Appendix 2 Responses to the Representation Period for the Proposals to expand Branfil Primary School.			
Representation	Author	Comments	
1. The argument for the expansion of Branfil to take pupils from the Upminster area (or even Havering) is fatally flawed. That Havering as a whole need more school places is not in doubt, but the need is in other parts of the Borough, not Upminster. The evidence for the need in this area is non- existent or contradictory. The London Borough is spending £5M at Branfil on the basis of	Local resident	The local resident has made a number of points supporting the objection to the proposal. Assertions are made that the birth rate for 'Branfil feeder wards' is falling or stable; the birth rate is falling in Upminster & Cranham; the Year Reception (YrR) population for Upminster and Cranham is due to rise by a very small amount; and Havering is providing places for other Boroughs rather than for local need.	
incorrect and misleading information.		The statistical data referred to indicates that in Havering for the period 2006/07 to 2010/11 there has been a 16.2% increase in births and for the same period in Upminster & Cranham the increase was 15.5%. These projections also show that by Sept 2012 there will be a shortfall of YrR and that the shortfall in this Year group rises to -36 by 2016/17. This projection takes into account the rising numbers of births by Havering residents, housing product in the vicinity, as well as migration. However the forecasters are clear that the main factors generating the projected growth are the substantial increase in the number of births; the growth of the cohort group between birth and YrR; and an increase across all primary year groups.	
2. We do not object to the building of the school were it for children in this catchment area but considering it would not be then we think the school should remain for the capacity at present. Should you bring more children in and also more teachers the	Local resident	As outlined above, there is strong forecast data to indicate the need for an additional form of entry at primary stage in Upminster and an increase in births is a primary cause of the forecast rise in demand.	
road and surrounding roads would not be sufficient at present each morning lunchtime and afternoon we cannot get in and out of the road if we can get off our drive has parents park across our drives ad if we ask them to move we are given abuse. Why should we pay high house prices and community charge so that we can live in an area and have better schooling and then people are brought in from outside perhaps schools should not be demolished then this would not happen. The birth rate in Upminster cannot be that high unless pensioners are having babies!		Traffic and transportation advisory consultants were commissioned to survey existing traffic at school times and to provide the school with recommendations on how to discourage car journeys to school and make walking and travel by other forms of transport easier. The school has produced a revised travel plan for an enlarged school and will be robustly engaging with parents and pupils to discourage car journeys to and from school.	

Finally there isn't public transport to the school so parents would therefore drive as for parking and walking. We could not imagine this has most parents need to get as close to the school gates as they can.		
3. A request is made to not disturb an Acacia tree planted on the school site in memoriam and the school railings that have survived the various scrap metal drives of the war years and are of historical importance.	Local resident	While no assurances can be given for the future, there are no plans to disturb either the tree or the railings as a part of the expansion proposals.
The proposed car park has spaces that although presumably within the size specified in outdated regulations, are too small and inaccessible in several areas for many modern cars, thus are likely to remain empty, while teachers continue to park in the road as at present.		The car park provision for the expanded school will fully meet the planning permission specifications.
The parking chaos prevails in Cedar Avenue and beyond would be exacerbated significantly by additional intake. It is a complete fallacy to believe that any proposed advice on travelling to school will change the character of any parent. Without legislation and enforcement, people will continue to do as they wish.		The school will operate a new Travel Plan for expanded numbers to discourage car journeys to and from school.
The proposed building extension is not in architectural harmony with the existing school, and better use could be made of the existing classrooms; one, for example, is currently used as a spacious office.		The design of the new building has been approved by Planning control. Designs and space standards for all external areas of the expanded
The proposal appears to reduce the recreation area still further whilst significantly increasing the number of pupils.		school, including playing fields and play grounds, conform to DFE area guidelines.
 4. Currently at Branfil there are: 62 out of Borough pupils, the equivalent of over two classes 49 in Borough pupils with several primary schools between them and Branfil, 1.75 classes 	Chairman of the Cedar & Lime	Admissions to schools are not limited to pupils residing in the local area. The national framework ensures a system of open enrolment whereby parents are encouraged to consider schools that meet their requirements and they are through legislation free to apply to their preferred school.

