



**Executive**  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2006

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

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College – Proposal by the Governors to Expand by One Form of Entry Each and the Outcome of the Consultation**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F06/07-006

## 1.0 Summary

1.1 This report sets out the findings of the public consultation process (informal stage) on the Governing Bodies' proposal to expand John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College by one form of entry each (an expansion of each year group by approximately 30 pupils creating approximately 150 additional places per school). This is dependent on the purchase of adjacent land.

1.2 This report requests the Executive to endorse the Governing Bodies' decisions to proceed with the proposal to publish statutory notices under section 28(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to expand both schools by one form of entry each, given the need for secondary school places in the Authority. In order to effectively accommodate the additional pupils, the following improvements are planned for both colleges:

- Purchase of land adjacent to the colleges
- Rebuilding of both colleges on the expanded site
- Demolition of the old buildings

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Executive is requested to:

- 2.1 note the outcome of the informal consultation referred to in paragraphs 3.6.
- 2.2 note that the governing bodies of John Kelly Technology Colleges will issue separate statutory notices to expand both colleges by one form of entry each.
- 2.3 note the decisions of the Governing Bodies of each school to proceed with expansion by one form of entry, dependent on the purchase of adjacent land.
- 2.4 approve the expansion by John Kelly Boys' Technology College of one form of entry and by John Kelly Girls' Technology College of one form of entry and approve all necessary action including action before the School Organisation Committee (SOC) to give effect to these expansions.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College are two separate secondary foundation schools in Brent, sharing the same site in Dollis Hill, south east of the Borough just south of the North Circular Road. The number of children needing school places in secondary schools in Brent is increasing. Brent Council as the Local Authority has the responsibility for making sure that there are sufficient secondary school places in the borough. One way of providing more places is to expand existing schools.
- 3.2 In order to expand both schools the Council needs to purchase land adjacent to the schools and is in the process of doing so through a CPO. The schools will then be rebuilt and expanded using this land. Earlier this year the Council approved the budget for the purchase of the land. This will make the expansion viable. Both schools will then be in the position to offer extended services to the community. It is likely that the new buildings and therefore the new forms of entry will be available around 2011/2012.
- 3.3 In the meantime the Governors of John Kelly Boys' Technology College jointly with the Governors of John Kelly Girls' Technology College are consulting with staff, parents and the community on the future expansion of both schools by one form of entry each. Both schools will remain independent of each other and the facilities will be available to the local community. Both colleges will continue to provide 6th Form accommodation for the existing consortium of 5 schools. The extra space would benefit the other schools.
- 3.4 An increase of one form of entry at each school will create the capacity for approximately 300 additional places. This significant increase will go some way to alleviate the shortage of secondary school places in Brent.
- 3.5 The John Kelly Technology Colleges are both foundation schools (the Governing Body is the employer and the admissions authority and own the land

and buildings) therefore the Governors have the power to make ‘prescribed alterations’ to the schools ie increase the intake to the schools’ published admissions number by 27 or more pupils.

- 3.6 The John Kelly Schools are also part of the Building Schools for the Future scheme (BSF). BSF is part of the Government’s strategy and new approach to capital investment in schools. The approach is intended to shift the emphasis away from allocating capital for tackling urgent repair needs, to schools renewal so that all secondary schools have “facilities of 21<sup>st</sup> Century standard” within 10 – 15 years from 2005-2006. Brent is in wave 7-9 of this scheme which means there will be no Government investment before 2010-2011. Therefore the expansion of one form of entry outlined in this report is preparation work.
- 3.7 The colleges 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 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.
- 3.8 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 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and teaching needs for additional pupils. Local authorities will usually be expected to fund the balance of the investment.
- 3.9 The informal consultation began on 24 May 2006 and the timetable was as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Consultation</b>
24 May 2006	Joint Governing Body meeting
14 June 2006	John Kelly Boys’ Governing Body meeting
19 June 2006	Distribution of consultation documentation to parents
20 June 2006	Joint staff meeting
26 June 2006	Joint parents meeting
3 July 2006	John Kelly Girls’ Governing Body meeting
7 July 2006	Deadline for informal consultation responses

- 3.10 Having regard to the Secretary of State's guidance the informal consultation ended on Friday 7 July 2006. There had been XX responses in total. Of these XX were in favour of the Governors' proposal and XX were against.

