

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Director for People
to
Cabinet

on
7th January 2014

Report prepared by:
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and Capital

Provision of Primary Places
People Scrutiny Committee
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Courtenay
A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline proposals to secure sufficient reception school places across the Borough for 2015 and beyond.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools be expanded permanently to provide an additional one form of entry from September 2015.
- 2.2 That Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School is expanded permanently to provide an additional one form of entry from September 2015.
- 2.3 That Hamstel Infant School and Hamstel Junior School are expanded permanently to provide an additional one form of entry from September 2015.
- 2.4 That a statutory joint consultation takes place with the Diocese of Brentwood about the provision of primary places in central Southend, that being the significant enlargement of: Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools; Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School; St. Helen's Catholic Primary School; and The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior School.
- 2.5 That delegation of the decision to proceed to the statutory stage to the Executive Councillor for Children and Learning and the Corporate Director for People if there are no strong objections.
- 2.6 That Darlington Primary School is expanded permanently to provide an additional one form of entry from September 2015.
- 2.7 That a Working Party be set up to consider all aspects of the provision of primary and secondary places in Southend on Sea in line with the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix 6.

3. Background

- 3.1 The current primary places strategy, agreed in November 2010, sets out how the Council would provide sufficient places for admissions in September 2013 and September 2014. This was based on the completion of works at Milton Hall, Westborough, Temple Sutton, Hamstel Infant and Junior, St. Mary's, Bournemouth Park, Blenheim, Federated Thorpe Greenways and Friars as agreed in the current capital programme. These expansions have provided sufficient places for the 2013 intake and capital works are still to be completed for the 2014 reception intake at: Bournemouth Park; Hamstel Infant; and Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant schools.
- 3.2 Places for September 2015 and beyond were also agreed by Cabinet in January 2013 through the expansion of St. Mary's on the East Street site by 60 places for three years and the expansion of St. Helen's by 30 places per year on the existing site. In addition, to meet demand from the Leigh on Sea area an additional 30 places were made available at Darlinghurst Primary School, in September 2012 and September 2013 and proposed for September 2014. The site for St. Mary's has been acquired and refurbishment of the premises is due to take place from January 2015. The initial design process at St. Helen's is underway and is on target to provide the necessary places from September 2015. Expansion work at Darlinghurst in the summer 2013 has created space to enable additional pupils to be admitted in 2013 providing additional places for pupils in the Leigh-on-Sea area. Further consideration is still needed about the provision of additional accommodation at the school for the 2014 intake.
- 3.3 The births across the town are indicated in Appendix 1 and this shows the consistently high level of births since 2006/07 with annual variations. The full year of births for 2012/2013 is at 2,195. The continuing high birth rate in Southend supports the Office of National Statistics (ONS) information released in 2012 that births will remain at a high level.
- 3.4 The breakdown of births by areas within the Borough is illustrated in Appendix 2. The highest increase in births is within the central areas.
- 3.5 Forecasts in the two central areas are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1

Admission Year	2014	2015	2016	2017
East Central	642	645	636	644
West Central	479	517	490	476
Total	1,121	1,162	1,126	1,120

- 3.6 Additional places have been provided within the central areas in Southend as set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 although there remains a shortfall of planned places for 2015 and beyond, compared to the forecasts from the high birth numbers as illustrated in Appendix 3. This shows a continuing deficit of places in the central area and parental choice is therefore limited with parents having

to compromise their school choices and often having to travel further for a school place.