 137 pupils from Hacton and St Andrews, 40 of which should attend a closer school, 1.6 classes 15 fewer first choice applications in 2011/12 than places, 0.5 class 	Avenue Residents Association. Petition supported by 308 signatures.	This policy aims to raise educational standards. Furthermore, projected pupil growth in the Upminster area is forecast a shortage of 30 places in Year Reception from Sept 2013 onwards, while the objection suggests there are currently places available across the range of year groups. Branfil is over subscribed by 118 first preferences for 2012/13.
 4. (cont.) Havering's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) 2010 states: the population of Havering is set to rise however the populations for Upminster, Hacton, and St Andrew's are due to fall 2010-2015 the majority of increase is in wards well away from Upminster Upminster has the oldest population in the Borough and the overall number of elderly residents is set to rise, therefore the opportunity for lots of school children in Upminster is limited The expected rise in population in the Borough is in wards where that are currently undergoing considerable residential development, Upminster has no land available for development 	Chairman of the Cedar & Lime Avenue Residents Association. Petition supported by 308 signatures.	The JSNA refers to the population as a whole while the Council's Pupil forecasts refer to the pupil population which determines the number of places needed in schools in future years. Births within the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17. The main determinant of the projected rise in pupil numbers in Upminster is the substantial increase in births and not an increase in housing developments.

 4. (cont.) Council documents and statistics show the policy of increasing the size of Branfil is based on faulty information: The birth rate for all Branfil feeder wards (Upminster, Hacton, Cranham, and St Andrews is going down or stable The birth rate by locality is falling in Upminster & Cranham Year Reception numbers for Upminster & Cranham are due to rise by a small amount until 2016/17. However the graphs show the birth rate falling between 2009/10 and 2010/11 	Chairman of the Cedar & Lime Avenue Residents Association. Petition supported by 308 signatures.	 The Council's data shows that while births in Hacton fell by 12.8% in the period 2006/07-2010/11, births in all other wards referred to within this period rose significantly: Upminster +8.8%, Cranham +26.1%, St.Andrews 5.9% The number of births in the Upminster & Cranham locality rose by 15.6% during the period 2006/07-2010/11 While the number of births falls in one year between 2009/10 and 2010/11, over the five year period 2006/07 to 2010/11 births rose by 15.6% which is the basis for projecting growth in YrR. By 2016/17 YrR numbers are projected to exceed the number of YrR places by 36. Class size legislation prohibits class sizes for Years R-2 going above 30 and therefore by this time there would be a need for an additional two forms of entry in Upminster, especially when we consider the need to provide some additional places to allow for flexibility in forecast numbers.
 Havering is a net importer of children from Thurrock, 508 in 2010/11. Aveley is the nearest centre in Thurrock to Branfil, up to 4 miles away. A 4 mile radius from Branfil would lead to a catchment area that extends to Rush Green, through Romford to Gallows Corner; difficult to believe Havering cannot find the pupils with that radius within the Borough Branfil currently has 62 pupils out of Borough, along with the net importing of pupils from out of Borough shows Havering is providing places for other Boroughs rather than local need 		 Admissions to schools are not limited to pupils residing within the Borough boundary and the legally binding Greenwich Judgement has decided that local authorities cannot give preference to children residing within their boundary. The basis for proposing the need for an additional form of entry in Upminster in YrR from Sept 2013 is the increase in the number of births within the Upminster & Cranham locality and not inward migration of pupils.
5. There is already enough space at Branfil to cover the Upminster area, so the children attending would be from out of the area. Do they pay the same contributions as we do? Our council tax is considerably higher which is therefore unfair that they use our schools and don't have to pay the same as us.	Local Resident	Births <i>within</i> the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17.

