



**Scrutiny Committee**  
11 July 2007

**Report from the Director of Children  
and Families**

For Action/Information  
\* delete as necessary

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Report Title: Primary and Secondary School Places Update**

Forward Plan Ref:

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out an overview of the issues relating to the sufficiency of primary and secondary school places including the increase in reception applications for September 2007.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the increases in pupil numbers at primary and secondary level and the proposed plans for increasing capacity.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 Detailed reports on school places were considered by the executive in November 2006 and January 2007. The January report from the Director of Children and Families 'School Places – Follow up Review of Sites and Pupil Number Forecasts' confirmed the need for a minimum of 6FE additional primary and 15FE additional secondary school places by 2016. This is based on a tight planning margin of 5% and current demand is bearing out these projections.

**3.2 Forecasting demand**

The Council uses a combination of local knowledge and pupil projections from the Greater London Authority (GLA) which are derived from the Brent annual pupil census, population projections, housing development data, live births, migration data

and past trends. Planning school places is a complex process particularly in London with the considerable cross border flows and regeneration activity.

### 3.3 **Changes in cross border movements**

Brent is a net exporter of secondary pupils, but more Brent children are choosing to attend school in Brent. In 2006 73.5% of secondary aged pupils resident in Brent attended maintained schools within the Authority, this is an increase of 2.5% since 2002. In the primary phase, the usual pattern is for children to attend the nearest school to home. Cross border movement mainly occurs when the child lives close to the Brent borders, or parents have chosen a specific school in another borough e.g. a faith school.

### 3.4 **Increases in pupil numbers**

Primary pupil (age 4-10) numbers have increased significantly over the past few years:

20468 in Jan 2002

20523 in Jan 2004 - an increase of 55 in two years

20882 in Jan 2006 - an increase of 359 in two years

20959 in Jan 2007 – an increase of 77 in one year

21311 - Jan 2008 projection – a projected increase of 352 in one year

Secondary pupil numbers (11-19) have increased significantly over the past few years:

14562 in Jan 2002

16782 in Jan 2004- an increase of 2220 (including JFS relocation from Camden 20 02)

17387 in Jan 2006- an increase of 605 in two years

17615 in Jan 2007- an increase of 228 in one year alone

17809 – Jan 2008 projection – a projected increase of 194 in one year

3.5 This overall increase in pupils has reduced surplus capacity in both the primary and secondary sector. Cardinal Hinsley Roman Catholic Boys High School is the only secondary school with surplus capacity. Demand for school places is also being driven by inward migration. In 2006 Brent admitted 1306 pupils (582 primary and 724 secondary) outside normal admissions times. There has been a dramatic increase in 'casual admissions' – these are children seeking a school place outside the normal admission cycle. Between January and May 2007, 262 new secondary school pupils and 215 primary aged pupils were seeking schools places.

### 3.6 **Lack of Reception places for September 2007**

There are 3210 places in Reception classes across community, VA and foundation schools. The number of applications for these places stands at 3667 as at 29<sup>th</sup> June 2007. This is made up of 3194 applications from Brent residents and 473 from out borough residents. This is substantially more than expected and late applications, (received after the closing date of 9<sup>th</sup> February 07) are continuing to come in. These were running at 3 – 5 per day, but are reducing. For admission In September 2006, a total of 3432 applications were received for Reception class places. For admission in September 2007, applications to date have increased by 228 or 6.6%.

3.7 There is currently a net shortfall of 122 reception places for children who are Brent residents for September 2007. Parents are currently going through the process of accepting or declining the primary school place offered to them. This means that the

final number for September may be different. The map attached as Appendix A identifies the home location of 'out of school' primary pupils and 'unplaced' Reception pupils in Brent (June 2007). Planning area 3 in the south west of the borough has the most pupils currently seeking a primary school.

### **3.8 Increasing Primary Provision in the Short Term**

The Council requested expressions of interest from schools who were willing to expand provision immediately (even where this involved setting up temporary accommodation) and in the near future. The response from schools has been positive. In addition approaches were made to schools in areas where the greatest numbers of pupils were without a place, and where the infrastructure could support readiness for September 2007.