- 3.7 The Audit Commission document “Trading Places” (1996 updated 2002) recommends that local authorities should aim for a 5% surplus in capacity to allow for: parental choice, changes in preferences and pupil number variations from one year to the next. The majority of other local authorities use 5% headroom in planning for pupil places and this acts as a good indicator in establishing if there are sufficient places in Southend. This is not included in forecast numbers but provides a useful indicator when comparing places available against the forecast for admissions, as is the case later in this report.
- 3.8 The DfE have allocated additional basic need grant funding of approximately £3.5 million for two specific projects in the central area at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and the Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools. These are both popular schools that are oversubscribed each year and creating places will increase satisfaction of parental preferences. The funding is only for permanent expansions that meet the demand from forecast information.
- 3.9 The pattern of admissions preferences indicates that expansion at Sacred Heart and St. Helen’s meets an increasing demand for Catholic places. As more faith pupils are admitted, this makes places available at non-faith schools that would normally have been a lower preference for a popular school. This in turn increases the places available at catchment and other non-faith schools in the area giving much more opportunity to satisfy parental preferences at local central schools.
- 3.10 The Diocese of Brentwood fully supports the expansion of St. Helen’s and Sacred Heart Catholic schools.
- 3.11 The projects are strictly limited to the grant funding of £1,745,000 per project. Initial thoughts on deliverable projects are:
- a) a scheme to link the buildings at Sacred Heart would add an additional 30 places per year. This would also address the ongoing issue of safe access across the buildings;
 - b) a small infant extension and a new Year 6 block at the Federated Thorpe Greenway Infant and Junior schools to add 30 places per year.
- 3.12 The grant funding must be spent on these two specific projects. It cannot replace existing projects in the capital programme or be used for any other new project. If we do not use the grant funding of £1,745,000 for these specific projects it will have to be returned.
- 3.13 House purchases in Windermere Road are progressing well with the three remaining houses currently in the purchase process and the expectation is that the last house will be purchased within the next few months.
- 3.14 The house purchases are already in the approved capital programme in order to address safeguarding and access issues at Sacred Heart School. Should any of the purchases fall through and not be made in time for the expansion to take

- place, the grant would need to be returned, although the house purchases would continue.
- 3.15 The Governing Body of Sacred Heart have agreed, in principle, to move forward with the expansion of the school to 420 places from September 2015. This will be the admission of 60 pupils into reception from 2015 and year on year into the future. From 2021 the school would reach capacity with seven year groups of 60 pupils.
- 3.16 Officers are currently consulting with the Governing Body of The Federated Thorpe Greenways about the proposals to expand on a permanent basis the Infant and Junior schools to 450 and 600 places respectively. This will continue the agreed admission in 2014 of 150 into the Infant School and year on year into the future. From 2016 the school would reach capacity with three year groups of 150 pupils. The Junior School will admit 150 pupils into Year 3 in 2017 and then year on year into the future. From 2020 the school would reach capacity with four year groups of 150 pupils.
- 3.17 The additional projects at Thorpe Greenways and Sacred Heart reduce the deficits by 60 places per year as shown in Appendix 4. As this shows there is still an on-going deficit of places.
- 3.18 The temporary expansion by 30 pupils for three years agreed by Cabinet in November 2010 at Hamstel Infant and Junior schools started in September 2013 with the admission of a 150 pupils. Additional accommodation has already been provided at the Junior School to take account of the increase in future years, and alterations have been made to accommodate the first additional group of 30 pupils in the Infant School.
- 3.19 The possibility of making these schools five forms of entry on a more permanent basis is something that both governing bodies have considered and have agreed in principle. This would require additional capital works other than those already completed. Additional accommodation will be provided for two further groups of 30 in the Infant School for the permanent expansion proposal. In the first instance, this will need to be provided for September 2014. The budget for this is within the initial £1.9 million allocated for the temporary expansion.
- 3.20 The dining facilities at the Infant School are already inadequate for the school and are on the Junior School site. The Deputy Prime Minister's announcement in September 2013 that all infants should receive a nutritious hot meal means that addressing dining facilities for the Infant School would seem a priority. (Full details of the DPM's announcement are still to be received). Additional dining space would add capacity to the site overall and allow many of the suitability issues in the Junior School to be addressed. A proposal that both schools would wish for is to create a multi-purpose community hall that would provide additional dining facilities and provide sports and community facilities at the school. A further hall at the school would use existing hard play or playfields that would be re-provided by sports facilities within the hall. This would assist with a planning application especially as Sports England is a statutory consultee.
- 3.21 Births in the Leigh area have followed the same pattern as births across the Borough with increases in the last few years. Schools in the area have been

oversubscribed, with West Leigh and Leigh Infant schools not being able to admit all catchment applications in 2012 and 2013. Chalkwell is oversubscribed and does not offer a realistic alternative to those two schools. Births in the West Leigh catchment area are the highest in 2011/12 and 2012/13 and this will most likely mean further refusals in that catchment area in 2016 and 2017.

