



CABINET

30 July 2014

Subject Heading:

Requisition of Cabinet Member Decision regarding Primary School Expansions Phase 2

Cabinet Member:

Councillor Meg Davis
Councillor Roger Ramsey

CMT Lead:

Joy Hollister
Group Director,
Children, Adult & Housing

Report Author and contact details:

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Policy context:

This decision has implications for all schools, located across all wards in the Borough.

Financial summary:

As detailed in the Executive Decision

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this a Strategic Decision?

Yes

When should this matter be reviewed?

N/A

Reviewing OSC:

Children & Learning

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Ensuring a clean, safe and green borough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Championing education and learning for all	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing economic, social and cultural activity in thriving towns and villages	<input type="checkbox"/>
Valuing and enhancing the lives of our residents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delivering high customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SUMMARY

This report advises the outcome of the consideration by the Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the requisition of the decision of the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning and Cabinet Member for Value at its meeting on 24 June 2014 in relation to the implementation of the Primary School expansion proposals for Phase 2 (attached as Appendix A to this report).

The Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee **PARTIALLY UPHELD** the requisition and the Cabinet is therefore invited to review the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet reviews the decision to proceed with the implementation for proposals to expand Parsonage Farm, Scots Primary and The RJ Mitchell Schools in the light of the decision by the Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee to uphold the requisition of them.

REPORT DETAIL

- 1.0 At a meeting on 20 November 2013, the Cabinet decided to initiate statutory processes to permanently expand the capacity of primary schools from September 2014. Following the statutory consultation process undertaken in February/March 2014, the Head of Learning and Achievement signed the (Non-Key Executive Decision on 24 March 2014 to proceed to the representation stage.
- 1.1 The representation stage, from 28 March to 25 April 2014, complied with statutory requirements by inviting representations from all interested parties on the proposals to permanently expand nine primary phase schools. A Statutory Notice, that included details of the expansion proposals for all nine schools, was published in the Romford Recorder on 28 March 2014; notices were also fixed to the entrance gates of each school and circulated to all interested parties, including all schools in Havering, neighbouring boroughs, the Diocese of Chelmsford and Dioceses of Brentwood and the Department for Education, as required by legislation. A Notice was also published on the Council's website with a link to further information about the proposals.
- 1.2 During the representation period, a total of 67 objection responses were received relating to 2 of the nine schools.

1.2.1 66 of these were received for Parsonage Farm Primary School of which included 2 petitions totalling 235 signatures from residents in the local area and 190 signatures from parents/carers. The objection comments raised specific concerns relating to:

- Road and Traffic Congestion
- Parking
- Pedestrian Issues
- Loss of playground space and overcrowding of existing ancillary facilities
- Potential rise in noise levels during school times

1.3 The Governing Body fully support the proposal to permanently expand Parsonage Farm School.

1.3.1 1 objection response was received for Hacton Primary School which highlighted the following issues:

- Potential increase in traffic in the area surrounding the school
- Short sightedness of the Local Authority's decision when schools were closed in the borough due to falling numbers
- Allowing establishment of free schools as opposed to expanding existing ones.

1.4 The Governing Body of the school fully support the proposal to permanently expand Hacton Primary School.

1.5 Seven schools namely; Broadford, Benhurst, Newtons, Schotts, RJ Mitchell, The Mawney and Suttons received no representations.

1.6 In an Executive Decision, dated 15 May 2014, the Cabinet Member for Children & Learning and Cabinet Member for Value subsequently approved the proposal to expand the capacity of the schools in the table as detailed below:

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION					
1. To approve the statutory proposal to expand the capacity of the following nine schools:					
SCHOOL	CURRENT CAPACITY	PROPOSED CAPACITY AS FROM	NUMBER ON ROLL AS AT JAN 2014	CURRENT PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER	PROPOSED ADMISSION NUMBER
BROADFORD PRIMARY	330	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2014	360	45	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2014
BENHURST PRIMARY	315	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2014	311	45	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2014
NEWTONS PRIMARY	315	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2014	303	45	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2014
PARSONAGE FARM PRIMARY	486	840 FROM 1 SEPT 2015	467	90	120 FROM 1 SEPT 2015

SCOTTS PRIMARY	210	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2015	213	30	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2015
THE RJ MITCHELL	210	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2015	217	30	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2015
THE MAWNEY SCHOOL	296	630 FROM 1 SEPT 2016	297	60	90 FROM 1 SEPT 2016
SUTTONS PRIMARY	262	420 FROM 1 SEPT 2016	216	30	60 FROM 1 SEPT 2016
HACTON PRIMARY	378	546 FROM 1 SEPT 2016	371	50	78 FROM 1 SEPT 2016

2.0 Subsequently, in accordance with Paragraph 17 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Rules, a requisition signed by two Members representing more than one Group (Councillors Keith Darvill and David Durant) was received. The reasons for the requisition were stated as:

1. To consider the financial implications of the decision including the wider financial implications for the Council and individual schools arising from increasing admissions.
2. To consider the risks associated with the primary schools expansion programme as identified in the Notice of Key Executive Decision.
3. To consider the implications of the proposal to double the size of Parsonage Farm Primary School particularly the concerns of the parents and local residents over disruption to children's education and the impact of the expansion will have on the local environment.
4. To consider whether the schools identified for expansion will address particular local needs.

3.0 The Children & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 24 June 2014 and considered the requisition as a matter of urgency (the minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix B).

3.1 Having considered the Executive Decision of 29 September and officers' responses to the reasons for the requisition (reported orally at the meeting), and following debate, the Committee agreed that the decision to proceed with proposals for the expansion of Parsonage Farm, Scotts Primary and The RJ Mitchell Schools be referred back to Cabinet for further consideration.

Seven Committee Members voted to uphold the requisition on the above-named schools:

Councillors Nic Dodin, Gillian Ford, Phil Martin (Substitute for Councillor John Glanville), Reg Whitney, Julie Wilkes. Co-optees Phil Grundy and Anne Ling.

Three Committee Members voted not to uphold the requisition on the above schools:

Councillors Jason Frost, Carol Smith and Frederick Thompson (Substitute for Jason Chapman).

Councillor Philippa Crowder abstained.

- 3.2 The matter is therefore referred to Cabinet in accordance with paragraph 17 (e)(ii) of the Overview and Scrutiny Rules.