

**Report of: Executive Member for Children and Families**

Meeting of:	Date	Wards
Executive	16 July 2015	Bunhill

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

## **SUBJECT: Moreland Primary School Expansion – Public Consultation**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Moreland Primary School (Moreland Street, EC1V 8BB) is designated as a one form entry school.
- 1.2 The school was temporarily reduced to a one form entry school in 2009 and then permanently reduced to a one form entry school in 2011.
- 1.3 Demand for school places in the planning area where Moreland School is situated is steadily rising and by 2017/18 there will not be sufficient places for primary aged children if Moreland School is not expanded.
- 1.4 In October 2011 consultation began to consider a new school building for Moreland as part of a redevelopment programme in the EC1 area. In January 2014, the Executive approved a report noting a shortfall of school places in the south of the borough over the medium to long term and recommending that the redevelopment of Moreland Primary School should be adapted to provide capacity for two forms of entry in the longer term.
- 1.5 In order for the council to fulfil its statutory obligation to provide enough school places in the borough, this report recommends that Moreland School is expanded to a two form entry school from 2016. A statutory consultation has taken place and the responses are included in Appendix A.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the permanent expansion of Moreland Primary School to a two form entry school from September 2016.
- 2.2 To note the responses to the public consultation in Appendix A.
- 2.3 To note that the construction of a new two form entry capacity school building is underway at Moreland Primary School. It is scheduled for completion in September 2016.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 For at least the 7 years leading up to 2011 Moreland Primary School only filled to a maximum of 30 pupils and in 2009 (and for subsequent years) was temporarily reduced to a one form entry school. In September 2011 the Executive agreed to permanently reduce Moreland School to a one form entry school under guidance from the Department for Education which expects a Local Authority to act where excess capacity for a school exceeds 25%.
- 3.2 In May 2011, the Executive received a report regarding the improvement of educational opportunities for children in EC1. The report recommended a federation between St Luke's and Moreland schools to address concerns over the quality of education provision at Moreland School. The report also recommended rebuilding Moreland School as a one form entry school with surplus land released for affordable housing to fund the rebuild. The new building and redevelopment was intended to address the poor state of accommodation at Moreland School as well as increase social housing for local people.
- 3.3 In January 2014, the Executive noted a shortfall in primary school places in the south of the borough. According to the School Place Planning Report 2013 it was predicted that in Planning Area 4 there would be a shortfall of 12 primary school places in 2013/14 and 29 in 2014/15 without any measures to mitigate additional demand. Under Section 14 (1) of the Education Act 1996, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. Therefore officers recommended that the new building for Moreland Primary School should have capacity for two forms of entry in the long term, to meet the additional demand. The new building secured a planning application in March 2015, early enabling works commenced later that month with the main works due to commence in June 2015. Completion of the new school facilities is scheduled for September 2016 and final works and landscaping are scheduled to be completed in December 2016. Funding for the redevelopment has been secured through Islington Council capital funding, Basic Need Grant funding received from the Department for Education (DfE) and Section 106 developer contributions. This report does not ask for any decisions to be made about the redevelopment work; however it does ask the Executive to note that the construction of the new school building is underway, has been funded and is scheduled for completion by September 2016 when it will have the capacity to take two forms of entry.
- 3.4 Updated school roll projections data suggests that there will be a shortfall in primary school places in planning area 4 from September 2017/18 with a need for additional places. If the expansion of Moreland Primary School is approved and becomes a two form entry school from September 2016 it will meet this initial demand and diminish the impact of further demand in the future.
- 3.5 The school has received positive outcomes from HMI monitoring visits and it is expected that this will be reflected in the forthcoming OfSTED inspection. The school achieved 12.3 percentage points higher in combined reading writing and maths than the national floor target in 2014. The school outperformed Islington and national results in 2013 for combined scores.
- 3.6 The expansion will result in the school's published admissions number increasing from 30 to 45 initially and over the course of the expansion the school's permanent capacity would increase from 210 to 420. The proposed expansion would result in 45 pupils (aged four on 31 August 2016) entering the reception year in September 2016, which they would exceed if the demand were required with 60 pupils entering the school at the beginning of each subsequent academic year, until it reaches its new capacity of 420 pupils in September 2023.
- 3.7 In order to expand the school, a public consultation must be carried out in line with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013/3110. A public consultation was carried out between Monday 11th May 2015 and Friday 12th June 2015 and the responses are included in Appendix A. Fig.1 sets out the stages of the statutory process for expanding a maintained school

**Fig. 1 – The statutory process for making significant changes to schools.<sup>1</sup>**

Stage 1	<b>Publication</b>	Statutory proposal published – 1 day.
Stage 2	<b>Representation (formal consultation)</b>	Must be 4 weeks, as prescribed in regulations.
Stage 3	<b>Decision</b>	The decision-maker (usually the LA) must decide proposals within 2 months of the end of the representation period or decision defaults to Schools Adjudicator (OSA). Any appeal to the adjudicator must be made within 4 weeks of the decision.
Stage 4	<b>Implementation</b>	No prescribed timescale, but must be as specified in the published statutory notice, subject to any modifications agreed by the decision-maker.