- 3.22 The addition of places at Darlinghurst Primary School in 2012 and 2013 has proved successful with parents being able to attend a closer alternative school. There is an indication that some parents have put the school as a preference for 2013 rather than it being a school that is allocated as an alternative offer.
- 3.23 Darlinghurst Primary School has agreed to maintain a published admission number (PAN) for 2014 of 120. Forecasts suggest that numbers in the area will remain high into the immediate future and additional places should be provided at the school. Should Darlinghurst return to a PAN of 90 in 2015, this would reduce the availability of places in the area, especially in 2015 and 2016, reducing the available spaces in these years to below the 5% headroom outlined in paragraph 3.7. This is shown in Appendix 5.
- 3.24 The Leigh schools remain very popular and, with limited opportunity to expand at Chalkwell, Leigh, and West Leigh Schools, expansion at Darlinghurst is on balance an appropriate response to ensure that parents are able to attend a local school.
- 3.25 Darlinghurst will become an academy in January 2014 and the land and buildings will be leased for 125 years to the Academy Trust.

4 Proposals

- 4.1 A summary of the proposals is that: funding from the DfE be used for the expansion of Sacred Heart and Thorpe Greenways; Hamstel Infant and Junior schools are further expanded to take 150 per year and Darlinghurst is expanded to 120 pupils per year.
- 4.2 The cost of further expansion of the Hamstel Schools and the expansion of Darlinghurst is not fully known at this point until full feasibility and design work is completed. At this stage, an estimate of £2,200,000 in total should be allowed across both schools. These funds can be found within the existing capital programme through savings on some works that will not now be required at Bournemouth Park, St. Mary's first phase and Blenheim schools. Work at Darlinghurst would be delivered over a number of years and commitment to future capital programme would spread the cost if needed. A second phase at St. Mary's Annexe on the East Street site to accommodate 2FE is unlikely to be needed with the provision of the proposed additional places set out in this report. There would have likely been difficulties in further expansion on this site due to limited site capacity, being in a conservation area and planning difficulties, especial in relation to traffic. The capital costs for the expansion of Sacred Heart, and Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior, Hamstel Infant and Junior and Darlinghurst schools would be subject to a further report by the Head of Finance and Resources.

- 4.3 Under School Organisation Regulations the permanent expansions of Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools and Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools are subject to a statutory consultation processes by the Council. The expansions of St. Helen's and Sacred Heart as permanent are also subject to consultations and it is proposed that a joint consultation takes place on the expansion of the four schools jointly with the Brentwood Diocese.
- 4.4 Consultation would comprise of an initial consultation with stakeholders including parents, staff, governors, other schools and members of the public. The outcome of the first stage would normally then be reported to Cabinet for a decision as to whether or not to proceed to statutory notice stage. The outcome of the second stage would then be reported to Cabinet for a decision to proceed with expansions or otherwise. To meet timescales for expansion, Cabinet will be asked to consider a delegation of the decision to proceed to the statutory stage, to the Executive Councillor for Children and Learning and the Corporate Director for People, if there are no strong objections.
- 4.5 As a community school consultation would normally take place for Darlington but as it will become an academy there will be no requirement to consult in the same way.

5. Advantages & Disadvantages

- 5.1 If the birth numbers fall in the future this could lead to surplus places centrally and across the Borough. Nationally the indications are that many authorities are expanding on a permanent basis and that the Office of National Statistics also confirms that birth numbers will remain high for the next 9 years. The current and forecast numbers going into primary schools at present will mean that schools will need to be larger than they currently are, with places only becoming a significant surplus some 10 to 15 years away. Much of the capital works to make schools up to their current capacities (Milton Hall, Bournemouth Park, Blenheim, and Temple Sutton) have also addressed condition and suitability issues rather than adding significant capacity at the schools. This would be the case specifically at Thorpe Greenways and Hamstel should births drop. The schools would be able to return to a PAN of 120 some time in the future, if necessary and appropriate, and benefit from improved and expanded accommodation.
- 5.2 As the additional places provided centrally still leave a slight deficit and have not achieved 5% headroom, a further drop in numbers would allow for this to take place. The proposed expansion does however provide opportunities for pupils to attend more local schools.
- 5.3 The report on providing places at St. Mary's and St. Helen's schools in October 2012 and to Cabinet in January 2013 had looked at a range of alternative options including the Library, Ambleside College building and a site search and these alternatives were discounted. Since then there has been further suggestions for alternative sites, such as Warrior Square and the former Queensway House site both in the Council's ownership. Both sites are already identified for alternative uses, however if they were available both would require a multi-storey urban school with very little green space. The comparison simply on cost to replace the three school proposal set out at Thorpe Greenways,

