London Borough of Sutton

The Executive – 12 September 2011

Report of The Executive Head of Planning and Commissioning

PRIMARY SCHOOL EXPANSION PROGRAMME - 2012

Ward Location: Not Applicable

Author(s) and Contact Phone Number(s):
Sharman Lawson, Executive Head of Planning and Commissioning – 020 8770 6650
Nigel Simms, Head of Pupil Based Commissioning – 020 8770 6551
Lyndsey Gamble, Head of Financial Planning – 020 8770 5358

Area Served: Borough-Wide

Executive Councillor: Kirsty Jerome

Key Decision Report

Summary

Following the increase in the number of live births in Sutton in recent years, The Executive, at its May meeting, authorised public consultation on the possible expansion of specific primary schools across the Borough to meet the expected need for additional places. Consultation ran from mid May until the end of June, 2011. Consultation documents were distributed widely and a series of public meetings for the five schools directly identified for possible expansion were organised. Following the overall public consultation, five pre-planning meetings were held which offered an opportunity for consultees and other interested parties to inspect proposed building developments and to comment. All of these meetings were well attended.

The report gives details on of the feedback received during the public consultations. It gives detail of progress achieved in developing schemes for the expansion of schools. It makes recommendations about expansion proposals for consideration to be pursued further through the publication of statutory proposals. The report also sets out the next steps in the process and an outline timeline.

Recommendations

I recommend The Executive to:

(i) note that, owing to the need to create additional places for the academic year 2011-12, the temporary expansion by one form of entry (30 children), from September 2011 of Brookfield Primary (30 to 60 places at YR (Reception Year)), Avenue Primary (90 to 120 places at YR) and Bandon Hill (60 to 90 places at YR) has been implemented following The Executive’s authorisation at the meeting of 3 May, 2011.
(ii) agree the publication of statutory proposals, in appropriate liaison with the school governing bodies and, where relevant, with the Diocesan Boards of Education, in respect of the permanent expansion of the following schools with a view to implementation of the proposals with effect from September 2012:

- All Saints Benhilton CE Primary (35 to 60 places at YR per year)
- All Saints Carshalton CE Primary (35 to 60 places at YR per year)
- Brookfield Primary (30 to 60 at YR per year)
- The Federation of St Elphege’s Catholic Infant (60 to 90 places at YR per year)

The Council will review the contribution of Cheam Common Infants School, alongside all other primary school in the Borough, to the overall pattern of school provision in Sutton in the light of consultation responses received.

NB: The expansion of The Federation of St Elphege’s Catholic Junior School, is noted as a planned need and will be formally proposed when funding is available. The same will apply to Cheam Common Junior School, if this remains relevant.

(iii) agree that determination of the proposals should be through Delegated Decision Notices issued in the latter part of October subject to agreement of the changed admission arrangements by the Schools Adjudicator, securing the necessary planning consents and subject to costs being able to be met from within the available budget.

(iv) for each school for which the determined proposal is to proceed, authorise officers, in appropriate liaison with the school Governing Bodies^ and the Southwark Diocesan and Archdiocese of Southwark Boards of Education, to seek In Year Variations (IYV) to the schools’ admission arrangements for September 2012 with the Office of the Schools Adjudicator.

(v) agree that any additional funding from the DfE beyond the current requirements should be earmarked to cover the costs of future expansion commitments to meet the projected demand in future years.

(vi) record its thanks and appreciation for the leadership and positive contribution made by all of the schools which were part of the consultation on the expansion proposals, and to all of those who responded to the consultation.

^ The application for an In-Year Variation is the responsibility of the Admission Authority. This is the Local Authority in the case of Community schools and the Governing Body in respect of Voluntary Aided (VA) schools

1. Background

1.1 Over the course of the last four to five years there has been a marked increase in the number of live births in the Borough and in order to meet the need for school places the Local Authority has increased specific existing schools’ capacity in the Reception Year (YR). This is an issue facing most London Boroughs. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient places to meet the
needs of its resident children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity to meet this proven demand.

1.2 The Executive has previously received a series of reports on the need for the expansion of primary schools in Sutton (February 2010, June 2010, November 2011 and May 2011 – Resolutions of The Executive of 3 May attached as Appendix 1). This has resulted in action being taken to increase primary capacity both on a temporary and a permanent basis in previous years.

