

**Learning and Children's Services
Director (Interim): Duncan Clark**

Enquiries to: Anne Redparth / Tina Herring
E-mail: anne.redparth@rbk.kingston.gov.uk
tina.herring@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



8 December 2009

**Guildhall 2
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 1EU**

**Direct Line: 020 8547 5220
Fax: 020 8547 5297**

EXPANSION OF SCHOOL PLACES IN KINGSTON - UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers

The Council has made a commitment to keep local families informed about our plans to expand primary and secondary school provision in Kingston and this letter provides an update on our progress to date. We are pleased that the Council's hard work at a national and local level has resulted in very positive developments.

Permanent Expansion of Primary Schools

On Tuesday 1st December the Council Executive met and agreed a strategy for the permanent increase in primary school places. The Governing Bodies of 14 primary schools have agreed in principle to permanent expansion (see table overleaf). The Council will continue to work in partnership with these schools to ensure that consultation is undertaken and to develop expansion plans that will protect and improve the quality of education for all children at school.

While the Executive did not make any binding decisions about individual schools, it started the process for permanent expansion which will include full consultation about the proposals for individual schools and statutory planning applications in early 2010. Final decisions about plans for individual schools would not be expected until summer 2010.

I am pleased to confirm that the Government have announced 'stop-gap' funding to provide sufficient primary school places to meet local needs. Kingston's allocation of £8.2million was £5million more than we had anticipated and is of course very welcome. However, this extra funding only represents the first allocation needed to fund the entire expansion programme. We anticipate that the total cost of the expansion programme will be in the region of £80 million and the necessary funding will need to be identified for each school prior to the formal consultation process. We will now work with schools to agree the most effective phasing for the building works that will ensure we have sufficient permanent primary places.

I am aware that many people expressed a preference for new schools to be created, rather than expanding existing schools. Our land agents undertook a thorough review of available space in the Royal Borough and concluded that there are no readily available site opportunities currently on the property market which meet all of the Council's primary school site search requirements. Our Strategy for permanent expansion therefore includes only one new school which it is anticipated will be incorporated within the overall redevelopment plans for the Surbiton Hospital site, on part of the site not required for health services.

PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR PERMANENT EXPANSION			
School Places Planning Area	School	Permanent Change to Published Admission Number (forms of entry)	Expanding to Published Admission Number (forms of entry)
Kingston Town	Latchmere Primary	+30	120 (4 forms of entry)
	Fern Hill Primary	+30	90 (3 fe)
	King Athelstan Primary	+30	90 (3fe)
	Alexandra Infants & St Pauls Junior*	+30	90 (3fe)
Surbiton	St Matthew's Primary*	+15	60 (2fe)
	Grand Avenue Primary	+30	90 (3fe)
	New School	+60 or +90	60 (2fe) or 90 (3fe)
Malden & Coombe	Burlington Infants & Junior Schools	+30	120 (4fe)
	Christ Church New Malden Primary*	+30	90 (3fe)
	Corpus Christi Primary**	+30	90 (3fe)
	Malden Manor Primary	+30	90 (3fe)
South of the Borough	Ellingham Primary	+30	60 (2fe)
	Lovelace Primary	+30	90 (3fe)
TOTAL Permanent Places	Currently 1,575 (52.5fe)	+405 (13.5fe) or +435 (14.5fe)	1,980 places (66fe) 2,010 places (67fe)

**denotes Southwark Diocese Voluntary Aided schools*

***denotes Southwark RC Archdiocese Voluntary Aided schools*

Admissions to Primary Schools September 2010

An additional 300 Reception Year places have been added across 11 primary schools for September 2010 to meet the increase in demand for places.

This is the third year we have had to take such action so that we can ensure there are sufficient places for all children who need one. These are temporary changes to admission numbers at schools that have been made in advance of the outcome of the consultation about permanent expansion of the primary schools referred to above.

Nursery Places

The Early Years and Childcare Service works with school's nurseries and other providers for early years to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet the anticipated demand within Kingston. Since September 2008 six additional settings have been added to the Register of Providers.

The Local Authority does not have specific capital funding to undertake major capital works to provide more nursery places and intends to deliver more places by using the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector. Where there is no capacity within the PVI sector to expand increases to schools' provision will be supported.

Based on current population estimates and the latest sufficiency assessment there is currently a need for more places, particularly in Surbiton, New Malden and North Kingston. Private and Voluntary providers are being sought to expand current provision and to register new provision.

In view of the above the current proposed strategy for expansion of primary schools does not include expansion of nursery provision in the named schools, other than in the proposed new primary school in Surbiton.

New Secondary School in North Kingston

By 2015 the increased pupil population currently in our primary schools will start to transfer to secondary schools creating a need for the permanent expansion of secondary provision. On 29th September 2009 the Council agreed to the development of plans to create a new 8 form entry secondary school in North Kingston using land at the North Kingston centre and with some facilities at the Hawker Centre site.

I am delighted that on 30th November 2009 the Government announced that Kingston will be joining the Building Schools for the Future Programme in a joint programme with Croydon. The announcement confirms that Kingston and Croydon will receive an initial fund of £100m to progress our priority schemes (subject to agreement at a meeting with the Minister of State for Schools and Learners on 14 December 2009). Kingston has already prioritised the new secondary school, as the first project to benefit from the Building Schools for the Future programme. This is excellent news as it means the consultation process to create the new school can move ahead in the New Year. The consultation will cover the educational details of the school, including a competition process to determine the provider of the school, as well as separate consultation with local residents regarding the planning application for the building.

As you can see there are a lot of changes taking place in our schools and I hope this has provided you a useful overview of the main issues. We intend to keep residents and families with children at school informed during the coming months and years and will keep our web site (www.kingston.gov.uk) updated with the latest information.

I will write again in the Spring term with a further update about our plans to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Kingston.

Yours sincerely



Duncan Clark
Director of Learning and Children's Services (Interim)