an admissions policy which did not select on criteria other than proximity through the provision of a community school
- Kingston tax payers should be the ones that benefit from the provision of a new school through preferable admissions criteria
- More detail is required on the relocation of adult education services. These need to be in the Kingston Town area
- Sports facilities should be shared between Tiffin Girls and the new school
- Educational vision presented for the school is not transformational enough
- Amount of SEN provision is too small and should cater for children with other needs than BESN
- LA should be considering to build a new sixth form centre in North Kingston rather than a new 11-18 school
- There is an urgent need for a new school in other parts of the Borough
- School dependent on recruiting highly motivated excellent staff
- Should be additional foot/cycle access to the rear of the site
- Should be provide places to those living in the central Kingston area
- Concern expressed by non-North Kingston borough residents that their children will not be able to access places at the school
- The closure of Tudor and Bonner Hill schools was a mistake
- Local Authority should explore collaboration with the independent sector to make more spaces available

Canbury Area Residents Association (CARA)

CARA carried out their own survey of residents and submitted the results of this survey as their formal response to the consultation. A full copy of the survey is available in the members room and has been included in the secondary school expansion pages on the RBK website.

A summary of the results of the survey which 46 CARA members responded to is as follows: -

- Overall the results indicate significant (85%) opposition to the proposals as currently stated, balanced against the recognition that some provision for a new secondary school is required.
- There is near unanimous objection to using Hawker Centre for the provision of sixth form education. Sentiment is less divisive however regarding the use of the Hawker Centre for sports / recreational activities.

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- Nearly 70% of respondents expressed a desire to see better and closer co-operation with adjacent local authorities (i.e. Richmond).
- 62% of respondents were in favour of the vacant land on the old Kingston power station being properly evaluated for use as an alternative location for a new secondary school. We tabled this proposal last year and believe the suitability of this alternative site should be revisited.
- Also of significant concern to us is the fact 73% were unhappy with the manner in which the current process is being undertaken.

In addition CARA highlighted the following as areas of concern; traffic implications of the proposal, ambiguity surrounding the inclusion of the Hawker Centre in the plans and lack of Planning Certainty provided by a 'Outline Planning Brief'.

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT)

The full response of LBRuT is available in the members room and has been included on the secondary school expansion pages on the RBK website, as requested by LBRuT.

LBRuT have questioned the forecasts of need for school places that RBK has used to put forward the proposal. They have concluded that, "We do not believe that the data in Kingston's paper is consistent with the assertions that more places are required, that they are required specifically within North Kingston, and to such a large extent. We therefore feel that Kingston should re-consider its data very carefully before taking any further steps in regard to this proposal".

Grey Court School

A letter from Grey Court School Governing Body was received in response to the consultation. A full copy of this is available in the Members' Room and has been included on the secondary school expansion pages on the RBK website, as requested by the school.

This stated that they recognised that 'A new school in the Borough of Kingston is necessary and will contribute to meeting the needs of secondary aged pupils across the two Boroughs'.

The letter however goes on to raise a number of concerns including: -

- Proposed size of the school (too large) and implications for Grey Court and the new school if this proves to be an over-supply of places
- Lack of capital investment in Grey Court which is required to meet the needs of increasing numbers of learners from 2010 – 2015
- Uncertainty regarding long term demographic trends and the consequences should the birth rate fall
- Lack of a strong relationship and good communication between Kingston Borough and the school
- Grey Court not being included in the Kingston BSF Programme

They conclude that whilst they are in agreement that additional places are needed in the area, an eight form entry secondary school would be an unbalanced solution and uncertainties surrounding projected numbers make it impossible for them to be confident that the impact on Grey Court from this proposal would not be significant.