1.3 The two reports most recently considered by The Executive have focussed on the pupil place demands for the September 2012 and September 2013 intakes at YR. The latest projections reflect the historical trend in previous years but show an increase in the transfer rate for September 2011 from the initially projected rate of 86.7% to 89.5%. The year on year fluctuations in transfer rate make accurate predictions difficult.

1.4 This report focuses entirely on the increase in places needed for September 2012 and the actions proposed to achieve this. A further report will be prepared for The Executive to provide a strategic overview of the demand for pupil places and the options for meeting this demand.

2. Issues

Consultation

2.1 A summary of the consultation process and an analysis of the feedback received is set out at Appendix 2.

2.2 There were 968 responses to the question “Do you support the proposal to expand the following schools?” from 290 response forms, e-mails and other communications. 427(44%) responses expressed support for the expansion of a particular school; 164 (17%) expressed opposition to the expansion of a particular school.

Summary of Responses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>In favour of Expansion</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Against Expansion</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Uncertain or no view expressed</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Benhilton</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Saints Carshalton</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookfield</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheam Common</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Elphege’s</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>427</strong></td>
<td><strong>44%</strong></td>
<td><strong>164</strong></td>
<td><strong>17%</strong></td>
<td><strong>377</strong></td>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
<td><strong>968</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3 There was a good level of responses received in respect of all schools ranging from 184 (Brookfield) to 203 (All Saints, Benhilton). The responses from all schools, with the exception of the Cheam Common schools showed strong support for the expansion proposals. The Report details the issues stated from those opposed to the proposal, so that Members are aware of their constituents concerns. With regard to those who supported the proposal, the comments are noted below from those who supported the proposal:

- Expansion would enable more children to attend over-subscribed faith schools
- Expansion would bring greater opportunities for the educational benefit to the children
- Parents would be able to get their children into the schools of their choice
- The expansions are vital to ensure enough local school places for children enabling them to build networks within their local communities
- Reduction of waiting lists for popular, oversubscribed schools
- Parents with pre-school children feeling more confident of obtaining a school place of their choice

2.4 Concerns about traffic, congestion and parking were by far the most frequent response and raised at all of the schools identified. There was, however, a particularly strong response on these matters in relation to the Cheam Common schools where in addition to individual responses, a signed petition (215 signatures) was received. The petition stated its reasons for opposing the expansion as follows:

- The site capacity would not be able to accommodate an extra 90 children in the Infants School
- The nurturing and family feel of the schools would be in jeopardy
- The Infants School currently had no permanent head to lead it through significant change
- The increased parking on streets near the school would compromise the safety of the children

2.5 Traffic, congestion and parking concerns were followed, in order of frequency, by the concerns listed below:

- The reduction in the amount of outdoor play space because of encroachment of additional accommodation onto such spaces which would be compounded because more children would be using the space.
- The adequacy of the school’s infrastructure and whether there would be sufficient facilities such as halls, dining spaces, small group rooms, offices, toilets and such.
- The deterioration in the quality of the overall school environment because of the perceived overcrowding and therefore pressure of use on facilities.
- Size being an important factor in the performance of a school with the perception that quality of education is adversely affected in large (3FE and 4FE) schools (See also Appendix 4)
• The perception of larger schools becoming more impersonal, especially for younger children, and therefore a loss of “family” and “community” feel and possibly a change in the ethos.
• Disruption of children’s education during building works to provide additional accommodation
• Criteria for the identification of schools for expansion and the perception that other schools with a larger site and nearer to areas of growing demand should have been considered.

A number of these objections will need to be addressed by the Authority as a matter of course in order to meet DfE guidelines on school buildings and sites and the need to meet planning criteria and the requirements of the highways authorities.

2.6 There were also many responses welcoming the proposed expansions, particularly because of the opportunities for increased choice and the certainty of securing a place at a good school for local children. The proposed expansion of faith schools drew comment, generally supportive, from those in faith communities, but there were also those who sought reassurance that access would be open to all children rather than simply those of the particular denomination.

2.7 Officers and Headteachers have been asked to respond to the concerns listed by parents and residents listed in 2.4 and 2.5. Appendices 3 and 4 address these issues.

Feasibility and Development of Designs

2.8 Initial outline feasibility studies undertaken in late 2010, indicated that the schools which have been the subject of the recent round of consultation could accommodate an additional form of entry. This was based on an analysis of the school sizes and the external areas required on site, using national guidance issued by the Department for Education (DfE).

