



Executive
17th July 2006

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

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Preston Manor High School - Proposal by Governors to
Expand by One Form of Entry – Outcome of Consultation**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F06/07-003

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings of the public consultation process (informal stage) on the Governing Body's Proposal to expand Preston Manor High School by one form of entry (an expansion of each year group by 34 places, creating 170 additional places in Years 7 – 11).
- 1.2 This report requests the Executive to endorse the Governing Body's decision to proceed with the proposal to publish statutory notices under section 28(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to expand Preston Manor High School by one form of entry, given the need for secondary school places in the Authority.

2.0 Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

- 2.1 note the outcome of the informal consultation referred to in paragraphs 3.9.
- 2.2 note that the Governing Body of Preston Manor High School issued statutory notices to expand by 1 form of entry on 29 June 2006.
- 2.3 approve, subject to the Council's contribution to the Capital scheme being limited to £2m with the DfES funding of £2.5, (see section 4.1) the expansion by

Meeting
Date

Version no.
Date

Preston Manor High School of one form of entry and all necessary action including action before the School Organisation Committee (SOC) to give effect to this expansion.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent Council has recently (Jan 2005) carried out a review of secondary school places which has estimated that an additional 2100 places will be required in Brent by 2014. The pressure of increasing demand is already evident with few spare places available in the borough's 14 secondary schools. Brent Council has already shown support to expand Preston Manor High School to help address the shortage of places.

3.2 The Governors of Preston Manor High School wish to increase the admission number of the school by 34 places from September 2008. The number of places for admission at age 11 will therefore increase from 216 to 250. This significant increase will go some way to alleviate the shortage of secondary school places in Brent.

3.3 Preston Manor is a foundation school (the Governing Body is the employer and the admissions authority and owns the land and buildings), therefore the Governors have the power to make 'prescribed alterations' to the school i.e. increase the intake to the school's published admissions number by 27 or more pupils.

3.4 Preston Manor High School is a popular school. Although the school's published admission number (PAN) is 216 it has in recent years admitted, slightly above the PAN because of demand. The demand for places has far exceeded the number of places available at the school in recent years. The number of applications for the last three years are as follows:

For September 2006	1551 applications
For September 2005	1317 applications
For September 2004	744 applications

3.5 In order to accommodate additional pupils building work will be required. The cost of the building work is estimated at £4.5m (see 4.1). The funding will be made available if the School Organisation Committee (SOC) or School Adjudicator approves the expansion proposals.

3.6 Preston Manor High School will be expanded under the Popular and Successful Schools Programme, an initiative where the Government wants to make it easier for successful schools and popular secondary schools to expand and is making additional capital funding (see 3.7) available either directly or through the local authority. This will ensure that where School Organisation Committees (SOCs) and Schools Adjudicators are considering such expansion proposals they are not prevented by lack of capital funding from agreeing to worthwhile proposals.

3.7 Under this programme, subject to applications being agreed by the DfES and statutory proposals being approved by the LA, SOC or adjudicator, school

projects are allocated “incentive” funding of a fixed capital sum of £500,000 (if they have a sixth form) to support the expansion. These amounts are estimated to be about 25% of the typical cost of expanding facilities in a school to make it sufficient and suitable for an additional form of entry. This “incentive” funding is intended to encourage the step expansion of successful and popular schools, and to ensure that the new accommodation is sufficient and suitable in terms of 21st century learning and teaching needs for additional pupils. Local authorities will usually be expected to fund the balance of the investment.

3.8 The Governors have informally consulted all interested parties on its proposal including parents and staff at the school, all schools in Brent, the Council, neighbouring boroughs, the Diocesan Boards and the Learning Skills Council.

3.9 By the closing date of 19 June 2006 there had been 21 responses. Of these, 18 were in favour of the Governors’ proposal and 3 were against.

