

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting

Primary School Expansion 2011 – Public Consultation Meeting Latchmere School

23 March 2010, 19:00 – 20.40

Officers Present:

Duncan Clark – Interim Director of Learning and Children’s Services
Anne Redparth – Head of Resources and Commissioning
Peter Latham – Strategic Manager Inspector – 14-19 and English
Jenny Haynes – Lead Strategic Manager Partnerships and Workforce Development

Latchmere School representatives included

Julie Ritchie – Headteacher
Chair of Governors

Presentation

The Head of Resources and Commissioning gave a presentation on the need for additional permanent primary places across the borough, in the Kingston Neighbourhood areas and the proposals for providing these including the proposal to expand Latchmere Primary School from 3 forms of entry to 4 forms of entry from September 2011. An overview of the statutory processes that need to be followed in order to provide the permanent expansion were also covered. These include the school organisation statutory process, planning requirements and admissions consultation requirements. The presentation is available on the RBK website.

Comments and Questions

The table below outlines the main comments made and questions asked together with the response given by officers and school representatives

Comment/Question	Response
Is there a risk that the school agrees to expand and funding gets withdrawn?	Revenue funding for additional pupils comes from the Government and is guaranteed. With regards to capital funding the Council will not proceed with the publication of the statutory Notice without agreement of the Governing Body of the capital investment involved.
Is there a possibility that the Government will withdraw capital investment?	£20m is currently secure - the Government are aware of the need to provide additional accommodation for rising rolls and have provided some staged funding recognising the need for further funding over the next few years as the increased pupil numbers move through the system. The Council’s Executive has underwritten the level of investment needed to provide buildings for equivalent of 7 years on the basis of Government grant for future years.

<p>Are there any 4 form entry primary schools?</p>	<p>Confirmed there are 4 form entry primary schools across the country but none at present in Kingston.</p>
<p>Is there any research on affect of school size on performance?</p>	<p>Information on current research is available on the website. Clearly we will not do anything that will impact on the outstanding outcomes in Kingston schools. Additionally, a number of Kingston heads including the head of Latchmere, visited a 4 form entry primary school recently and the head confirmed that the school remained outstanding and was based on systems similar to those at Latchmere. As well as providing the additional accommodation this would also provide an opportunity to improve the infrastructure of the current school which will be a benefit for every individual child.</p>
<p>Given that the previous consultation showed opposition to 4 form entry schools why is this option being pursued? A teacher friend of mine is horrified by the thought of such a big school.</p>	<p>(Head) Teachers in this school see it as an opportunity for them and they are not horrified. The culture of the school is to stay at the forefront of innovation. The development of the new classrooms will enable us to meet the 21st curriculum and teachers and pupils will be involved in the design – particularly Year 4. The Governing Body has architect expertise and will ensure the school' and individual pupils' interests are not destabilised.</p>
<p>What is the opposition to building new schools?</p>	<p>Building new schools is the Council's preferred option and came through strongly in the previous consultation. As a result, following that consultation, the Council instructed independent Land Agents to carry out a feasibility study on possible sites both in and outside Council ownership. This feasibility confirmed there are currently no sites suitable for the site of a new primary school.</p>
<p>How will you ensure you maintain outcomes and that the experience of 4 and 5 year olds is wide ranging – they are sharing outside play equipment now with the bulge classes.</p>	<p>Any expansion will ensure that the high attainment levels will be maintained. It is no-one's interests for these to fall. The provision of permanent additional classes compared with temporary 'bulge' classes is that the plans for the expansion will ensure maximum provision of outside play area as part of the whole scheme – it will be enhanced compared to current provision. A governor commented that the implementation of DCSF BB99 building regulations will ensure ample play space/open areas etc.</p>
<p>Since the arrival of the bulge classes there</p>	<p>Since there have been 4 classes in reception</p>

