

APPENDIX 5 – COMPLIANCE OF PROPOSAL WITH STATUTORY GUIDANCE

Item	Comment
The information in the proposals is set out in the statutory proposal	The statutory proposal is attached as outlined as Appendix 3
Being satisfied that the council has carried out the statutory process satisfactorily	The statutory process has been followed correctly and according to the guidance, as outlined in the report
Giving due regard to all responses received during the representation period	All responses and alternative suggestions received have been summarised in paragraphs 32-39
Being satisfied there are sufficient surplus places elsewhere in the local area to accommodate displaced pupils and the likely supply and future demand for places in the medium and long term	As outlined in paragraph 52, It should be noted that, there are <u>eleven</u> Southwark schools within 0.75 miles of Comber Grove Primary School - all within a reasonable walking distance. At the beginning of 2024, these schools had around 800 vacant school places across Reception to Year 6, 485 of these (60%) are in schools that are non-denominational. Additionally, there are 4 Lambeth schools within the same distance, also with vacancies, offering additional places.
The overall quality of alternative places in the area balanced with the need to reduce excessive capacity	All of the eleven schools are rated Ofsted “Good” or “Outstanding”, so would provide a high quality of alternative places – the closure would also reduce excess capacity
The local context in which the proposals are being made, taking account the nature of the area, the age of the children involved and any alternative options for reducing excess surplus capacity	<p>The Council’s primary estate in general and the Camberwell area in particular suffers from a considerable amount of overcapacity. Too many schools are chasing too few pupils.</p> <p>Paragraphs 23 and 39 outlines the alternative options that were either considered by the Council prior to the proposal, or suggested by survey respondents (and considered by the Council)</p>
The impact of any proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives	Given that we expect most pupils to be reaccommodated in schools with 0.75 miles, it is not felt that there would be a major impact of the closure proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives.

Item	Comment
The impact of any proposal on local integration and community cohesion objectives (<i>continued</i>)	Community cohesion is closely linked to integration as it aims to build communities where people feel confident that they belong and are comfortable mixing and interacting with others, particularly people from different racial backgrounds or people of a different faith. Given the diverse nature of the school, the surrounding community and the other schools in the locality (as evidenced in the EINA) the closure of the school is unlikely to have a negative effect on local integration and community cohesion objectives
Will the decision unreasonably extend journey times or increase travel costs or result in too many children being prevented from being able to travel sustainably?	Given the proximity of alternative schools, and the availability of free travel for pupils, we would not regard a change of school as unreasonably extending journey times or increasing travel costs. It is highly unlikely that the closure would result in children being prevented from being able to travel sustainably
The effect on the balance of denominational provision in the area including the pupils currently on roll and the medium and long term need for places	This item has been covered in the EINA under the religion category. No substantial difference in balance would be made by closing the school, and indeed, religious schools have recently closed as well.
Is the school a focal point for family and community activity providing extended services for a range of users? If so provision should be made for the pupils and their families to access similar services through their new schools or other means	All Southwark schools are focal points for family and community activity providing extended services for a range of users. There is no substantial differential between the school and surrounding schools in terms of the facilities and services provided.