6. Although the school is in need of refurbishing I object most strongly to the expansion of the school to accommodate children from outside of the Upminster area.	Local Resident	Births <i>within</i> the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17.
This will cause inconvenience to all residents as there is lack of parking, lack of access roads which has already been terrible since our own children were at the school, over 25 years ago. This money could be put to better use elsewhere in the borough.		Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan that will be produced as a result of this investigation will be adopted by the school.
7. There is no proven need for the increase in numbers for Branfil School within the Upminster or Cranham area.I do not want increased traffic issues in front of my house, as students are driven to and from the school each day, as there is not proven local need.	Local Resident	Comments as for 6 above.
8. There is no proven need for the increase in places at Branfil School from within the Upminster or Cranham area. The vast majority of the increase in Havering's population is in wards well away from Upminster meaning this school expansion would generate large amounts of extra traffic as pupils are transported in.	Local Resident	Comments as for 6 above.
Gaynes Park Road is already excessively congested at peak times. It will not cope with increased traffic. How can this be consistent with the council's sustainable transport obligations? The evidence for the need in this area is non-existent meaning the expense and negative environmental impact cannot be justified. The council should not proceed with this plan in Upminster.		
9. There are currently pupils attending Branfil School from out of Havering however the populations for Upminster, Hacton and St, Andrews, the three Wards that provide most of Branfil's pupils, are due to fall between 2010 and 2015. This means that more pupils from out of the area will be taking up the places at Branfil's and not from the Upminster area.	Local Resident	Comments as for 6 above.

There is a very big problem of parking in the area from people bringing children to Branfil's by car and as these extra places will be taken by more children out of the area it will get worse also inconsiderate parking and not being able to make journeys by car until the area has been cleared of traffic. Emergency services also have a problem getting through if needed.		The London Emergency Planning Authority and Fire Service were consulted during the planning stage of the project and approval to the plans was given.
10. There is no proven need for additional spaces in the Upminster Area.I also query the fact that this consultation is taking place after Planning Permission has been granted for new and expanded building for Branfil School.	Local Resident	Comments as for 6 above. The Council needed the assurance, through the approval of its planning application that the project could proceed once the statutory school organisation proposal had been approved.
 11. We are local residents and parents of a child at Branfil School. We consider Branfil to be a good school in pleasant surroundings. We object to an increase in pupil numbers for the following reasons: There will be an increase in traffic in and around Cedar Avenue which already gets quite heavily congested with some children travelling in from Thurrock and Grays. This not only causes annoyance to local residents and parents but increased traffic could also pose a safety issue for the children. Upminster has an ageing population so the proposed expansion will see more children coming into Upminster from outside the area. If there is a need for extra school places due to an increase in Havering's birth rate then from an ecofriendly point of view, a new school or school expansion should take place in these areas of higher birth rate. Building on the Junior playground will remove some of the outdoor space and the smaller playground will need to accommodate more children. The additional building work will create noise and other disruption for the children. If only the damaged part of the infant block was demolished and replaced this would be a quicker project and therefore less disruptive. From an aesthetic point of view, the new building is unlikely to 	Local Resident	Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan for an expanded school that will be produced as a result of this investigation will be adopted by the school. Branfil School has sufficient land and capacity for expansion and the Head and Chair of Governors have been fully consulted on the building works proposed and support the project scheme.