Where a local authority carries out a consultation of this nature, it has a statutory duty to consult any body or person which the local authority thinks is appropriate, as well as the local Church of England diocese; or the local Roman Catholic diocese; or the relevant faith group in relation to the school where the proposal involves or is likely to affect a school which has a religious character. As a result we have consulted a wide range of stakeholders, including all other schools in the borough, the local Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses, other local authorities, parents of children at the school and local residents. A full list of stakeholders and the methodology of the consultation is included in Appendix A.

The consultation was publicised on the council’s website, in the local press, at all entrances to Moreland school and in conspicuous places inside the school. Direct contact was also made with numerous stakeholders (including all those listed in 3.8). Stakeholders and the public were invited to provide supporting comments, objections or any other comments to the council and an online questionnaire was created using survey monkey which allowed residents to submit their feedback online.

The consultation received 7 responses supporting the expansion, 6 of these responses are detailed in Appendix A. A supporting statement from the Chair of the Governing body was received in a separate communication asking for further information on the timing of the expansion which was duly given. As a result of this communication, it was agreed with the Governing body that in 2016/17 the first new form of entry would be half capacity (15 instead of 30 pupils) to help the school adjust gradually to the expanded intake. This will be exceeded if demand requires and a full additional form of 30 pupils will be taken in following years, bringing the published admissions number to 60 pupils. The London Boroughs of Haringey and Camden acknowledged the proposal and had no objections.

## **4 Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The funding envelope for running a two form entry school is contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG funding is received from the Education Funding Agency on a per pupil basis which will then be passported to the school via the Islington Schools Funding Formula. Schools with two forms of entry are generally more financially viable than one form entry schools due to economies of scale.

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

The council has a duty to provide and maintain sufficient schools for the provision of primary

<sup>1</sup> Statutory Guidance: School Organisation (Maintained Schools), Guidance for proposers and decision makers (January 2014), 9.

education in its area (Education Act 1996, section 14). In the fulfilment of this duty, the council is able to propose changes to maintained schools.

In order to expand the school, as outlined above, the council must carry out a public consultation in line with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (section 19(1)), the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2013 and the statutory guidance: School Organisation (Maintained Schools), which was issued in January 2014.

There is a right of appeal to the Schools Adjudicator against a decision to make alterations, for the following bodies:

- The local Church of England diocese; and
- The local Roman Catholic diocese.

Any appeal must be made within 4 weeks of the decision being made.

#### 4.3 **Environmental Implications**

There are no additional environmental implications in increasing the roll to two form entry, as the school is being built as a two form entry school.

#### 4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment**

4.4.1 The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

4.4.2 A Resident Impact Assessment was completed on 1<sup>st</sup> June and the summary is included below.

4.4.3 There are few equality impacts arising from the expansion of the school. It is unlikely to be relevant to advancing equality of opportunity or eliminating discrimination, harassment and victimisation. However, there is the potential for the fostering of good relations between different ethnicities. There is the possibility that increasing the school from one form to two form entry will increase the diversity of the school with more ethnicities being represented and with a more even spread between ethnicities. At present there is a disproportionately high number of Black Somali pupils (18% of the school, in comparison to 7% of the primary school pupil population). It is possible that this proportion will decrease as more pupils are taken by the school; however, it is also possible that this proportion could increase with Black Somali families sending their children to a school where there will be other pupils from the same ethnic background. The RIA has an action for Children's services to monitor the ethnicities of pupils at the school after the school has increased to its new full two-form capacity in 2022, to consider whether any ethnic group is disproportionately represented and if so whether there are any consequences arising from this and whether any action should be taken.

4.4.4 No safeguarding risks or human rights breaches have been identified by the RIA.

4.4.5 Through the extensive consultation on the building development local residents have been very involved in the design of the building to ensure that the additional pupils are accommodated in a suitable environment conducive to an exceptional educational experience. The area around the school is experiencing a high level of housing developments than in other areas of the borough and it is important that local residents will be able to secure a school place near to their homes.

## 5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The numbers of pupils in the planning area have risen steadily over time and the projections continue this trend. The school has been built as a two form entry school and the management of the school is secure and able to take on the expansion. Without the Moreland Primary School expansion, there will not be enough places for primary school pupils in 2017/18.
- 5.2 The public consultation received support for the proposed expansion.

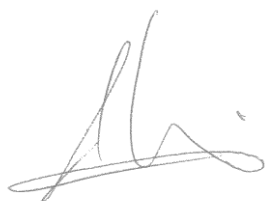
## Appendices

Appendix A – Methodology and Responses: Statutory Consultation for the expansion of Moreland Primary School.

**Background papers:** None.

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



25 June 2015

Executive Member for Children and Families

Date

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