have been fewer opportunities for e.g. football	arrangements have been different and these will be improved again after Easter. Football is now rotated with other games opportunities on different days in response to school council recommendations.
What are the plans for the new build and will it have an impact on current classrooms?	At very early stages of discussions with the Governing Body but it initial views suggest that there will be more classrooms on the Junior area, the demountable will go, there will be a new hall therefore will have 2. Most of the changes are expected in the KS2 area – it will provide an opportunity for state of the art Year 6 provision in readiness for transfer to secondary schools.
What disruption will there be whilst the building work takes place?	We have experience across Kingston of large building programmes, including new schools. A core project group including the school (head and governors) will oversee the programme and once the decision has been made the contractors will join this core group. Health and Safety is paramount and over a number of months there will be a sequence of changes. School holidays will be used as much as possible. Experience shows children adapt really well and it provides good curriculum opportunities.
The consultation document refers to possible phasing of the building programme. Can you explain?	With a large building programme we may need to look at phasing separated KS1 and KS2 building on some sites over 2 or possible 3 years.
Is the money ring fenced? Is there a possible of having to stop half way through?	All projects are intended to be a single contract/planning application
The projections show 510 places for 540 children in the Kingston Town neighbourhood. Will there still be a shortage of places.	Our projections are constantly kept under review. Parents are able to express a preference for a school and not all children who are resident in the area attend schools in the area or attend state schools.
If the preference is to expand popular/successful schools why is King Athelstan on the proposed list for expansion?	King Athelstan Primary is very much an improving school and parents who visit or have pupils there report it is very different to the perceptions around. Also it was one of the favoured proposals that came out of the last round of consultation. Need to recognise that different schools have different intakes and different challenges.
Can you confirm that Latchmere will not go to 5 forms of entry?	At this stage there is not intention for this. It would go against our current principles for primary schools The Governing Body also has a view on how large the school can get. There are currently a few vacancies on the Governing Body so there is an opportunity for you to influence.
If 13.5 forms additional forms of entry are not enough what will you do? How reliable are	We are always reviewing the projections. Numbers could drop as well as rise. We will

the projections?	ensure plans are flexible to take account of any changes.
How will the additional pupils be accommodated at secondary schools.	At secondary level we are about to enter the national BSF programme which will refurbish or rebuild all secondary schools across the country. Our plans include a new 8 form entry secondary school on the North Kingston site to open in September 2015. This will provide for the bulge classes starting with the current Year 1 in primary schools.

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting

Primary School Expansion 2011 – Public Consultation Meeting

Alexandra Infants School and St Paul's Junior School
held at Alexandra Infants

25 March 2010, 19:30 – 20.25

Officers Present:

Duncan Clark – Interim Director of Learning and Children's Services
Anne Redparth – Head of Resources and Commissioning
Peter Latham – Strategic Manager Inspector – 14-19 and English
Jenny Haynes – Lead Strategic Manager Partnerships and Workforce Development

School representation included:

Rachel Hollis, Headteacher Alexandra Infant
Kevin Edmonds, Headteacher St Paul's Junior

Presentation

The Head of Resources and Commissioning gave a presentation on the need for additional permanent primary places across the borough, in the Kingston Neighbourhood areas and the proposals for providing these including the proposal to expand Alexandra Infant and St Paul's Junior Schools from 2 forms of entry to 3 forms of entry. An overview of the statutory processes that need to be followed in order to provide the permanent expansion were also covered. These include the school organisation statutory process, planning requirements and admissions consultation requirements. The presentation is attached at Annex A.

Comments and Questions

The table below outlines the main comments made and questions asked together with the response given by officers and school representatives.

Comment/Question	Response
There are already additional classrooms for the bulge classes. Why do you need more classrooms for 2011? Can't you just re-use those that become available at the infant school again?	The expansion for 2011 is a permanent expansion. To accommodate the current bulge classes demountable classrooms have been provided. This is a temporary solution and provides a classroom and toilets. Permanent expansion will provide the additional infrastructure required to accommodate additional pupils and staff on a permanent basis.
Is there a completion date?	Programming of the building will start early summer. There may be some phasing of the build for some schools. Aim is to start building in October half term.
Will plans include those for external areas e.g. sure start provision?	External site provision is included in the overall project. Can't at this stage confirm what that will be however the aim is to improve both internal and external spaces

	and maximise use of space.
Is all of the £70m capital investment funded?	The Council has underwritten this amount in anticipation of full funding from Government over the next few years so that the building programme can be started now in a planned way.
Does the Council provide ongoing money?	The revenue costs are not funded locally from Council Tax. The Council receives the Schools budget from the Government on a per pupil basis and this is ring fenced for schools.
Can you be convinced this is a long term solution? The projections still show a shortfall of places compared with the local population.	Our projections are constantly kept under review. Parents are able to express a preference for a school and not all children who are resident in the area attend schools in the area or attend state schools. Offer letters for Reception in 2010 have been received today and we have approximately 100 pupils who have not received one of their 3 preferences but there are places available in other schools. Our planned bulge classes programme has ensured that. If we find a need for more places that will be addressed. Similarly if numbers drop we will ensure that any new build is a flexible as possible and can be used by the community.
Comments by Heads of Alexandra Infant and ST Paul's Junior	A school user group is being established including staff, architects. This is an exciting opportunity to shape designs and the overall project. Feel it will bring the schools closer together and there will be a joint group of staff and governors from the 2 schools to ensure coherence in timescales, construction programmes etc.
What will happen to the St Paul's link with Teddington	This will not affect that link. The link is part of Richmond's admission policy for its secondary schools and has been established by the numbers that have transferred from St Paul's to Teddington historically. The only way those could change is if Richmond consults on a possible change to this admission policy. Susan Kramer MP stated that as far as she was aware there was no intention for this to change.

