

**LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES**

**CABINET**

**DATE:** 20 MARCH 2006  
**REPORT OF:** DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET  
MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS

**LEAD OFFICER:** MATTHEW PAUL

**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL PLACES PLANNING

**WARDS:** ALL

**KEY DECISION?:** YES

**IF YES, IN FORWARD PLAN?:** YES

**Agenda Item No.**

**15**

**For general release**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the requirements for planning school places and the strategy for considering proposals for the expansion of primary places in the borough.
- 1.2 This report asks Cabinet to agree the feasibility studies for the possible expansion of the six identified schools to provide additional school places and the consultation on those options that will ensue.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **That Cabinet approve the feasibility studies on the options for expansion set out in paragraphs 3.7 of this report.**

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 Each council has a statutory duty to provide enough school places for all its residents who request them.
- 3.2 The Council has provided an additional 250 reception class places over the past four years. In spite of that provision, a combination of factors has highlighted the need firstly for additional reception class places in three areas of the borough (Barnes / East Sheen / Richmond; Central and East Twickenham; and Teddington / Hampton Wick) and secondly for additional Year 7 places. Exceptionally high numbers of reception class applications for September 2005, caused in part by the borough's primary schools' position at the top of the national league tables, the revision of pupil forecasts

in line with actual birth data for 2003 that greatly exceeded previous GLA predictions; and in respect of Year 7 the feed-through to the secondary sector from 2008 onwards of the additional children accommodated in the primary schools during recent years.

- 3.3 In 2005 the Diocese of Southwark in partnership with the Local Authority submitted a bid to the DfES to expand Holy Trinity, Church of England Primary School from one to two form entry. As this bid was unsuccessful, the Diocese will consider resubmission in May 2007 as part of the next bidding round for additional places. This will be subject to projections of future demand in the Richmond/East Sheen area.
- 3.3 In the context of the information available officers recommend that resources should be directed towards expansion in the two of the three areas where demand has been the highest. These are Central and East Twickenham, and Teddington/Hampton Wick.
- 3.4 Planning and Education, Arts and Leisure officers visited a number of schools in these and other areas during the autumn of 2005 to assess the capacity on each site.
- 3.5 Education, Arts and Leisure officers have held discussion with each of the schools identified at paragraph 3.6, as well as the Diocese of London which controls both the church schools mentioned.
- 3.6 As a result of officers' findings, members are recommended to agree that studies be carried out into the feasibility of expanding the following ::
- Hampton Wick Infant and St John the Baptist C of E Junior: to be expanded from two- to three-form entry, or converted into all-through two-form entry primary schools;
  - Orleans Infant and St Stephen C of E Junior: to be converted into all-through two-form entry primary schools.
  - Stanley Infant and Junior Schools to be expanded from three to four form entry

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place in the form of a report to all governors and on the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan. Stanley Infant and Junior Schools have requested that they are also considered in the options for expansion. Further discussion will take place with these two schools.
- 4.2 Open, informal consultation with the educational community on the options will take place from March 2006.
- 4.2 Responses from the informal consultation process will be fed into a series of more formal consultative meetings with the wider community in May and June 2006.
- 4.3 A further report, outlining firm proposals, will be presented to Cabinet in June or July 2006.
- 4.4 Statutory notices of the proposals will be published during the autumn term 2006, prior to consideration by Richmond upon Thames School Organisation Committee in January 2007.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The costs of the feasibility studies, estimated at £10,000 per school, will be met from the Education, Arts and Leisure budget.

- 5.2 As the expansion options have not yet been evaluated, it is too early to provide an estimate of the cost of providing the requisite school places. As an indicative factor, the cost of the borough's most recent school expansion at Collis Primary was £5million. Section 106 contributions from housing developments accounted for less than 15% of that cost. If the options for additional provision are approved, funding bids will be submitted to the DfES in 2007. This is the first opportunity to bid for additional funding as part of the DfES bi-annual bidding process. The Diocese of Southwark in partnership with the Local Authority will consider resubmitting a bid for the expansion of Holy Trinity.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS/CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposal is made in accordance with the policy outlined in the Community Plan, to "ensure that there are sufficient high quality places in the borough for borough residents", and the 10 Year Vision for providing choice and diversity of education. The provision of a sufficient high quality primary places is a key priority in the Children and Young People's Plan, which is recommended as part of the Council's policy framework.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 There is a low risk that the forecast numbers of pupils will not materialise, due to the 'wrong' age profile of children from families new to the area and/or an increase in the number of parents opting for the independent sector, and that the provision of additional places would enlarge the surplus to a point above the 4-8% recommended by Ofsted. However, the risk of not providing the additional places, and therefore of having a shortage of places across the borough, is significantly greater. There is a significant risk that a bid to the DfES in 2007 may be unsuccessful or that the capacity to consult, plan and attract funding for proposed expansion may require temporary primary places in the interim.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPACT/CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 Provision of school places is made in line with the principle of educational opportunity for all.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council has a statutory duty, in accordance with Section 14 of the Education Act 1996, to provide sufficient school places for residents. Consultation with governors, the publication of notices and discussion at the Schools Organisation Committee for this borough's area are all required prior to the implementation of changes.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

Primary schools – prediction of reception pupil numbers, September 2005.  
Richmond upon Thames secondary schools – forecast of pupil numbers, September 2005.

## **11. CONTACTS**

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