2.9 Officers, along with the Headteachers and Governors at each school (and in the case of the faith schools, the Diocesan Boards), have been working as a Core Design Group on developing design solutions and assessing options. In all cases the starting point has been the initial outline feasibility work, but in some cases further examination of possible options in the context of the particular needs of the school has led to different solutions being considered.

2.10 While the immediate focus is on the provision of accommodation for children in Key Stage One from September 2012, it has also been necessary to take a broader look at the future development of the schools should a second phase of development for Key Stage Two be required. This has involved consideration of the overall use of the school sites, the positioning of buildings, play areas, access points and such, in order to enable optimal outcomes.

2.11 Discussions have also been undertaken to identify shortfalls in other accommodation and the balance between new build and remodelling/adaptation options along with associated costs. As part of this work, careful thought has been given to the use of off-site construction methods because this could achieve cost savings and faster building construction.
2.12 The proposals emerging from the work of the Core Design Groups at each of the schools were shared as part of the pre-planning consultation in early July. The retained architectural consultants were asked to organise these exhibitions in liaison with each school in order that parents, pupils, staff and other interested parties could see and comment on emerging proposals. There will also be the usual opportunities for comment through pre-planning application and statutory consultations.

2.13 All proposals will at least meet the minimum requirements of the current DfE Area Guidelines in terms of play space. It is worth noting that the DfE is in the process of updating these standards. There is an expectation that these standards will reduce by about 20%. The opportunity is also being taken to brief colleagues responsible for planning and school travel about likely proposals which will be brought forward. Impact assessments have been commissioned for all of the schools in order to inform and support the planning applications which will be submitted during August and September that will then allow enough time to start and complete works in time for September 2012.

2.14 Although some applications will have been submitted prior to this report, it should be noted that they will not be determined by the Planning Committee until October or November 2011. Start on site for the proposed projects will be in the spring term, typically early to mid January 2012 (although some projects may be later than this) and while the timescales are tight to achieve delivery of the projects, such completion should be possible.

Pupil Number Projections and action required to meet demand in September 2012

2.15 The latest projections of demand for pupil places at reception year for September 2012 had been based on a transfer rate of 86.7% into reception year which is in keeping with overall trends, although for September 2011 it has turned out to be 89.5%. This indicates that around 135 additional places will be required which equates to between four and five additional classes being established. Our figures will not be updated again until new data on births for 2009/10 is made available early in the Autumn. At that time a further report on the situation will be made to The Executive on possible further demand for additional temporary or permanent provision for September 2013 and subsequently.

2.16 Sutton’s projections for primary pupil rolls are in line with pupil projection numbers and demographic data from the Greater London Authority (GLA.)

2.17 An increase in pupil numbers is projected at reception year which will peak in 2013/14. There is likely to be a need for an additional 8 forms of entry more than the permanent capacity available currently (i.e. September 2011). The transfer rate between births and YR places has fluctuated considerably between 84% and 89.5% in recent years and so predicting the transfer rate for future years has been problematic. It should be noted that, if the live birth to YR transfer rate is higher than the current rate (89.5%), there could also be the need for additional ‘bulge’ classes for September 2012.
Confirmation of the schools for which the Local Authority should proceed to the publication of Statutory Proposals

2.18 It is recommended that all five of the schools subject to the recent consultation should be expanded because of the increasing evidence from demographic data that the places will be needed. Overall, there has been a good level of support from consultation. Objections centre around space and congestion matters and, to a much lesser extent, quality of provision/curriculum matters. Effective mitigation strategies can – and will be – put in place, such as ensuring that the respective School Travel Plan takes into consideration any expansion.

2.19 While future patterns of demand at secondary school level are complicated because of the unique mix of comprehensive, faith and grammar provision in the Borough, longer term projections indicate a sharp rise in pupil numbers on roll from about 2017 as the enlarged YR cohorts currently joining our primary schools move into Y7 in our secondary schools. The implications of this are considerable.

2.20 Each school will be taken in turn.

- Brookfield Primary School

2.21 Brookfield Primary School re-opened on its present site in 2000 as a 2 form entry primary school meeting DfE design standards. At a time of falling rolls and the removal of pupil places in 2005 the decision was made to reduce the school by one form of entry. Alterations since made to the internal accommodation at the school, coupled with limited accommodation provided by the original design, means that the school does not currently have sufficient and suitable accommodation to revert back to 2 form entry, but discussion as to the specification is ongoing. Feasibility work undertaken this year has demonstrated that it would be possible successfully to expand the Brookfield premises at relatively low cost. Some work needs to be undertaken on the School’s Travel Plan to ensure that expanding back to 2FE does not place too much pressure on the local roads through car traffic. It should be noted that the school has taken a bulge class in 2010 and a further one is planned for 2011.

