

# Southgate Green WARD FORUM 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014

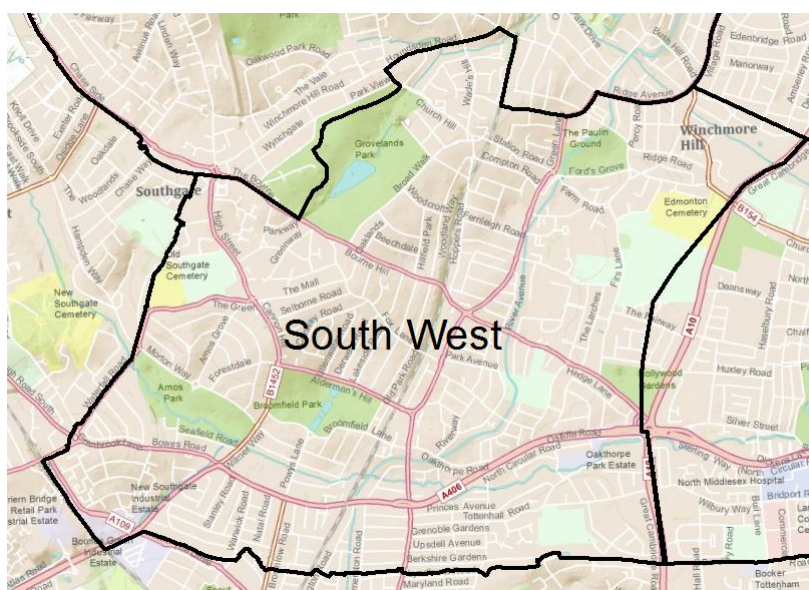
## Primary School Places in the South West Area Update

### Background

The Council assesses the demand and supply of places using “pupil place planning areas”. For the primary age range there are six areas used. The areas do not necessarily equate to resident’s understanding of an “area”, they are linked to areas that we receive population statistics for and report to the Department for Education on the capacity our schools provide.

Boundary lines on maps are to some extent always arbitrary and most people will have a different perception of the boundary of any area they experience in their lives, especially in 21<sup>st</sup> Century London where everyone travels increasingly further to access job, leisure and services.

**The South West pupil place planning is shown below**



Assessment of pupil places is based on the supply of places (capacity in current schools in each pupil place planning area) and the demand for places (the Greater London Authority school roll projections modified to allow for fluctuations in the projects). The most recent report was to Cabinet in July 2014.

The main challenges in providing primary pupil places are as follows:

- Aligning plans that are based on projections, which can fluctuate each year, with delivery timescales that can take between 18 months and three years from feasibility to completion.
- There is not always a suitable school to expand, or a site to support an expansion, in areas of demand;
- Popular schools attract parents from longer distances which creates an imbalance in demand through the admissions process;
- The straightforward school expansions have already been done – every expansion project is now more challenging and therefore more costly;
- There is not enough Government funding for even the most basic expansion project and delivery timescales mean construction inflation can significantly increase costs throughout a project;
- Councils have no influence or control over free school expansions, which affects strategic planning.

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## **Primary School Places in the South West Area Update**

### **The current assessment of primary places in the South West pupil place planning area**

The April 2014 school roll projections released by the GLA were compared with current school capacity by Council officers. This supply and demand assessment showed that whilst the South West pupil place planning area still required the most extra places by 2018 there was less than expected immediate pressure for September 2014.

For this pupil place planning area, a project to deliver a temporary primary partner school located at Broomfield Secondary and managed by Bowes Primary School was instigated. That partner school has been delivered and currently has capacity to provide one extra form of entry (30 places) for up to three years.

On the eastern edge of this pupil place planning area, Edmonton County provided one extra form of entry (30 places), in addition to the first class in Jan 2014, as part of its phased primary expansion. For the capacity calculation 30 places are considered to provide for the SW area and 30 for the SE pupil place planning areas.

With these extra places surplus capacity is expected to be around 6% for the SW area in 2014. However with the number of late admissions and in-year admissions increasing, the admissions team continuously monitor the situation and may request that temporary provision be put in place if capacity is stretched.

Currently the school roll projections suggest that new higher capacity for the area can still provide a small degree of parental choice in September 2016 but the aim is to deliver two forms of permanent primary capacity by then to both replace the temporary partner school and provide further extra places. The projections suggest that permanent capacity will definitely need to be in place by September 2017.

For September 2018 the projections suggest that a further two forms of primary entry will be required in this pupil place planning area.

### **Delivering extra places in the area**

The permanent expansion of Highfield was delivered for September 2014 which provided new classrooms, new group rooms, a new nursery and a new entrance. Funding has been put aside to allow the school to convert two temporary classrooms back into a small hall.

Garfield school has already been expanded (in terms of pupil capacity) but a new school will be provided during the September 2015-16 academic year. The Council has invested £12.4 million, a significant sum, in this commitment to the local community and to support the wider Ladderswood redevelopment.

The temporary primary partner school at Broomfield provides some flexibility for September 2015 and beyond. If necessary, this could take in two-forms of entry and with some minor refurbishment to create more primary teaching space and could still take in another one or two forms in September 2016 if permanent capacity cannot be delivered for then.

The proposal for a two form of entry primary facility at Grovelands is the preferred option to provide permanent places by September 2016. This project is at feasibility stage and whilst it is in a good location in the area to provide extra places, particular consideration will have to be given to the site context and the historic park to deliver the required buildings. It should also be noted that the school will provide extra capacity to the West Central pupil place planning area in addition to the South West area.

The second proposal for providing extra primary places in this area is to expand Broomfield into an all-through school. If there are significant problems with the feasibility for Grovelands then there is the

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option, in consultation with the school, to bring forward further investigation into the feasibility of Broomfield as an all-through school. Currently it is not expected that a permanent primary facility at Broomfield will be needed until September 2018.

The need for Enfield Council to deliver places will be kept under review. This is relevant for some of the pupil place planning area given proposals to create primary provision at Ashmole Academy. This would only affect our delivery plans if the suggestion that a specific catchment area for Enfield residents is implemented so that it is guaranteed that the school provides capacity for Enfield residents every year.