Consultee	Agree	Disagree
Parents	13	3
Learning Skills Council	1	0
Preston Manor Staff	1	0
Other Schools (staff)	2	0
Unknown	1	0
Total	18	3

3.10 Those who were against the proposal commented as follows:

- *‘The school does not need to expand as it is big enough’*
- *‘It will be difficult to accommodate extra pupils because as it is there are sometimes no teachers available for lessons’*
- *‘I believe the current size of Preston Manor is plenty big enough because the bigger the school the more the individual pupil can get ‘lost’ in the place i.e. is not known as an individual. I believe Brent needs a C of E secondary school as the other major faiths already have these. Currently those wishing a Christian school travel outside the borough.*

3.11 Those who were in support of the proposal commented as follows:

- *I think the proposal to expand the school is an excellent idea. I support the proposal 100%. I want other children to be as happy as my daughter is in a good school.*
- *In principle I agree with the expansion of the school. However it must be emphasised that this should not be done at the expense of the school lowering its current high standards with regards to the education. If it’s possible to bring in more people and also improve the standards and quality of the environment surrounding the school then I am all for it.*

- *I agree with the expansion but have concerns about class sizes. Will expansion mean larger tutor groups or an additional class added to the year group?*
- *I hope this will include provision for a larger canteen so children do not need to go out at lunch time.*
- *We need to expand the school and facilities.*

3.12 The issuing of a statutory notice is the next step in the consultation process. The statutory notice was issued on 29 June 2006 (see copy attached). The representation period ends on 27 July 2006.

3.13 If there are any objections to the proposal by the end of the representation period, the School Organisation Committee (SOC), which is independent of the Council, has the power to approve the proposal or not. The Governors can request that their proposals be referred to the School Adjudicator if the SOC cannot make a decision.

4.0 Financial Implications

Capital

4.1 The school estimate the cost of the building work at £4.5m, of which £0.5m will be secured from the DfES under the Successful and Popular Schools Programme. The funding will be made available if the SOC or School Adjudicator approves the expansion proposals. The balance of resources will be required from the Local Authority. This requirement is currently under discussion with the DfES as the Local Authority is currently unable to support the balance of the cost of expenditure at £4m. The DfES have been advised that the Council has only made provision for £2m within the capital programme and is not in a position to fund the other £2m of the £4m. The DfES have been requested to fund this.

Revenue

4.2 School revenue funding is allocated through the new dedicated schools grant which is related directly to pupil numbers. Additional pupils in the school would attract additional grant which would fund the related increase in the school's budget share.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Proposals to require a school to expand, requires statutory notices under the School Standard Framework Act 1998, formal statutory consultation and then the decision of the SOC. Brent Local Education Authority is under a duty, pursuant to the Education Act 1996, to provide sufficient school places for children in its area.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are no diversity implications for the immediate purpose of this report. However, the proposed increase in school places will be a benefit to families moving into the area who are increasingly finding it difficult to find a local school

place for their children. Many of these families are of varied minority ethnic backgrounds and social economic classes.

- 6.2 Preston Manor High School has a national reputation for its work with raising the self esteem and achievement of African Caribbean boys by addressing their learning and social needs. This was recognised in their OFSTED inspection report of November 2005.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 With the expansion of pupil numbers there is likely to be an expansion of posts rather than a reduction.
- 7.2 In order to accommodate additional pupils building work will be required (see 4.1).

Background Papers (essential)

Statutory notice

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**STATUTORY NOTICE TO INCREASE NUMBER OF
PUPILS TO BE ADMITTED TO A RELEVANT AGE GROUP
BY 27 OR MORE PUPILS**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 28(2) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 that the Governing Body of Preston Manor High School intend to make a prescribed alteration to **Preston Manor High School, Carlton Avenue East, Wembley, HA9 8NA** by admitting an additional 34 pupils to the school at age 11 from 1st September 2008.

The current admission number of the school is 216. The proposal is to expand to 250 places which will be available at age 11 on 1st September 2008 and in subsequent years.

As Preston Manor High School is a Foundation School it will be the responsibility of the school governing body to implement the proposals once approved.

Within four weeks after the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposals by sending representations to Judith Joseph, SOC Secretary, 3RD Floor Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 7RW

Dated 29 June 2006

Sandra Bennett

Chair of Governors of Preston Manor High School

Explanatory Notes:

1. The DfES (Department for Education and Skills) has conditionally approved funding for the expansion under the successful and popular secondary schools programme.

2. The governing body is consulting on amending its existing admission arrangements to ensure that they comply with the latest legislation and best practice.

3. Currently the school admits approximately 140 students each year into Year 12. There are no plans to significantly increase that number though when the new admission number works its way through the school a few more internal applications may be expected.