Hamstel and Sacred Heart would mean a loss of £3.5 million grant and a cost of around £8 to £10 million for a three form of entry school. From a cost perspective two forms of entry are being provided through the grant funding and an additional form at Hamstel estimated at an additional £1.2 million.

- 5.4 There is also an inherent risk that the grant funded projects could also fail if the consultations for either bring out adverse views and the Council decides not to proceed. With the Brentwood Diocese supporting the expansion at both Catholic schools to meet demand for Catholic places, there seems less likelihood that these will draw adverse consultation results. The size of the school is likely to be an issue for the expansion of both Hamstel and Thorpe Greenways schools. This is mitigated in that these remain infant and junior schools and would have 450 place infant and 600 place junior schools, smaller than a number of primary schools. Access and transport will also be an issue for parents and local residents and this will require careful consideration to reach an acceptable solution. Some mitigation will be made through school travel plans, which will need to be acceptable for planning purposes.
- 5.5 The expansion of Darlington Primary School is to provide an alternative to Leigh parents that are unable to secure places at the oversubscribed schools of West Leigh, Leigh and Chalkwell. However this may create surplus places in other areas and may impact in the medium to long term on schools in the North West of the Borough. Should this occur, consideration to some rationalisation in the area may be needed as would be the case if numbers in Leigh reduce. This would not necessarily be negative for schools as they would benefit from expanded space for other uses addressing potential suitability issues.
- 5.6 The significant enlargement of a school may have an impact on the strategic leadership, governance, operation and organisation of the school. Support to schools will be made available to assist with the transition to a larger school without impacting on standards and effectiveness.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 The overall aim of the proposals is to provide additional primary places in central Southend meeting the high birth rate on a local basis as set out in the background details in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.20.
- 6.2 The expansion of Darlington Primary School is meet demand in the Leigh area also arising from births in the area as set out in paragraphs 3.21 to 3.25.
- 6.3 Under the School Organisation Regulations there is an need to undertake a statutory consultation and the Brentwood Diocese would undertake the consultation with the Council. The timescale for completing the expansion would be supported by a delegation to proceed if the proposals are non-contentious.
- 6.4 At People Scrutiny Committee on 26th November 2013, a proposal by the Executive Councillor for Children and Learning to set up a working party on school places was supported and the Terms of Reference are set out in Appendix 6.

7. Corporate Implications

7.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The provision of places allows pupils within the Borough to access quality learning opportunities to achieve the best possible outcomes for all children.

7.2 Financial Implications

The allocation of Basic Need funding from DfE to provide additional school places is anticipated to continue at the same level as previous years and will support these expansions. The recommendations in this report total around £5.7 million, with £3.5 million being met from grant funding and the remaining from the agreed capital programme. The costs outlined in the report are approximations for Hamstel and Darlington expansions and when more detailed designs and surveys are undertaken this will give a more accurate cost for both schemes

7.3 Legal Implications

The Council has a duty to provide sufficient pupil places.

There will be a need for a statutory consultation under the School Organisation Regulations 2007 for the permanent expansion of Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools, Sacred Heart Primary School, St. Helen's Primary School and The Federated Thorpe Greenways Infant and Junior Schools.

7.4 People Implications

None

7.5 Property Implications

The key property implication is the completion of house purchases in Windermere Road to free up space for expansion at Sacred Heart. The sites at Hamstel, Greenways and Darlington are in the Council's ownership. The latter will be subject to 125 year lease as an Academy.

7.6 Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the Headteachers and the Brentwood Diocese Bodies over the four proposals. The Governing Bodies at the four schools agree in principle to the proposed expansions.

