

Item No:	Classification: OPEN	Date: 10 December 2012	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:		Call-in: Moving Towards a Primary Investment Strategy (Cabinet 20 November 2012)	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		All	
From:		Head of Overview & Scrutiny	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. On 20 November 2012 the Cabinet considered a report setting out the steps taken and planned to develop an investment programme to ensure sufficient quality primary school places in the short and medium term.
2. The Cabinet agreed:
 - that the forecast demand for primary places and associated need for the creation of additional capacity within Southwark's primary estate be noted
 - that the financial implications of the necessary expansion be noted
 - that it be noted that the cabinet member for children's services shall confirm those schools to be subject to further development of permanent expansion proposals and a co-ordinated fabric investment programme following the conclusion of further feasibility assessments
 - that it be noted that the strategic director of children's and adults services will approve a programme of temporary expansion for 2013 by December 2012

REASONS FOR CALL-IN

3. On 29 November 2012 the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Cathy Bowman - and four members of the committee (Councillors Toby Eckersley, David Hubber, David Noakes and Paul Noblet and Education Representative Leticia Ojeda) requested a call-in of the decisions on the following grounds:
 - Failure to adequately consult: Consultation has not gone beyond the initial stages that would be expected for a decision of this importance. Heads in schools that do not feature on the long-list have not been consulted at all. Nor does there appear to have been any engagement with potential new providers, such as the free- school advocates in Dulwich
 - Failure of strategy and implementation: the urgent need for additional primary provision can only be properly addressed with a cohesive, council-wide strategy. This report fails to link into the relevant policy frameworks for the borough's key regeneration project at Elephant & Castle. (Equally, the issue of additional provision is largely missing from the Elephant SPD.

- Budget: the figures outlined in the report in paragraph 41 do not bear much examination. They seem to be gross under-estimates of the likely costs. Further, there is no explanation of how any shortfall will be met should the government's *actual* funding fail to match the council's expectation

CALL-IN MEETING

4. The committee will consider the call-in request and in particular whether or not the decision might be contrary to the policy framework or not wholly in accordance with the budget.
5. If, having considered the decision and all relevant advice, the committee is still concerned about it then it may either:
 - a) refer it back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or
 - b) Refer the matter to council assembly if the decision is deemed to be outside the policy and budget framework.
6. If the committee does not refer the matter back to the decision making person or body, the decision shall take effect on the date of the scrutiny meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
Report to Cabinet 20 November 2012	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts Constitutional Team 020 7525 7221

APPENDICES
Cabinet Report

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author		
Version	Final	
Dated	30 November 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included