Notes of Public Consultation meeting

Primary School Expansion 2011 – Public Consultation Meeting

Held at King Athelstan School

25 March 2010, 19:00 – 20:20

Officers Present:

Tina Herring - Head of Learning & School Effectiveness

Justine Rego – Policy Officer, Learning and Children’s Services

Others at the meeting:

Chair of Governors

Head Teacher

2 parents

Presentation

The Head of Learning & School Effectiveness gave a presentation but asked to be interrupted with questions as they arose. The following comments and questions were all raised during the presentation.

Comments and Questions

The table below outlines the main comments made and questions asked together with the response given by officers and school representatives.

Comment/Question	Response
This summer another class will be added here. Will it be removed at the end when the new classes are built?	Yes. In order to accommodate the extra class throughout their time at the school the temporary classrooms have a seven year planning application attached to them. At the end of this time they will be removed. The head teacher explained the possible location of the extra classroom from September 2010 and that extra space was needed for the current number of children at the school so this was being planned for as well.
Expanding this year and then continuing with three forms of entry is better than having had, for example, three this year, two next year, and then a permanent expansion to three classes. Provides more consistency for the school.	This was agreed.
The staff and governors recently met to discuss what three forms of entry would mean for the school and to start planning for the expansion.	
What does DCSF stand for?	Department for Children, Schools and Families

So, the plans haven't been worked out yet?	No, some very initial thoughts have been discussed with the architects. The head teacher then explained the conversations with the architects so far.
What is ICT?	Information & Communication Technology – it's all the computers, white boards etc.
Will you do any shared procurement with other schools?	We are working in the most efficient ways possible. For example, the three firms of architects appointed to work on this project are working closely together. All schools have their own styles and ethos so this needs to be considered, but where efficiencies are possible they will be made.
The Surbiton Hospital site, is it going to be more housing and a school? That would increase the pressure on school places.	No, it's going to be a polyclinic provided by the PCT. There is the same firm of architects working on the design for the clinic and the school so it will be a coherent space.
What would happen if there was a problem with the timing if there was opposition to the plans and the Office of the Schools Adjudicator was called in.	There would be another year of 'bulge' classes and in year changes to the planned admission number.
I think it is good not to have all the capacity built at the beginning, otherwise there would be a lot of empty classrooms.	
Will the dining / music room be big enough?	The architects are currently looking into that.
Is all the work going to happen in the holidays?	No, that would not be possible. All schools have a project team manager located at the Guildhall. This person works with the builders and is responsible for health and safety. The build can be seen as a learning opportunity. At other schools viewing panels have been put in so that the children can see what is going on.
The Head of Learning and School Effectiveness closed by asking if people at the meeting were generally in favour or against the proposal.	The feeling was that it is very positive for the school. More resources will be available to share and there will be the opportunity to buy more specialist resources.

Everyone was thanked for attending.

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting

Primary School Expansion 2011 – Public Consultation Meeting Fern Hill Primary School

29 March 2010, 19:00 – 20.25

Officers Present:

Tina Herring - Head of Learning & School Effectiveness
Anne Redparth – Head of Commissioning and Resources
Bjorn Simpole – Policy Officer
Headteacher and Chair of Governors – Fern Hill Primary School

There were 12 people present at the meeting.

Presentation

Tina and Anne welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a presentation on expansion of Primary Schools 2011. The presentation outlined our statutory responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all children who need one and Kingston's proposal to meet this demand through school expansion and the building of a new Primary school in the Surbiton area. The presentation is attached as Annex A.

Comments and Questions

The table below outlines the main comments made and questions asked together with the response given by officers and school representatives.

