

School Specific Responses

School: Cannon Lane Primary School

Primary Planning Area: North West

The projections for this planning area indicate increased demand above the 480 permanent Reception places available in September 2013 requiring additional Reception places of 87 pupils per year in September 2014 which is the current projected peak in demand for places. There is little housing development planned for this planning area after 2014/15, which causes the projections for the following years in this planning area to plateau.

In the context of the current projections it is expected that a further three primary schools in this planning area will need to be permanently expanded. Two community schools are proposed for permanent expansion in Phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme to meet future demand for places. The proposals are:

Year	Permanent expansion	Temporary Reception Classes
September 2014	Pinner Wood School	Cannon Lane School <i>St John Fisher Catholic Primary School</i>
September 2015	Cannon Lane Primary School <i>St John Fisher Catholic Primary School *</i>	One class if required

** Note: St John Fisher Catholic Primary School, a voluntary aided school located within this geographic planning area, is also proposed by its Governing Body for expansion in 2015. (See the voluntary aided schools section below). This school is located towards the south of the planning area and draws children from other planning areas also.*

Proposal for Cannon Lane Primary School

Permanent expansion with effect from September 2015.

(The school to open a bulge Reception class in September 2014)

School Response

The school amalgamated in September 2013 and all the appointments to the Governing Body of the combined school will not be completed until early November. The formal school response to the consultation is therefore not available for this report.

General Consultation Responses (including individuals, organisations and on-line)

A summary of the number of responses is presented in the table:

Yes	No	Not Sure	Total
16	92	10	118
13.6%	78.0%	8.5%	

The responses received to the strategic approach to expand existing schools in Harrow to meet the growing demand indicated that the respondents were not in support of this approach. Many suggested that new schools should be opened and that smaller schools should be expanded first for example, a one form of entry school expanded to two forms of entry, two forms of entry expanded to three forms of entry. Many respondents proposed that the Council should purchase the Heathfield School site for a new school. In relation to the proposal to expand Cannon Lane Primary School, respondents considered that the school was already

large enough, that there was insufficient space on the site, space was not available now for breakfast and after school clubs, there was no dining space and that the playground would be compromised. Concerns were raised about the timing of the expansion being too close to the amalgamation and the disruption that the building works would cause. The comments that supported the proposals included reference to it being a good school and that it would be able to manage the expansion. There were many comments in terms of the traffic congestion, parking, the inability of the roads to cope with more traffic and the lack of traffic enforcement officers.

Officer Comments

Cannon Lane Primary School is a popular and successful school and meets the government's and Harrow's criteria for expansion. It has made a valuable contribution to the increase of school places by taking a bulge reception class in September 2012 and the permanent expansion proposal would build on this. The opportunities for the Council to open new schools are limited given the lack of available sites in Harrow. All schools are being considered in the expansion programme to ensure that there are places across the borough to meet the local demand. Following the announcement that Heathfield School is closing, this site may be sold by the owners. To enable the government's free school programme, the Education Funding Agency is exploring all such sites and one option for the future development of this site is a free school, but this is not in Council control and the purchase of this site is likely to be unaffordable to the Council.

For all the school expansion projects a feasibility study has been undertaken with the architects working with the school. This is to ensure that there is an acceptable solution to develop the site for the expanded school. This study considers the current accommodation and shortfall and the additional accommodation required. The proposals for Cannon Lane Primary School would remove temporary accommodation with permanent new build that would consolidate the school's footprint to minimise the impact on the playground space. There would also be potential accommodation that would enable the school to consider opening breakfast clubs etc.

Traffic is a concern for all schools in the expansion programme and a larger school will increase the number of children travelling to school. Mitigation of the impact would be through a combination of: the school's travel plan to encourage modal shift from driving to more sustainable modes, raising awareness of road safety and promoting good driving behaviour; parking restrictions, and; enforcement. Specific suggestions for example zig-zag lines and controlled parking times were made during the consultation. These will be considered as part of the transport assessment that will be completed for the school to support the proposed expansion. A coordinated cross-council approach is being adopted by officers to address the traffic and school travel planning issues. This is intended to ensure that all that can possibly be done to address traffic problems and to influence travel behaviour is done. This corporate approach is described in more detail in the Cabinet report.

The management of the expanded school would be undertaken by the Headteacher and the senior leadership team. Together they would plan how the school day was organised including playtimes and lunchtimes, year group activities etc. and would also consider the potential to open breakfast and after school clubs.

Cannon Lane Primary School amalgamated on 1 September 2013 and the immediate focus has been on bringing the schools together including making appointments to the governing body. The proposed permanent expansion is from September 2015, with a bulge class in September 2014. Although some views were expressed about the closeness of this proposal

to the amalgamation the local authority considers that the school will have the capacity to manage the expansion and would support the school accordingly.

The timescale for the expansion is determined by the growing demand for school places and the grant conditions of the government's Targeted Basic Need Programme. This school was the subject of a successful bid to the government's Targeted Basic Need Programme and the conditions of the Programme require the funding allocation to be spent and the new places to be available by September 2015. Officers would work with the school to ensure that there was appropriate accommodation for the reception bulge class in September 2014.

Within the school expansion programme the final decisions will be made in March 2014 and this will allow the schools to plan for the expansion and for the accommodation to be available for the permanent expansion.

Officer Recommendation

It is recommended that Cabinet agree to extend the period for the Governing Body to respond to the consultation to 4.00pm on 29 November 2013, to take account of the fact that the amalgamated school has not fully appointed to its Governing Body yet. A formal Governing Body meeting is planned on 19 November and a formal response can be sent shortly after that. It is also recommended to delegate to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Schools, the decision whether to publish statutory proposals to expand permanently Cannon Lane Primary School, following consideration of any response from the Governing Body.