*Figures and comments below are as at Wednesday 5 July. To be updated on Monday 10 July after consultation has finished.*

**John Kelly Boys = XX responses**

Consultee	Agree	Disagree
Parents		
Staff		
Other Schools (staff)		
Local Resident		
Unknown		

**John Kelly Girls = 13 responses**

Consultee	Agree	Disagree
Parents	4	0
Staff	3	0
Other Schools (staff)	1	0
Local Residents	1	2
Unknown	2	0

- 3.11 Those who were against the proposal commented as follows:
- *'Even more congestion added to an already congested area. Public transport would be 'unavailable' to residents at school's opening and finishing times. Behavioural problems, bad language and crowding of pavements is bad enough now, with added classes it would be totally unacceptable.'*
  - *'We are here voicing our opposition as we are concerned over: (1) The possibility of enforced purchase of any position of our freehold; (2) The height and proximity of any new buildings erected, as overview would encroach on our privacy and obscure the views we enjoy at present so lowering the value of our property – not to mention noise levels, which should the site be used for other gatherings, result in increased cacophony at all hours; (3) Traffic (especially illegal parking, bus routes and the school run) together with restricted access in Crest Road – for Braintcroft as well as surrounding roads – is already at a premium and an increase in the school's size will raise the present chaotic state to gridlock level. (4) We trust any significant decisions to be made are not in the minds of any disengaged parties who do not reside in close proximity to this superfluous venture.'*
- 3.12 Those who were in support of the proposal commented as follows:
- *'I agree with the Governors of John Kelly Girls' Technology College to expand the college by one form of entry.'*

- *'I agree with the governors of John Kelly Girls' Technology College to expand the college by one form of entry and I like to participate any development of this college.'*
- *'I have no objection with the future plans for the colleges. All good changes are welcome.'*
- *It's time you really did that expansion.'*
- *I am a member of staff who is responsible for the safety of a pupil attending the girls' college who is totally blind. I feel that as the school is being set up to provide for pupils with visual impairment, this should be taken into account during the planning stages of this project. Advice can be sought from the VI service regarding H&S and accessibility. The school is currently very difficult to negotiate for a cane-user, limiting its accessibility.'*
- *'Good idea.'*
- *'Nothing has been mooted re: 6<sup>th</sup> Form. I would like to learn of proposals for the 6<sup>th</sup> Form and its location, ICT facilities etc.'*
- *'Yes, such an expansion is needed. I wish you every success.'*
- *'In principle I have no objections to the school expanding, in fact it is probably quite a good idea. However, as a local resident, I am concerned about the effect it may have on my property, as land from JKBTC backs on to my garden. For example, where will the extra square metres come from? How long would the rebuilding take and what level of noise and disruption would there be?'*

3.13 The next step in the process is for the Governing Bodies of both schools to issue separate statutory notices. These notices are due to be published on [date]. There is a 4 week period for representations then the matter will be referred to the School Organisation Committee (SOC) for a decision. The SOC, which is independent of the Council, has the power to approve the proposal or not. The Governors can request that their proposal be referred to the School Adjudicator if the SOC cannot make a decision.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

##### Capital

4.1 Full Council on 6 March 2006 agreed as part of the overall Capital Programme for 2006-2010, that resources be allocated for the purchase of the land adjacent to the schools. Without the additional land the schools cannot be rebuilt or expanded.

##### 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 Standards and Framework Act 1998, formal statutory consultation and then decisions of the School Organisation Committee. The timetable for this process has been set out above in this report. Brent Local Education Authority

is under a duty, pursuant to the Education Act 1996, to provide sufficient school places for children 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 finding it increasingly difficult to find a local school place for their children. Many of these families are of varied ethnic minority backgrounds and socio-economic classes.
- 6.2 John Kelly Girls' Technology College has managed the local authority provision for out of school refugee and asylum seeking students since 2002. Originally this met the full time educational needs of 40 students - the number has risen to 60 since January 2006. The vast majority of these students integrated into mainstream provision are allocated places at John Kelly Girls' or John Kelly Boys'. The majority of secondary aged girls from the traveler community are educated at John Kelly Girls'. The girls' college economic profile indicates that many of the students are from the lower socio economic groups - approximately 41% of students qualify for free school meals. The girls' college provides educational provision in many of the college holidays. At Easter extensive revision classes are made available for Year 11 students. In the summer holidays provision is made for students transferring to attend literacy, numeracy and gifted and talented classes. This year this provision will be enhanced with two extra summer schools providing lessons in expressive arts and languages.
- 6.3 The new building will comply to Disability Discrimination Act regulations.

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

- 7.1 With the expansion of pupil numbers there is likely to be an expansion of posts rather than a reduction.
- 7.2 Both John Kelly schools are in need of rebuilding for several reasons: suitability assessments, under the Asset Management Plan (AMP) guidelines reveal that the schools have a poor suitability grading; the schools face a shortage of school places as the capacity is insufficient to accommodate the numbers of pupils on roll; the limited site area impacts on the provision of outdoor recreational and PE space for the pupils. This limited area is compounded by the inefficient lay out and number of school buildings.

## **Background Papers**

- i) Executive report approved on 10 April 2006 – Compulsory Purchase of Land at Dollis Hill Industrial Estate, Brook Road, London, NW2
- ii) Informal consultation documentation from John Kelly Boys' Technology College and John Kelly Girls' Technology College.
- iii) Actual consultation responses and minutes to meetings to be appended separately

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