The proposals were considered at People Scrutiny Committee on 26th November 2013. A number of questions were raised prior to the Scrutiny meeting and a response to these points was sent to all members and is set out in Appendix 7.

7.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The provision of additional primary places at the schools outlined in the report will provide additional pupil places across the central area of Southend which will enhance access to school places for all groups and increased satisfaction of parental preference.

7.8 Risk Assessment

The option to expand at Sacred Heart is dependent on the purchase of the remaining houses in Windermere Road. There is a risk in delivering this expansion and therefore the provision of additional places in the Central area.

7.9 Value for Money

The options proposed represent the best value for money as options for a new school would be more expensive.

7.10 Community Safety Implications
None envisaged.

7.11 Environmental Impact
None envisaged.

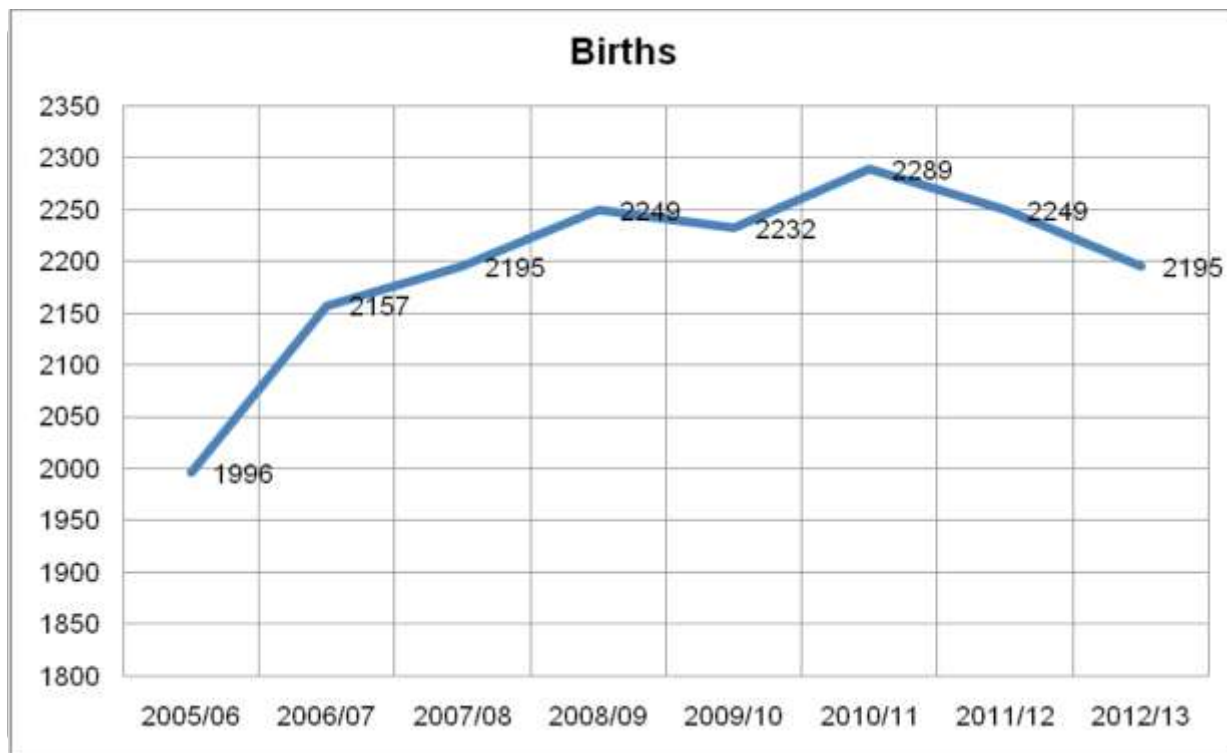
8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Cabinet 2nd November 2010 – “Provision of Primary School Places”.
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>
- 8.2 Cabinet 20th April 2008 – “Sacred Heart Primary School”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>
- 8.3 Children and Lifelong Scrutiny Committee 26th November 2012 – “Provision of Primary Places 2015”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>
- 8.4 Cabinet 8th January 2013 – “Provision of Primary Places 2015”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>
- 8.5 People Scrutiny Committee 26th November 2013 – “Provision of Primary Places”
<http://apps.southend.gov.uk/minutes/>

