

Item No	Classification: Open	4 March 2010	Decision Maker Leader of the Council
Report title:	Outcome of the consultation process on the proposed permanent enlargement of Lyndhurst school		
Ward (s) or groups affected:	Borough wide		
From:	Strategic Director of Children's Services		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the responses to the initial consultation on the proposal to permanently enlarge Lyndhurst Primary School be noted.
2. That the statutory notice required for permanent enlargement from 45 to 60 pupils from September 1 2010 be published.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Executive, at their meeting on 24 November 2009, agreed to initial consultation on the proposal to permanently enlarge Lyndhurst School in size from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry and increase its admission number from 45 to 60 from 1 September 2010.
4. The initial statutory consultation on the permanent enlargement to Lyndhurst School from 45 to 60 pupils has now been carried out.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy implications

5. There is pressure for primary school places across the borough but initially manifesting itself in the south of the borough. A strategy was therefore agreed by the Executive on 24 November 2009 to provide both temporary bulge classes and permanent enlargements of primary schools to meet this need. The projections suggest that additional places are required locally in the south of the borough but mostly to accommodate a population bulge, with only a small permanent increase in numbers.
6. As a result of the pressure for places in 2009 Southwark opened three additional reception classes, including a half form of additional reception classes at Lyndhurst. This was on a temporary basis but it was agreed that initial consultation should be carried out on the permanent enlargement of the school to a full two forms of entry, which would be consistent with Primary Capital Programme planning principles and would provide a permanent additional half form of entry in the south of the borough.
7. Lyndhurst primary school is an effective primary school. The school was judged to be good during its last Ofsted inspection.

Need for places

8. As confirmed in November, there is a projected need for places for pupils in the south of the borough over the next ten years. The projections suggest that additional places are required locally in the south of the borough, but mostly to accommodate a population bulge, with only a small permanent increase in numbers. This would be partially met by the permanent expansion of Lyndhurst school. Consideration is being given to which other schools should be expanded or should take bulge classes in the light of the 2010

applications for places and the new 2010 projections.

Statutory process

9. Following approval of recommendations in this report, the authority must publish a statutory notice and receive community representations on the proposals through a six week period. The outcome of this notice consultation would be reported to the Executive for its decision.

Consultation

10. In carrying out the consultation process on the proposed enlargement letters were sent to the following stakeholders: parents and carers of pupils, governors and staff at Lyndhurst School, Headteachers and Chairs of governors of all Southwark schools, councillors, local MPs, the Southwark Diocesan Board and Commission, trade unions and Directors of neighbouring authorities. The consultation period was from 15 January 2010 to 26 February 2010.
11. Meetings for parents and carers and staff to discuss the proposal were held at Lyndhurst School on 3 February 2010. The meetings were attended by about 35 parents and carers and staff. They were generally in favour of the scheme for the expansion of the school, with some caveats about the impact of the proposals on the school building and the need for sensitive investment to ensure that the infrastructure is improved to meet the needs of a 2FE school, particularly the playground.
12. There have been 25 responses to the initial consultation process. 21 are in favour of the proposal (with some qualification) and 4 against. From the school community there were 11 responses in support of the proposal, 5 qualified, with queries about the impact of the proposal on the playground to ensure that new buildings do not encroach on playspace, that there should be 3 smaller reception classes and that there should be a project manager in charge of the work. There were 10 responses in favour from other schools and education bodies, one qualified that this should be part of a borough wide strategy to ensure that other Southwark primary schools are not disadvantaged by the proposed change.
13. There were 4 responses against the proposed enlargement from the school. These are on the basis that the school playground and dining space is too small; that increasing the size of the school would mean that pupils would lose individual attention and that large classes would be difficult to control and the disruption would mean a loss in the sense of community.
14. It is proposed to enlarge the school to take 60 pupils. Executive agreed on 9 February 2010 to the use of the £12 million DCSF capital allocation for additional places. It is proposed to allocate £5 million to fund a permanent extension to Lyndhurst to take the school to 2 forms of entry and phase out mixed age teaching. This investment would also provide new and larger classrooms, a new kitchen and dining facility, an improved front entrance and deal with the lack of an adequate internal staircase. These changes would be sensitive to the school's footprint, particularly the playground, and would be managed effectively. The design of the accommodation would be sensitive to the school's needs as a larger 2FE school.

Community Impact Statement

15. The stated aim of the Council is to ensure all parents have a choice of good schools. Permanently enlarging Lyndhurst School will enable more pupils in Southwark to benefit from its improved and expanded buildings.

Resource implications

Capital

16. The DCSF has agreed the allocation of £12.063m in 2009-11 for providing permanent additional primary places in the borough. It was reported to Executive at their meeting in February that £5 million would be set aside to fund a permanent extension to Lyndhurst.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

17. The Leader of the Council is asked to note the responses to initial consultation to permanently enlarge Lyndhurst Primary School from 45 to 60 pupils as of 1 September 2010.
18. The Leader of the Council is also asked to approve the recommendation that the Statutory Notice in relation to the permanent enlargement be published.
19. The Leader of the Council is advised that no legal issues arise from these recommendations. Notwithstanding this fact, the Leader is advised to be satisfied that the objections raised during the consultation period have been properly addressed.
20. Once satisfied as to the consultation, the Statutory Notice must be published in accordance with Schedule 4 Part 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended)

Departmental Finance Manager (CSI09009)

Revenue

21. The Council will receive additional funding from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) at a rate of £6,200 per pupil to fund the revenue costs associated with the increase in the number of children to be educated at Lyndhurst School.

Capital

22. As set out above, funding for the capital works required to expand the number of places at Lyndhurst has already been identified from the £12.063M additional capital grant allocation provided by DCSF to meet increased demand for places in Southwark in the primary sector. This funding will be delivered in 2010-11, but tight conditions are to be imposed on the usage of these resources and it has been made clear that, in the event that any authority's pupil numbers in the January 2012 census fall short of the forecasts submitted for September 2011, DCSF reserve the right to claw back where there has been undue over-funding. It is, therefore, important that additional places, including those at Lyndhurst, are delivered as a matter of urgency.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
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DCSF Regulations and Guidelines	Children's Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 5LX	Martin Wilcox 020 7525 5018
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AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Romi Bowen Strategic Director of Children's Services	
Report Author	Martin Wilcox, Education Planning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	4 March 2010	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer		4 March 2010