



## CALL-IN FORM

**For the Attention of:** The Head of Executive and Member Services

**Subject:** Request to call-in cabinet decision

**Date accepted:** 16 September 2019

*A call in request must be submitted in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 20, within 5 days of the relevant decision being made or in the case of a key decision made by officers, within 5 days of the date on which the record of the decision is made publicly available in accordance with the Access to Information Rules.*

**Decision:** [Formal Consultation on School Organisation Arrangements of Roe Green Infant School](#)

**Date of decision:** 9 September 2019

**Non-cabinet members making request:**

- Councillor Abdi
- Councillor Afzal
- Councillor Chan
- Councillor Gill
- Councillor Hector
- Councillor Kennelly
- Councillor Marquis
- Councillor Pavey

**Please provide below an explanation as to why you are calling in the decision and if you are calling in all or part of the decision:**

*(Note: according to the Protocol On Call-in (Part 7 of the Constitution), call-in requests will not be considered valid if they:*

- *are used as a means of gaining information/understanding or discussing general concerns with Members and officers,*
- *duplicate a call-in on the same issue within the previous six months,*
- *are based on reasons already discussed by the relevant Scrutiny Committee prior to the decision being made,*
- *concern a decision of the Cabinet referring a matter to Full Council for consideration*
- *concern operational management decisions, or*
- *are otherwise considered by the Chief Executive to be frivolous, vexatious or clearly outside the call-in provisions.)*

*Councillor Afzal / Chan:* Historically, the Strathcona site was used as a disability centre for adults and over the last 5 years Brent have invested considerable sums of money to update the site for ongoing educational use. Below are some proposals that look to the future of education at Strathcona and what could be provided to meet the needs of teachers, other professionals, children and families.

**Please provide below an outline alternative course of action to the decision being called in:**

*Councillor Afzal / Chan:*

**Proposals for Additional Use at the Roe Green Strathcona site of Roe Green Infant School.**

- 1. Approved Resource Provision (A.R.P) for children with autism.** In view of the increasing need for provision for children with autism in this borough, this would be an economical option specifically for children on the high functioning end of the spectrum. As a one form entry school (RGS), two autistic children in each class would allow for an appropriate balance: the school already has enough neurotypical children. This would enable these children to access as much of the curriculum as possible in mainstream whilst providing two bases within the school (for KS1 and KS2) for the children to use as and when needed. There is opportunity to build on existing links with, for example, the Village School. Many parents of children who are high functioning autistic want their children to access mainstream education. This approach would make it possible. We have the expertise within the existing staff. The Executive Head Teacher set up and ran a similar provision very successfully within another London borough for 10 years. In addition, the Head of School is a very experienced SENCo and has worked with many autistic children and their families. The site at RGS is very well set up to meet the needs of these children because it's small, all on one level with easy access to outside areas. The ambiance of the school is calm and quiet, helping autistic children to avoid the high anxiety caused by sensory overload, and to thrive. There is enough parking and access to allow transport for children to come from across the borough. The school minibus could be used on a regular basis to take children out. With appropriate funding, this provision could be set up with immediate effect, to commence as early as Autumn 2019.
- 2. Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) Provision.** The proposal as outlined in paragraph 1 above could equally apply to children with moderate learning difficulties.
- 3. Community/SEND/Mental Well-being Training and Resource Hub.** The school would work closely with other agencies e.g. EPs, S & L, OTs, family support, deaf and partially sighted therapists, music and art therapists etc. to be a base for these professionals to have conversations and access relevant resources and support. This would help with staff retention. It is important to provide mental and well-being training and support for both children and teachers. Emotional well-being is high on the government agenda and surveys show that parents are more concerned about their children's well-being than with attainment. All schools must now have a member of staff who is responsible for well-being, not just for the children, but for staff. Well-being is central to the new Ofsted framework. Strathcona could also provide a safe space for professionals to work with children with emotional and social difficulties. This space could also be accessed by these professionals working with these children to address

their own well-being. It could also provide a venue for family contact meetings and other community groups, which could also be outside school hours. Strathcona is well set up to provide this in the fact that it is a small, welcoming and friendly environment. It has its own school minibus which could be used to facilitate these arrangements.

4. **To provide support and training to teachers who are in their early to middle years of their career to improve their subject knowledge from Early Years to KS2.** Many teachers are leaving the profession by the end of their fourth year of teaching – in inner London this figure is over 40%. How do we keep these teachers in the profession? Strathcona could be used in partnership as a training site. There is an on-site kitchen to provide lunches. Strathcona could be hired as a venue to provide training days. The new Ofsted is going to be focussed very much on teachers and their subject knowledge and we have the expertise and experience to lead some programmes. There is a large hall and the children's classrooms can be closed off from the proposed training area(s). The school has a stable team with excellent retention rates and many years of training experience. This could be set up with immediate effect. Focus in particular needs to be on the non-core subjects such as history, geography and RE, relationships and health education, sex education and PSHE.
5. **Refugee Support Centre (EAL).** When families come into borough from abroad the centre would provide an induction course to equip them with the language and skills required to function in mainstream schooling. The school has a proven track record in this area. Strathcona, as a centre of excellence, could also provide training and support for teachers in meeting the needs of new arrivals in their settings. Many teachers cite this as one of the biggest challenges they meet in their day to day teaching.

*Please return this form to Thomas Cattermole, Head of Executive and Member Services, by email (from your individual email address) at [Thomas.cattermole@brent.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.cattermole@brent.gov.uk) or in hard copy (with signatures) and in person on the fourth floor of Brent Civic Centre.*