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1: Graph of Southend Births
- 9.2 Appendix 2: Births by Area
- 9.3 Appendix 3: Planned Central Primary Places
- 9.4 Appendix 4: Planned Central Proposed Places from Grant Allocation
- 9.5 Appendix 5: Planned Leigh Primary Places
- 9.6 Appendix 6: Terms of reference of School Places Working Party
- 9.7 Appendix 7: Response to Councillor Questions Pre People Scrutiny on 26th November 2013

Appendix 1 - Graph of Southend Births



Appendix 2 – Births by Area

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13
East Central	552	601	596	633	676	679	669	678
Leigh	546	539	569	583	550	582	570	548
North West	155	204	190	199	206	186	180	189
Shoeburyness	261	281	327	306	296	297	314	279
West Central	482	532	513	528	504	545	516	501

Appendix 3 – Planned Central Primary Places

Pupil Places	PAN	Planned		
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bournemouth Park	90	90	90	90
Porters Grange	90	90	60	60
Temple Sutton	120	120	120	120
Hamstel	150	150	120	120
Sacred Heart	30	30	30	30
Thorpe	150	120	120	120
Barons Court	30	30	30	30
Earls Hall	90	90	90	90
Milton Hall	90	90	90	90
St. Helen's	30	60	60	60
St. Mary's	90	120	120	120
Westborough	90	60	60	60
Total Central Places	1050	1050	990	990
Forecast	1121	1162	1126	1120
Deficit/surplus	-71	-112	-136	-130

Appendix 4 –Proposed Central Places from Grant Allocation

Pupil Places	Proposed Places		
	2015	2016	2017
Bournemouth Park	90	90	90
Porters Grange	90	60	60
Temple Sutton	120	120	120
Hamstel	150	120	120
Sacred Heart	60	60	60
Thorpe	150	150	150
Barons Court	30	30	30
Earls Hall	90	90	90
Milton Hall	90	90	90
St. Helen's	60	60	60
St. Mary's	120	120	120
Westborough	60	60	60
Total Central Places	1110	1050	1050
Forecast	1162	1126	1120
Deficit/surplus	-52	-76	-70
	-5%	-7%	-7%

Appendix 5 – Planned Leigh Primary Places

PAN	2014	2015	2016	2017
Blenheim Primary	90	90	90	90
Chalkwell Hall Infant	105	105	105	105
Darlinghurst Primary	120	90	90	90
Fairways Primary	60	60	60	60
Leigh Infant	90	90	90	90
Our Lady of Lourdes	60	60	60	60
West Leigh Infant	120	120	120	120
Total Leigh Places	645	615	615	615
Forecasts	583	613	602	581
Surplus / Deficit	62	2	13	34
	12%	0%	2%	7%

Appendix 6 – Terms of Reference School Places Working Party

3.18 School Places Working Party

3.18.1 Membership

9 Members of the Council

The Chairman shall be the Leader or such other Executive Councillor as the Leader shall appoint.

Substitutes: Permitted in accordance with Standing Order 31
Proportionality: By convention political proportionality shall apply

3.18.2 Quorum

3

3.18.3 Terms of Reference

To review the provision of primary and secondary school places across the borough taking into account all relevant factors.

3.18.4 Status of Meetings

Private

3.18.5 Reports to

The Cabinet

Appendix 7 -

Response to Councillor Questions Pre People Scrutiny on 26th November

Expanding Bournes Green

The expansion of Bournes Green would only provide a few extra places centrally. Due to location and the previous pattern of admissions, additional places would get allocated mainly to Shoeburyness pupils impacting on the Shoebury primary schools. The number of pupils coming from Bournes Green catchment has been increasing year on year:

2011 - 63%;

2012 - 82%; and

2013 it was over-subscribed with 2 catchment pupils unable to gain a place.

Use of the Wentworth Site

The Wentworth Road site does not belong to the Council and is currently in use by Cecil Jones Schools. If there were a change in the way the school operated and the site were no longer required by Cecil Jones then it would revert to the Council. The site at Wentworth at 890 sq metres is smaller than the site at Bournemouth Park at 10,520 sq metres.