blend in with the local area and will look as if it's been "crammed in". The demand for extra school places should be met by a school with more land than Branfil or the development of a new school elsewhere in Havering.		Branfil has sufficient land for a three form entry school, including the detached playing field.
12. An increase to the pupil intake of the school, of children from outside the local area, will increase the traffic volume and heighten the existing parking problems local residents already experience.		Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan for an expanded school, that will be produced as a result of this investigation, will be adopted by the school.
Havering Council claims the proposed extension to Branfil School in Upminster, which will increase the number of pupils from 420 to 630, is urgently needed because of local and national birth rate projections. The council is being economical with the truth:		
 In a Freedom of Information request, the council has had to supply the latest figures from the school census (January 2011) and the Havering Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2010). Contrary to public statements from the council and cabinet members, the populations of Upminster, Hacton and St Andrews wards – the three wards providing most of Branfil pupils - are due to fall between 2010 and 2015. The same figures show that the increase in population is occurring in wards well away from Upminster. The latest Office of National Statistics figures show the expected rise in Havering's population is in wards currently 		 The JSNA refers to the population as a whole while the Council's Pupil forecasts refer to the pupil population which determines the number of places needed in schools in future years. Births within the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17. The main determinant of the projected rise in pupil numbers in Upminster is the substantial increase in births and not an increase in
 undergoing residential development, i.e. Harold Wood, Brooklands, Romford and South Hornchurch. Havering Council's own 2012/13 school intake data for Branfil states it had 60 places available for the 2012/13 reception year. All of the 52 children in Havering who applied to Branfil 		 housing developments. Branfil is over subscribed by 118 first preferences for 2012/13.
as their first choice were accepted. An additional seven applied from Thurrock and one pupil from Barking &		

Dagenham. So Havering is not short of places. Indeed, there are currently 62 pupils at Branfil from outside of Havering. On this basis, the school expansion is not needed for local Upminster children. I am all for improving schools, particularly Branfil which has some very dilapidated buildings that need replacing, but school extensions should be in the wards that need them the most.

Branfil School is in a very quiet residential area and may become one of the largest in the borough simply so the council can get additional funding from central government to re-build dilapidated classrooms and replenish dwindling local authority coffers. As a result, local residents will have an increased volume of traffic and street parking in the roads surrounding the school. The narrow side streets in the area surrounding the school were not built for high volumes of traffic. If the school enlargement goes ahead, these streets will now need to handle an additional 210 parental cars and an additional 30+ staff cars. The staff car parking provision in the application is not sufficient for the anticipated increase in staff numbers. The roads impacted by the proposal are not just Cedar Avenue, Acacia Gardens and South View Drive - i.e. the roads mentioned in the traffic study - but also Gaynes Park Road which is already very busy during the school run in the morning and afternoon, and gets clogged with parked cars, so much so that it can be difficult to safely get out of my drive. Visibility down the street is poor when cars are parked by the roadside during school drop off/pick up and this will only get worse. Consequently I am concerned with the increased risk of a child being injured or even killed by a car. In addition, I am not happy with the prospect of the increased noise elevated traffic levels will bring to Gaynes Park Road. Like many other people in Upminster, we chose to live in this area because it is a quiet residential area. We want to keep it that way.

Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact
of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan
for an expanded school, that will be produced as a result of this
investigation, will be adopted by the school.

13. I chose Branfil Primary school for my children not because it was the nearest school to me as I was also considering Upminster Infants school, but primarily due the fact that it was a small school which gave it an advantage over other schools in the area. At present the teachers know all the pupils, the Head also knows all the pupils and parents, this is vital when problems need to be addressed. The head knows who his pupils are rather than a name on a list. It also leads to a friendly atmosphere and a sense of cohesion and community. The increase of 210 pupils will have a negative impact on this community and I believe on the quality of the teaching and I can see Branfil's performance falling as a result which would be a dreadful shame.

The argument is that Havering needs more school places, this may well be but it should be targeted at the areas that are in the greatest need. This is not Upminster. We have the highest proportion of elderly in the borough and that is unlikely to change as it is becoming increasingly harder for young couples to get on the housing ladder at all let alone in an affluent area such as Upminster. As Branfil already has some pupils from outside the area mainly being Aveley and South Ockendon this would indicate that under the admission guidelines there are certainly enough places for Upminster children other wise they would have had priority distance wise than those living further away.

