



Report of: **Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families**

Meeting of:	Date	Ward
Executive	18 May 2017	St Georges

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt

## **SUBJECT: Tufnell Park Primary School Expansion – Public Consultation**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Tufnell Park Primary School (Dalmeny Road) is designated as a one and half (1.5) form entry school.
- 1.2 Demand for school places in the planning area where Tufnell Park Primary School is situated is projected to rise from 2019/20 and it is evident that there will be insufficient places for primary aged children in that area if Tufnell Park School is not expanded.
- 1.3 In April 2015 discussions began to consider options to expand Tufnell Park Primary School. In June 2016, the Executive approved a report recommending the prioritisation of the redevelopment of Tufnell Park Primary School to provide an additional 45 school places per year in the planning area of greatest need, and agreed the allocation of funding for the same.
- 1.4 In order for the council to fulfil its statutory obligation to provide enough school places in the borough, this report recommends that Tufnell Park Primary School is expanded to a three (3) form entry school from September 2019. A statutory consultation has taken place and the responses are included in Appendix A.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To approve the permanent expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School to a three form entry school from September 2019.
- 2.2 To note the responses to the public consultation in Appendix A.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Under Section 14 (1) of the Education Act 1996, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. The Primary School roll projections from 2016/17 to 2030/31 confirm that Planning Area 1 is close to capacity, and that demand for reception class places is projected to exceed current capacity from 2017/18. The projections determine that, in Planning Area 1, there will

be a rising shortfall in primary school places from September 2019 into the longer term. A feasibility study was undertaken to review development options at Tufnell Park Primary School, and to understand the implications of such a project. This followed a process with primary schools to identify potential opportunities for expansion at good or outstanding popular schools.

- 3.2 During the Autumn 2016 school term an initial public consultation was undertaken to seek views on the expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School, with public meetings held on 4 October and 18 October
- 3.3 Statutory consultation was undertaken between 6 March and 31 March 2017 in accordance with requirements set out in paragraph 3.8 below. Detail of responses to the consultation is included in Appendix A.
- 3.4 Funding for the expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School was approved by Executive in June 2016, and a procurement strategy for the design and construction of the new school was approved in September 2016.
- 3.5 The OFSTED inspection in March 2013 rated the school a good school. The school achieved 9 percentage points higher in combined reading writing and maths than the national floor target of 65 percentage points in 2016. The school outperformed Islington and national results in 2015 for combined scores.
- 3.6 The expansion will result in the school's published admissions number increasing from 45 to 90 and the total permanent capacity will increase from 315 to 630. The proposed expansion would result in 90 pupils (aged four on 31 August 2019) entering the reception year in September 2019 and then 90 pupils entering the school at the beginning of each subsequent academic year, until it reaches its new capacity of 630 pupils in September 2025.
- 3.7 Increasing the size of the school to three form entry will also improve the school's financial security in the long term provided places are filled. School funding is based on pupil volume so three form entry schools are generally more financially robust because they receive a more substantial allocation overall.
- 3.8 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. Accordingly, public consultation was carried out between 6 March and 31 March 2017 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.

<sup>1</sup> Statutory Guidance: School Organisation (Maintained Schools), Guidance for proposers and decision makers (April 2016).

- 3.8 Where a local authority carries out a consultation of this nature, it has a statutory duty to consult anybody 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.
- 3.9 The consultation was publicised on the Council's website, in the local press and in letters to all parents or carers of Tufnell Park 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.
- 3.10 The initial consultation in autumn 2016 received 18 responses, 15 of which supported the expansion and 3 non-supportive. Respondents generally felt that there is a need for more places at the school, and that an expansion will enhance the teaching and learning in a positive way with modern and better accommodation in which will benefit not only the present but also future generations.
- 3.11 From the Statutory consultation undertaken between 6 March and 31 March 2017; 21 responses were received, 13 of which supported the expansion, 4 non-supportive, and further 4 left blank with non-determinable completion. Respondents were generally positive and supportive and understood the need for an expansion and the benefits which come from this.

Responses to consultation are detailed in Appendix A.

## **4 Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The funding envelope for running a three form entry school is contained within the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). DSG funding is received by the council from the Education Funding Agency on a per pupil basis which is then allocated to the school via the Islington Schools Funding Formula. From 2018/19 funding will be allocated to the school in line with the new national funding formula. Schools with three forms of entry are generally more financially viable than one form entry schools due to economies of scale provided places are filled.

There is an approved capital budget for the re-development of Tufnell Park Primary School.

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

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

The proposed increase in the number of pupils at Tufnell Park School is a prescribed alteration and therefore 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 April 2016.

In deciding whether to agree to the expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School the Executive should take into the contents of this report and also have full and proper regard to the consultation responses set out in Appendix A.

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**

The environmental considerations relating to the expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School to three forms of entry were considered in the Executive report approved in September 2016. Capital works will be required in order to enable Tufnell Park Primary School to expand.

In providing new accommodation for the School, it is intended that the thermal performance and energy efficiency of the school will be significantly improved. The new building will provide substantial environmental improvements and will provide educational spaces more suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and more conducive to teaching and learning. Landscaping proposals will re-provide or enhance any existing habitat spaces and consideration will be given to protection of trees and biodiversity through the design and throughout the works. The new facilities are to achieve a BREEAM for Schools “excellent” rating. The development will be subject to planning approval and will be assessed against adopted policies within the Development Plan.

The design and construction proposals for the new school will be developed take account of environmental factors in materials selected and will consider construction methodology so that waste is minimised. The works will be registered with the Considerate Contractor Scheme and will comply with local policies to minimise impact on neighbours, especially with regards to noise, dust and vibration.

#### 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 31 August 2016 and the summary is included below.

4.4.3 In redeveloping the school site to enable expansion of Tufnell Park Primary School, the quality of educational provision and the working environment for all children and staff at the school will be improved. The project will enable young children from all backgrounds to learn in a suitable environment. The new facilities will provide disabled access in compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and will meet all statutory and planning policy requirements.

The proposed development will provide high quality facilities for all members of the community and allow the school to act as a social hub in the locality by improving community access and opportunities with dedicated spaces. It will also allow the school to enhance its extended school agenda, benefitting those who live in the local community, subject to relevant consultation and any planning conditions

4.4.4 All Islington schools currently operate with measures in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. Policies and procedures will be in place during the works and following completion of the new school building which will be designed to reduce risks relating to safeguarding. There will be no Human Rights Breaches.

4.4.5 It is intended that the design of the new school will be presented to local residents and school stakeholders as it is developed, in advance of the submission of the planning application, and that comments are addressed accordingly. Statutory planning consultation will then take place, and it is intended that local residents and school stakeholders are regularly apprised of the progress of the

project and construction activities.

## 5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Primary School roll projections from 2016/17 to 2030/31 confirm that Planning Area 1 is close to capacity, and that demand for reception class places is projected to exceed current capacity from 2017/18. The projections determine that, in Planning Area 1, there will be a rising shortfall in primary school places from September 2019 into the longer term. Without the Tufnell Park Primary School expansion, there will not be enough places for primary school pupils in 2019/20 and into the longer term.
- 5.2 The statutory consultation received a positive and more favourable support, and an understanding for the proposed expansion overall as opposed to a non-supportive feeling.

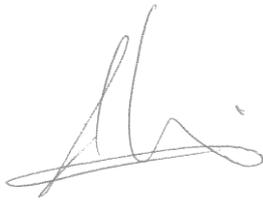
## Appendices

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

**Background papers:** None

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



10 May 2017

Executive Member for Children, Young People  
and Families

Date

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