Comment/Question	Response
Will you be linking the Primary and Secondary proposals together with one traffic impact assessment?	Yes. Primary expansion will take account of the new use of the North Kingston Centre and its overall impact on the area.
Will the presentation be available online?	Yes we will provide on the primary expansion pages on the RBK website.
Please expand more on reference to educational research and school effectiveness.	All research comes to no definitive conclusion of school size and effectiveness and that it is issues such as deprivation and catchment are the major determinants. In the Kingston context, our largest schools are shown to be the strongest and have the highest standards, however this is not the reason that they are good, this is more related to the quality of education and leadership. We know that we have the expertise and good leadership to manage the expansion process.
How much of the budget will be allocated to attract good teachers into the school? I am concerned that expansion could affect the	Every child will bring extra funding and larger schools tend to be able to have more flexibility for a strengthened senior management team with a

<p>teaching and leadership quality of the school.</p>	<p>greater mass of funding. We visited a 4FE primary school in North London and they felt that being larger gave them greater flexibility and identity within each year group. In general being larger also provides the opportunity for teachers to be part of a bigger team with a greater range of expertise to share. If Fern Hill expands there will be an enhanced management and leadership structure for the school.</p>
<p>My son has lost his Year 1 teacher during the school year which I am very unhappy about for the stability of his education. This has happened in addition to bulge classes which have been challenging for staff, pupils and parents.</p>	<p>This teacher has obtained promotion at another school and it is very common for teachers to move schools during the school year.</p>
<p>How will it be ensured there is sufficient revenue funding as the school expands? Is there extra money available in times of transition?</p>	<p>The LA has ensured that no school is disadvantaged financially by having bulge classes.</p> <p>HT – this has enabled us to have one non-class based Year R leader and to put an experienced teacher into the Year 1 class that has lost its teacher.</p> <p>As a LA we have a wealth of experience of managing large building projects in recent years including the complete rebuilding of Grand Avenue Primary School.</p> <p>Funding for education is ring-fenced with 100% of grant funding going to schools. Large support is provided by the LA but there is no specific additional funding identified for schools to manage expansion building projects.</p>
<p>My major concern is the actual building work and the impact of noise and other disturbance for the school. How is this planning managed?</p>	<p>Contractors are already on board and we have lots of experience of carefully managing building projects to minimise the impact on education. There may be phasing at this school of the works, this is to be determined and will be consulted on.</p>
<p>Great care needs to be taken when implementing plans. There is no political disagreement about the proposals, the need for additional places is well recognised particularly in North Kingston.</p>	<p>Kingston has been at the forefront of making the case for extra funding to provide permanent expansion and the LA has unwritten the total cost so regardless of any change of government, we expect to require £70 million over the course of 7 years.</p> <p>Our recent experience is that educational standards have risen in schools that have been the subject of major building projects.</p> <p>In respect of this school, the C of G and HT has experienced managing a brand new school which will be very useful in managing the expansion</p>

	process.
How does the relationship with the North Kingston Centre site work, particularly in that RBK may not be the school provider?	<p>Different architects are working on plans for the secondary school and Fern Hill but they are coming together to ensure that the plans are complimentary.</p> <p>We are the client for the secondary school until the school provider is known. If the provider is not RBK they will then work with us to develop the plans for the school.</p>
Will parents get a chance to see the plans?	Absolutely. We are hoping to display plans at each school when they are available, The LA, school and architects are working on these plans and when they have been finalised they will be shared with all.
The kitchen here must be improved so the school can provide its own meals.	This is one of the things that will be addressed in the plans, along with an additional small hall. The server is below minimum size and is one reason why the school signed up in principle to expansion.
The lack of storage and space in corridors needs to be addressed	<p>The intention is to transform schools into places for 21st century learning. The primary capital programme has been diverted into providing additional capacity due to the need. We won't be able to do everything to improve existing infrastructure of the school, but through expansion Fern Hill will get funding, others schools are likely to get nothing.</p> <p>Dep HT – We are clear about how we would like to improve the school</p>
Will the field at the back stay as it is?	<p>This is part of the discussions. The field will remain within the Fern Hill site but may be required to form part of the development of an expanded school. Additional play space will be provided if its lost.</p> <p>It won't be shared with the new secondary school.</p>
I am concerned to ensure good community access to facilities at the school – how will this be built in?	<p>Community access will be integral to the plans.</p> <p>Also plans will ensure that new accommodation is flexible so that if demand for places reduced – there could be easy alternative use of space within schools.</p>

Tina Herring, Head of Learning & School Effectiveness, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and encouraged all to complete the expansion consultation.