The building has adequate accommodation with adaptations for a 3 forms of entry (630 places) primary school and has some space in the front that could be adapted with all-weather surfaces, tiered parking etc to provide some outside space. However, the suggestion to move Bournemouth Park to the site would not gain any additional places as the school currently operates at 3FE. If it were to become a new school then it would have to be an Academy or Free School and there does not appear to be a school that could use the site as an annexe.

The Wentworth site is likely to be needed to secure secondary places in the future.

Where pupils live

The birth rate in the Thorpe Greenways catchment has risen along with other areas of central Southend. Thorpe Greenways is a popular school and has historically taken more than the births in the actual catchment area, on average 134%. When this is applied to the known births for the next four year the admissions will be at around 150 pupils.

The birth rate in the Hamstel area is very erratic and has not followed the same pattern of increase as Thorpe Greenways. However, it is a popular school and, like Thorpe Greenways, has also taken more pupils than births; over the last five years on average 142% and is therefore likely to take 150 pupils going into the future.

Hamstel site

The Infant and Junior site is large at 31,805 sq m in comparison to other central schools with only Temple Sutton being larger. The expansion will need to be dealt with sympathetically to meet operational requirements and to ensure standards are not affected. The report refers to supporting schools through enlargement.

The expansion at the school has had to take account of the ongoing uses of the school site. There are regular meetings with both schools and a solution for the provision of permanent accommodation for the 2014 intake is progressing well and officers are confident that a solution will be delivered on time and to the satisfaction of both schools. Both schools do not support the use of accommodation in the Junior School for the Infant pupils. The proposal for a permanent expansion also puts this in a different context and it would be uneconomical to make arrangements for adaptation in the Junior School on a temporary basis whereas another solution would provide additional places permanently.

The report mentions the provision of a hall as part of the permanent expansion and this is an option that is being explored further. An account of the long term needs of both schools, in particular the Junior School, are being scrutinised at this time to see if the hall solution meets the future needs of the schools.

Financial implications for the extension of a Faith School

The extension of Sacred Heart and St. Helen's are to be met from the Council's capital programme. The extension of St. Helen's was agreed earlier in 2013 and funding is identified in the capital programme. The extension of Sacred Heart is being funded from specific ring fenced capital from the Department for Education. As these are Council run and delivered projects there are no issues with VAT or any requirement for the Diocese to contribute 10% as would have been the case if it had been their scheme. Due to the pattern of preferences expressed, the expansion of these faith schools creates places in other non-faith schools. If this were not the case then there would be little support for funding the expansions of Catholic schools.

Where will Pupils be Educated?

Appendix 4 shows shortfalls from 2015 to 2017 and this is reduced further by 30 places in each year with the provision of additional spaces at Hamstel Infant and Junior Schools. There does remain a deficit in the combined central areas and unfortunately these pupils will need to travel further to gain a place at a local or preferred school. To reduce the deficit to zero or indeed to create 5% headroom would require even more development than that already proposed.

Parents are allowed to express preferences for any school although it is difficult to say where those preferences will end up being satisfied. The agreed and proposed expansions are at popular schools and that should satisfy parental preference to a greater degree than at present or should the expansions not go ahead.

Forecast for Other areas of Southend

Two tables overleaf show the forecast in the North West and Shoeburyness areas. This indicates that there are surpluses in both areas. The number of surplus places will be sufficient for the proposed development of 97 homes in the Shoebury area. With the annexes in the report this completes the surplus and deficits across the Borough.

Pupil Places	PAN	Planned		
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bournes Green	60	60	60	60
Friars	60	60	60	60
Hinguar	30	30	30	30
Richmond	60	60	60	60
Thorpedene	90	90	90	90
St George's	30	30	30	30
Total Shoebury Places	330	330	330	330
Forecast	296	297	314	279
Deficit/surplus	34	33	16	51
	10%	10%	5%	15%

Pupil Places	PAN	Planned		
	2014	2015	2016	2017
Eastwood	60	60	60	60
Edwards Hall	60	60	60	60
Heycroft	60	60	60	60
Prince Avenue	60	60	60	60
Total North West Places	240	240	240	240
Forecast	205	212	192	185
Deficit/surplus	35	28	48	55
	15%	12%	20%	23%