

AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SECTION 100B (4) (b) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, THE CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN CONSULTED ON THIS MATTER AND ASKED TO DECIDE WHETHER HE CONSIDERS IT SHOULD BE TREATED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THE CHAIRMAN HAS DECIDED THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, IN THAT THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT NEED TO BE CONSIDERED SO THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PROVISION OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES CAN BE PUT IN PLACE AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

PAPER NO. 09-960A

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 10TH NOVEMBER 2009

EXECUTIVE – 23RD NOVEMBER 2009

Addendum to report by the Director of Children's Services on the provision of Primary School Places

SUMMARY

Background

Paper No. 09-960 set out details of the consultation process for the proposed expansion schemes at several of the Borough's primary schools. The consultation period for the proposed expansion schemes at Beatrix Potter School, SW18 (Wandsworth Common) has been extended to 16th November 2009, to allow more time for comments and response in light of the recent postal strikes. At the request of both parents and governors the consultation period for the proposed expansion scheme at Belleville School, SW11 (Northcote) has been extended to the 20th November 2009 to allow for full consultation. An update on the current position for both schools is summarised in this addendum report.

GLOSSARY

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report is submitted to the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information. No decisions are required to be made on it by the Council, the Executive or the regulatory and other committees.
2. However, if the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides that recommendations on it need to be made, these will be

Additional Primary School Places

submitted to the Executive and/or appropriate regulatory and other Committees for consideration.

UPDATE TO CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3. **PA3 (Earlsfield).** A total of 45 responses to the consultation have been received to date for Beatrix Potter School, SW18 (Wandsworth Common). Responses continue to show a large majority in favour of the expansion. Of these respondents, 41 are parents and four are staff. A number of respondents have raised concerns about the school's catchment area, available play space and possible disruption to the school during the building works. This will be addressed as part of the building development process.
4. **PA4B. (Balham and Northcote).** Following a request for more information on the proposals, a question and answer sheet on the Council's proposals to expand Belleville School, SW11 (Northcote) was distributed to all parents at the school prior to the October half-term holiday. A consultation meeting for parents, staff and governors was held at Belleville Primary School on 2nd November 2009. The proposals were explained in more detail and attendees had an opportunity to put forward their views on the proposed expansion scheme. The Council has also shared its feasibility studies with parents and stakeholders by ensuring that links to these studies have been posted on both the Belleville Primary School and Council websites. The main concerns raised by parents were about disruption caused by the building works, the impact on playspace of the both the works and the additional number of children and the organisational difficulties of a very large primary school. A number of respondents queried the possibility of expanding alternative schools nearby, or building a completely new school instead.
5. Following this meeting the governors plan to hold an 'open day' on 16th November 2009 to give parents an opportunity to meet the governing body and discuss the proposal. The Governors will then hold a governing body meeting and submit their response.
6. In addition to these meetings the School has been holding meetings for prospective admissions in 2010. These meetings have demonstrated that there remains a buoyant demand for a 4FE school. While 4FE primary schools are uncommon there are sufficient to show that schools of this size can work well but concerns regarding the practicality of operating a school of this size on the Belleville site remain. The consultation needs to be completed and further feasibility studies undertaken on both the building scheme and the future operational arrangements prior to any recommendations being made on whether to publish a notice for the expansions of the School. In addition, further consideration will be given to possible alternatives to provide additional places in the area.

CONCLUSION

7. In the light of increasing demand for school places it will be necessary to ensure that there are sufficient additional places to meet this demand. Further work on the

options for Belleville and the surrounding area will be undertaken before making recommendations on any expansion scheme.

PAUL ROBINSON
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10th November 2009

Background Papers

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary, Ms R Williamson (020 8871 7857) rwilliamson@wandsworth.gov.uk can supply if required.