The council is also ignoring the environmental impact of this proposal. The government wants everyone to reduce their carbon footprint and green issues are very high profile, how then can it be environmentally friendly to make pupils travel longer distances none of which will be on foot. The parents of these children if they have a car will be forced to drive to school which at that time of the day is a long, fuel consuming journey. Then where will they park? Of course most will want to park as near as possible to the school which means either Cedar Avenue itself or the surrounding roads. Currently Cedar Avenue is heavily congested at school times with double parking, blocking of drives and general inconsideration very much the norm. Surrounding roads are affected at the

Local Resident & Parent

Branfil is a successful school, judged by OfSTED to be good, and the Head and Chair of Governors who fully support the proposal, believe an enlarged school will be able to sustain these high standards.

Births *within* the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17. The main determinant of the projected rise in pupil numbers in Upminster is the substantial increase in births and not an increase in housing developments.

The Council was very aware of the need to address the impact of the expansion on the local environment and commissioned Traffic and Transportation specialists Robert West to carry out traffic surveys, attend local resident and parent consultations and to support the school in producing a new Travel Plan for the enlarged school. This Plan promotes safer routes to school, discourages car journeys, and identifies the steps that will be taken to achieve these aims.

moment too, it is already a dangerous situation. If an ambulance or fire engine needed to gain access to the school at these times it would fail thereby putting children's lives at risk that is not acceptable. If you add another 210 cars into the mix I shudder to think what the outcome will be. I live in Lime Avenue which at present has some school traffic parking in it but generally is much less than Cedar, 8 weeks ago 2 ambulances needed to attend to my neighbour in an emergency at school start time, if this had happened with the proposed volume of traffic and parking they wouldn't have stood a chance.

The council were happy to ignore Branfil's failing building needs for many years and it has now only acted due to parent pressure in the past year over the state of the classrooms. These parents who acted on their children's interests have been cheated. All we wanted were suitable classrooms for our children to be taught in. mainly the rebuilding of the KS1 site, I don't think anyone who campaigned for this to happen would think it would lead to a larger school and most do not want this to happen. Unfortunately due to some clever propaganda by both the council and the school, a lot of parents think that the funding will only become available for new classrooms if the school becomes 3 form entry. Why was the public notice giving details of the proposal and how to object posted on the school gate at a date when the council knew no parents would see it as the school is closed for the summer holiday and the deadline for objections to the proposal ends before the school re-opens. Forgive me for being cynical but the planning of that publication date couldn't have worked out better for the council. Luckily those residents with children at the school may have seen it and I for one have passed on the information to anvone I know.

Branfil is not the right school for expanding. I believe it will destroy the very thing that made most parents choose it in the first place. Branfil is in the middle of a quiet residential area with no direct public transport links. The school spaces are not needed in

The Council carried out a full public consultation between 11 June and 13 July which included consultation meetings on 3 and 5 July. During this period it was made clear that the Representation period would take place during the summer from 3-31 August and consultees were alerted of the need for their representations to be made within this period and a large number of representations have been received.

In common with most London Boroughs, Havering is experiencing a major growth in birth rate that has led to the need for additional primary places in all localities, including Upminster. The Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and every effort is made to listen to the comments and representations made by the school and local residents to ensure the school remains successful and the impact on the local environment is minimalised.

To meet the shortage of places in this planning area for Sept 2013 consideration was given to all primary phase schools in this planning area and Branfil was proposed because it was popular and successful, judged by OfSTED as Good, it was central rather than periphery to the growth

