



**Children and Families  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2007

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

For Information

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Primary and Secondary School Places Update**

Forward Plan Ref:

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the issues relating to the sufficiency of primary and secondary school places, the numbers of children currently without a school place and the measures taken to provide suitable education provision for children out of school.

**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 7 Forms of Entry (FE) additional primary and 15FE additional secondary school places by 2016. This is based on a tight planning margin of 5% (this margin is a surplus capacity to allow for parental choice and sudden increases in pupil numbers). The additional FE required is calculated on the lower level housing capacity. If a higher level capacity of housing is built there will be a higher demand on school places.

### 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 (in 2006, 3813 pupils travelled out of the borough whilst 3174 travelled in), 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 also 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 in the statutory year groups. However, pupil numbers have been rising steadily and there has been an increase of 51 pupils at Cardinal Hinsley High School between January and October 07.

3.6 The numbers on roll in secondary schools in statutory year groups 7-11 have risen from 13,357 in January 06 to 14,059 in January 07 (an increase of 702 pupils) and the October 07 count shows a further increase to 14,184 (an increase of 125)

### 3.7 **Incoming pupils January – November 2007**

The number of pupils both secondary and primary age presenting to Brent seeking a school place in January to November 07 is 1,384, this compares with 1,386 recorded for the full year January to December 06.

### 3.8 Primary places as of November 2007

There are 3210 places in Reception classes across community, VA and foundation schools. The October 07 count shows that all reception classes in Brent are full with two exceptions, both faith schools and both in the south of Brent. These schools have 20 vacancies in reception in total. While capacity in the primary sector is reducing there are still places in year groups other than reception across the borough. The least capacity is in central and west Brent, particularly Wembley central, Sudbury and Alperton, where the majority of primary schools are full. There is some capacity in the south of Brent.

- 3.9 There are currently 28 reception aged pupils without a place, 14 girls and 14 boys. All of these have presented to the Council after 1<sup>st</sup> September 07. These pupils have been offered the available places but have declined them for faith or distance reasons. There are currently 26 other primary aged children without a school place. A location map of all pupils without a place is attached at appendix 1.

#### Primary pupils out of school

Year	Total pupils	Female	Male
Reception	28	14	14
1	4	1	3
2	4	3	1
3	5	4	1
4	3	2	1
5	3	1	2
6	7	3	4
Total	54	28	26

### 3.10 Increasing Primary Provision in the Short Term

Four schools, Preston Park, Stonebridge Primary, Sudbury Primary and Park Lane provided additional Reception places for September 2007. Gladstone Park Primary school agreed to admit 90 children instead of 83, from September 2007.

- 3.11 Population projections suggest that an additional 4FE reception classes will be required for September 08.
- 3.12 It may be possible to bring forward the opening of the two reception classes in the Wembley Park Academy to 2008. Preston Park and Sudbury Primary School have expressed interest in permanent expansion to 4FE. This would require significant capital expenditure. Stonebridge could continue with 2FE building on the expansion of the reception phase in September 07. Following its rebuild, Wembley Primary School will offer an additional 30 places from September 2008.

### 3.13 Increasing Primary Provision in the Medium to Long Term

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.

3.14 A Member level strategy group has met twice to steer work on the development of additional school places for future years. This group has primary and secondary Headteacher representatives and is chaired by the Lead Member for Children and Families. The Director of Children and Families will submit a detailed proposal to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in spring 2008 pressing for additional capital resources to increase primary school capacity.

3.15 **11+ Transfer September 2007**

3011 applications were received for 11+ transfer for September 2007, all pupils seeking a place were successful in securing one. 720 Brent pupils went to out borough schools.

3.16 **Secondary Places as of November 2007**

Currently 51 secondary aged pupils are without a school place. These pupils have been invited to attend the next assessment centre which is being held 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 07. The length of time pupils are without a school place is monitored and reported against the departments vital signs.

**Secondary pupils out of school**

Year	Total pupils	Female	Male
7	4	0	4
8	9	6	3
9	15	8	7
10	19	9	10
11	4	3	1
Total	51	26	25

3.17 **Assessment centres**

All secondary aged new arrivals are invited to attend assessment centres where their needs are assessed and the most suitable provision identified. This process began in November 2005 and since then 24 assessment centres have been held. Assessment centres are scheduled every six weeks.

3.18 **Projects**

To meet the demand for education provision for new arrivals some secondary aged pupils are being educated in special projects hosted by schools and the College of North West London. The table overleaf shows the number of places and the latest information we have on the uptake.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of places</b>	<b>Number on roll</b>
City Learning Centre	Queens Park Community School	35	35
Brent Project	John Kelly Girls	36	34
Greenway Project	Claremont High School	35	35
Kingsbury Reduced GCSE	Kingsbury High School	10	10
Wembley Course	Wembley High School	10	8
Year 11 Course	College of North West London	18	6
QPCS Reduced GCSE	Queens Park	15	na
Copland Refugee Beginners' Course	Copland Community School	12	na
Copland Stage 1 Course	Copland Community School	12	na
Copland 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Year 11 Course	Copland Community School	20+	na

Officers are working on a plan to open an additional Year 9 project with 20 + places at Ashley Gardens. This would be run in co-operation with Preston Manor High School and would be aimed at pupils who already have some English.

### 3.19 **11+ transfer 2008**

The closing date for applications for 11+ transfer for September 2008 was 19<sup>th</sup> October. To date 2914 applications have been received. Late applications numbered 350 last year. The number of applications will continue to be closely monitored.

### 3.20 **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.

### 3.21 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 1/2FE around September 2010
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
Wembley Park Academy	to open in 2009/2010 (6FE)

Due to the significant increase in secondary pupil numbers officers are in discussions with the DCSF 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 revenue costs of the special projects are being met from the overall grant for funding schools called the Dedicated Schools Grant. This annual Grant is mainly determined by the number of pupils being educated by Brent Council as determined during the preceding January. By ensuring that this count is as accurate as possible the grant should increase to reflect growing pupil numbers.

#### **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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