3.9 Four schools, Preston Park, Stonebridge Primary, Sudbury Primary and Park Lane have agreed to provide additional Reception places for September 2007. Gladstone Park Primary school has agreed to admit 90 children instead of 83, from September 2007 and discussions are underway with another primary school to admit a small number of extra pupils thus creating an additional 116 Reception places for September 2007. 52 of these potential places are within planning area 3 where the highest numbers of children are without a place.

### **3.10 Increasing Primary Provision in the Medium to Long Term**

Following its rebuild, Wembley Primary School will offer an additional 30 places from September 2008. Negotiations are underway for the delivery of a new 2FE school (with a Nursery) in the North East of the Borough (Kingsbury/Colindale) at Oriental City in 2011/12. The new Academy in Wembley will also provide an additional two forms of entry at primary level in 2009/10. These proposals will increase primary capacity by 150 places.

3.11 A Member level strategy group has been established to steer work on the development of additional school places for future years. This group will also have primary and secondary Headteacher representatives and is to be chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Families. The Director of Children and Families will submit a detailed proposal to the DfES in spring 2008 pressing for additional capital resources to increase primary school capacity.

### **3.12 Increasing secondary provision**

Pupil data shows that an additional minimum 15FE (based on a 5% planning margin) is needed by 2016/17 in the secondary sector. Based on current knowledge of the main variables such as birth rate trends, migration trends, housing estimates etc. all information at present points to an increasing demand for secondary school places. Brent is in Wave 7 – 9 of the Building Schools for the Future Programme which is a government initiative to release capital to authorities to help them rebuild their secondary schools to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards. Funding will be released in 2010/11. There are also plans to expand some secondary schools under the Successful and Popular Schools initiative.

3.13 Below are the details of proposed expansions for Brent secondary schools:

Preston Manor	to increase by 1FE in September 2008
Claremont High	to increase by 1FE by 2008
Copland Community	to increase by 1FE around September 2010 (with a possibility of an additional FE)

Wembley High	to possibly increase by 1FE around September 2012
John Kelly Boys' Techn College	to increase by 1FE in September 2012 pending BSF
John Kelly Girls' Techn College	to increase by 1FE in September 2012 pending BSF
Capital City Academy	to increase by 2FE around September 2011/12 possibly
Queens Park Community	to increase by 2FE around September 2011/3 pending BSF resources
Second Academy	to open in 2009/2010 (6FE)

3.14 Due to the significant increase in secondary pupil numbers officers are in discussion with the DfES with a view to bringing forward a part of the BSF funding to increase capacity more urgently.

#### **4.1 Financial Implications**

4.1 The Capital Programme for 2007/08 to 2010/11 was considered as part of the decisions required when full Council set the 2007/08 budget on 5 March 2007. This budget contains £9.4m aimed at expanding school places across 2007/08 through to 2010/11. This can only make a contribution towards the urgent capital needs. The analysis in the November 2006 Executive report was clear that further resources would need to be identified to build additional school capacity to meet projected demand by 2014.

4.2 The Executive agreed in November to release £500K from the existing Children and Families Capital Investment Plan to fund full feasibility studies, as part of an overall business case, to produce a delivery plan for the expansion of school places across the Borough to meet the projected shortfall. This plan was also to be used to support the Council's case to DfES for additional capital resources through its various funding streams – Basic Need, Primary Capital Programme and BSF being three examples;

4.3 The pressing need for extra school places in the Borough will continue to add pressure on the Capital Investment Plan. Against this context, the July Executive will note emergency Capital provision of £200k towards the expansion of Reception places from September 2007.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 Section 14 of the 1996 Act requires the authority to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area. The schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient for the purposes of the Act unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.

#### **Background Papers**

- i London Borough of Brent: a Review of Primary and Secondary Roll Projection (January 2007) Executive Summary - Dr Ian McCallum.
- ii Executive report 13 November 2006 – A Strategy for the Development of Primary and Secondary Schools – Options for Delivering Additional School Places.

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