Upminster, they should be made available where the most need is.		area, and the Headteacher and Governing Body fully support expansion.
14. We support the proposal to expand Branfil Primary School from two to three form entry as set out in the statutory notice.	Various Online petition supported by 61 individuals	Signatories included the Chair of Governors and Headteacher.
15. I am very concerned that there is no capacity in this location to cope with such an enlargement. Access to the school is mostly in Cedar Avenue which is not wide enough to take the school traffic at present. Any increase will be unacceptable. Regular control of the traffic will be needed even at the present pupil numbers let alone an increase. The particular rudeness of parents already attending the school with regard to the lack of consideration shown to local residents should be taken into consideration. Cars arriving (at the school) as early as 7.30amwould pose a nuisance with noise and disturbance	Local Resident	Every effort will be taken to minimise the impact of the expansion on local residents. Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan for an expanded school, which will be produced as a result of this investigation, will be adopted by the school.
16. I do not feel that adequate research has been carried out into the impact on traffic conditions and the environmental impact of increased vehicle traffic. The traffic conditions at school opening and closing times are currently too much and possibly dangerous. Cedar Avenue is blocked every day and if an emergency vehicle needs to access Cedar (Avenue) it is impossible and any	Local Resident	Traffic consultants have been commissioned to investigate the impact of expansion of the school on the local community. The Travel Plan for an expanded school, which will be produced as a result of this investigation, will be adopted by the school.

proposed expansion will exacerbate this problem. Cedar Avenue itself is a narrow road and only takes two vehicles to park opposite each other for the road to be blocked. This is unacceptable, Emergency services should have good and free access to the school, I doubt this is the case at present and if the pupil numbers are increased then unencumbered access for emergency services needs to be essential.

Pupils from outside the borough should not be taken in (to Branfil Primary School), if there is a lack of space for Havering Children then it can be addressed by stopping children attending schools who do not live in the borough.

....birth rates....are not increasing in Upminster, Upminster has one of the oldest generations in Havering. The Councils own documentation shows that only 1 pupil per year is coming from new developments in Upminster, that is because Upminster has no residential development opportunities that will generate more families.

The councils own documentation shows that population increases will be in Harold Wood, Romford and South Hornchurch and so any school developments should be local to these areas so that they can serve the local community.

Branfil is not served by public transport. The nearest bus stop is some 15 - 20 minutes walk. This will mean an unacceptable increase in vehicle transport and the resulting emissions that will bring. School expansion should be on roads that are served directly by public transport.

One major concern is the lack of Playing fields at Branfil. The playing field is a 5 minute walk away from the school and means pupils crossing a busy road. The playing fields are not accessible

Emergency Services were consulted during the planning stage of the project and approval to the plans was given.

The Council, as admissions authority for Branfil Primary School, is legally bound to offer places at schools according to national guidelines and requirements. It would not be possible to refuse to offer a school place on demand simply because a child lived in a different local authority from that in which the school is located.

Births *within* the Upminster & Cranham area rose by 15.6% in the five year period 2006/07- 2010/11 and this is projected to lead to a deficit of pupil places equating to one form of entry (30 per year group) in Year Reception by Sept 2013 in the area; and potentially a further one form of entry deficit by 2016/17. The main determinant of the projected rise in pupil numbers in Upminster is the substantial increase in births and not an increase in housing developments.

Yes there is increased demand for additional places in these areas and the Council already has proposals in place for dealing with this.

It would not be practicable to limit the provision of additional school places to those schools located on roads served directly by public transport.

Branfil School has sufficient land and capacity for this proposed expansion

by pupils at break times and so no large soft play area is available. The playing field at the moment is not that big and with the proposed increase in pupil numbers I question if it will be big enough. Has a risk assessment been carried out on the fact that pupils will need to be walked on foot from the school to the playing field each time for field sports and activities? I object to this proposal, it is not required in Upminster and a more suitable location should be sought.		No alternative options for dealing with the need for additional places were identified during the consultation stage relating to this proposal.
17 Gaynes Park Road is a very busy road. This year I have had early hospital appointments, and have not been able to pull out into the road because of cars and traffic jam. This proposal to enlarge Branfil is going to make this situation much worse.	Local Resident	Emergency Services were consulted during the planning stage of the project and approval to the plan was given.