

## **Background note relating to the need for additional education provision to accommodate anticipated residential growth in the Brentford Action Plan Area.**

### **Primary School Places.**

In a paper of February 2007, the need for additional primary places arising from planned Brentford developments was quantified as follows:

645 places across the primary range from developments excluding Commerce Road and Brentford Diamond/ Griffin Park. This equates to 3 forms of entry.

An additional 502 places if the Commerce Road and Brentford Diamond/ Griffin Park developments come to pass. This equates to 2.5 forms of entry.

It needs to be emphasised that predicting demand is not an exact science. Issues that may affect outcomes are:

- how the housing market works out – i.e. what sort of person/ family occupies the properties and whether they choose to make use of local schools;
- what decisions individual families make about whether to move children to Brentford schools or whether they remain where they were before.

An example of the uncertainty in this area can be taken from the current Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Strategy document which records that:

“In the south of the borough, following the Imperial Wharf development, there was an expectation of more children requiring primary places. However, to date, the additional numbers have been quite low and the schools have not experienced any significant increase in pupil numbers.”

Three options have been identified to provide additional places in/ near Brentford:

1. To expand Lionel to a 2 form entry school. This has been agreed with the school and will go ahead at nursery in Sept 2008. As the school was originally built as a 2-form entry school, it has the capacity to take additional children at any primary age as they appear. The legal steps would be to consult on a higher admission number in the next consultation cycle leading to an increase in reception number from

September 2009. Statutory notices would also be required at the same time. Costs would be very modest as no new building is required.

2. Expansion of St Paul's C of E School to a two-form entry school. There are some issues of design and planning that would need to be addressed. There is more than one possible design solution depending on how much funding is available. The more straightforward approach would raise some issues in relation to surrounding sites. The CofE diocese would share some responsibility for funding this expansion. Given the complexity of the planning and building issues this project would probably take until 2010 to complete. The same processes of consultation on admissions and public notices would be required as for Lionel. Cost is not straightforward to estimate but would be in the order of £2 million.
3. Brent Lea site. It is proposed that this site is used for a new 2-form entry primary school. The law now requires the provision of any new school to be opened to competition. It could be built and run by any appropriate trust that wished to bring forward proposals. If the Council does not wish to participate in the competition by proposing a new community school, it can judge the outcomes and select the provider. If the Council does participate, the Secretary of State selects the provider. Given this further complexity, the earliest likely opening date would be 2010. That would require a decision to go ahead and planning agreement in 2008. The cost would be in the order of £5 million.

It is proposed to move incrementally and as far as possible on the basis of proven evidence of demand. However, given the long lead time of these projects, there will be a need to proceed on the basis of the best available evidence or there will be a risk that places are not available when families arrive. The department is keeping its methodology for estimating demand under review and will be comparing its approach with other authorities to ensure that it is following best and most up to date practice.

These three proposals would provide 4 forms of entry which is slightly more than the identified need without Commerce Road and Brentford Diamond. If development stopped there, the additional places would also make a contribution to meeting the needs of the Isleworth/ Osterley area.

The Section 106 demand would be in the order of £7 million unless the Church of England is in a position to make a substantial contribution to the St Paul's scheme.

If Commerce Road and/ or Brentford Diamond proposals went ahead, there would be a need for a further primary school on that site. Costings and procedures would be as for the Brent Lea proposal.

**Note Prepared by Officers in Education Department  
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