

## **COUNCIL OPPOSITION BUSINESS - July 6<sup>th</sup> Primary School Places**

### **Recommendations**

1. Enfield Council should encourage the development of more Free Schools such as the Woodpecker Hall Primary Academy to address the shortfall in primary school places.
2. The Council should explore as a matter of urgency alternative premises and sites within its ownership that can more suitably be used for children such as Millfield House, Southgate Town Hall and Community House.
3. No school expansion or partner school should be proposed without full consultation having taken place with the parents, headteacher, governors and local residents of the existing school.
4. The management arrangements for partner schools need to be clear in any report, demonstrating how they will operate both effectively and efficiently on a day to day basis to support staff and pupils in these schools which may be remote from the partner school.
5. Traffic management issues need to be fully addressed prior to any proposal for a school expansion or partner school development.
6. Any school expansion or partner school development must demonstrate it complies with "standards for school premises" guidance issued from the DFEE Reference Number 0029/2000.
7. Any school expansion or partner school development must address security arrangements for users of the new school facility particularly if the site chosen is remote from the partner school and not within the boundaries of an existing school site.
8. To proceed with the development of a partner school at St George's Roman Catholic primary school in order to admit an additional form of entry from September 2011.
9. To proceed with works at the Prince of Wales Primary school to enable the admission of one additional form of entry from September 2011 and develop proposals to create a partner school from September 2012.
10. To proceed with the development of a partner school at Houndsfield Primary School with accommodation ready from September 2011 in order to respond swiftly to local demand for pupil places and continue to develop proposals for a partner school from September 2012.

## **BACKGROUND**

In common with the majority of education authorities in London, Enfield subscribes to the School Roll Projections Service of the GLA. The basic components of the projections are population data from the Office for National Statistics, particularly that relating to births, plus information on new housing and trends in international migration. The projections are reviewed annually following the January Schools Census, and interim forecasts are provided in the light of new information that could affect the projected pupil numbers such as revisions to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

The 2008 pupil projections indicated the need for a five year plan to add 9½ primary forms of entry (FE) on a permanent basis. Members were advised of this in a report to Cabinet in May 2008; the five year plan was subsequently proposed to the Department for Children, Schools and Families in Enfield's Primary Strategy for Change, submitted in June 2008.

The Conservative Council strategy to add 9½ FE was taken forward through a portfolio report in October 2008, and a full implementation plan and funding strategy was set out in a report to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009, when it was agreed to progress proposals for a five year programme costing at £48,672,000

A Report to Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 reported that revised projections for pupil numbers indicated a further rise in demand for pupil places, and on Page 4 Members agreed that an additional £16.5m would be required to provide the necessary accommodation from 2010/11 onwards.

The Conservative Council's five year programme and funding strategy included the provision of one-off additional classrooms and permanent expansions.

The Labour Council's report to Cabinet on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 identified a further requirement to increase provision of school places in 2011/12 and following years, based on the receipt of revised forecasts. The report advised Members that a revised 10 Year Strategy would be provided in the autumn of 2010.

Colleagues from other London Authorities have confirmed a similar pattern of rising primary pupil numbers. The current economic climate has led to families being unable to fund relocation beyond the M25, choosing to remain in their current homes even though these may only be one or two bedroom flats. In addition to the continuing high birth rate, there are an increasing number of rental properties providing good value in relation to neighbouring boroughs which also encourages growing families to remain in the Borough.

**Labour Council's Proposals 25.5.2011 agreed under a delegated decision by the Cabinet Member**

1. To proceed the development of a partner school to be located in a former Argos retail premises in Edmonton, by entering into a lease for a period of at least ten years in order to admit additional pupils from September 2011.
2. To proceed with the development of a partner school at St George's Roman Catholic primary school in order to admit an additional form of entry from September 2011.
3. To proceed with works at the Prince of Wales Primary school to enable the admission of one additional form of entry from September 2011 and develop proposals to create a partner school from September 2012.
4. To proceed with the creation of an additional class in September 2011 at Worcesters Primary School and to develop proposals to create a partner school from September 2012.
5. To proceed with the development of a partner school at Houndsfield Primary School with accommodation ready from September 2011 in order to respond swiftly to local demand for pupil places and continue to develop proposals for a partner school from September 2012.