2.22 The Phase 1 project will provide a library and ICT space thereby freeing up internal spaces within the school for classroom use. It is expected that the extension will be provided using off-site construction methods that will achieve savings in both time and cost.

2.23 It is recommended that Brookfield Primary School should be expanded for September 2012

- Cheam Common Infants School

2.24 In the Worcester Park area, there has been an overall annual increase of 65 births over the period 2004 to 2008 and projections indicate the increases will be sustained into the future. Consideration had been given last year as to whether a further one or two additional classes would be required and, on balance, it was decided that the better option was to establish only one additional form of entry for 2011. This was established at Dorchester Primary. Green Lane Primary has
recruited strongly this year and will be full for September 2011, despite the expansion of Dorchester Primary.

2.25 Feasibility studies over the last two years have demonstrated that it would be possible successfully to expand the Cheam Common Infant/Junior premises. However, there continues to be strong indications that there are issues which will have to be addressed relating to the management of traffic and parking associated with the schools, coupled with considerations relating to the constrictions of the sites, the potential impact on play space and car parking and overall cost/value for money matters. In order to progress this project a range of appropriate mitigating measures will therefore be put in place.

2.26 The Council notes the level of opposition to the proposal to expand the above school. There is continuing pressing need for places in Worcester Park because of the sustained high level of births in the area coupled with the strong demand already being experienced in neighbouring Kingston and Surrey schools as well as in Sutton schools. It is proposed to closely examine all of the factors arising from the possible expansion of this school as part of the next stage of the process.

- **All Saints CE Benhilton Primary School**

2.27 All Saints’ Benhilton C of E Primary School is currently 1FE with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 35. A proportion of these places are open to those who are ineligible for the Foundation places which are reserved for those of a denominational affiliation. Expansion will increase the number of ‘open’ places. ‘Open’ means that children with no religious affiliation will be able to access the school.

2.28 The proposed Phase 1 building project will provide three classroom spaces to achieve a PAN of 60. The building will be situated at the side of the school partially on land currently used as a vicarage. The project is dependent on the Diocese carrying a land swap to provide sufficient and suitable space for a new vicarage closer to the main road. Whilst this land swap is in progress, there is a risk of delay to construction work starting on site to meet a September 2012 completion date. The School has confirmed that contingency arrangements can be put in place should the development be delayed as a result of the land swap not being completed in time.

2.29 Feasibility work undertaken this year has demonstrated that it would be possible successfully to expand the All Saints’ Benhilton C of E Primary School premises but that the cost is fairly high. This is because the site of the proposed building is on a slope with restricted access. The local road system is good but some work needs to be undertaken on the School’s Travel Plan to ensure that expanding to 2FE does not place too much pressure on the local roads through car traffic.

2.30 It is recommended that All Saints CE Benhilton Primary School should be expanded in September 2012.
• **All Saints CE Carshalton Primary School**

2.31 All Saints’ Carshalton C of E Primary School is currently 1FE with a PAN of 35. The proposed Phase 1 building project will provide three additional classrooms to achieve a PAN of 60. The building will be situated at the side of the existing building on the existing playground. Additional play ground space will be provided as part of the project to replace the area lost.

2.32 Feasibility work undertaken this year has demonstrated that it would be possible to successfully expand All Saints’ Carshalton C of E Primary School premises. The local road system is good but some work needs to be undertaken on the School’s Travel Plan to ensure that expanding to 2FE does not place too much pressure on the local roads through car traffic.

2.33 It is recommended that All Saints CE Carshalton Primary School should be expanded in September 2012.

• **The Federation of St Elphege’s Infants School**

2.34 The Federation of St. Elphege’s Catholic Schools are currently 2FE. The proposed Phase 1 building project will provide three additional classrooms to achieve a PAN of 90 in the infant phase. The building will be situated at the rear of the existing infant block.

2.35 Feasibility work undertaken this year has demonstrated that it would be possible to successfully expand the Federation of St. Elphege’s Catholic Schools’ premises. The school site is on comparatively large site and additional buildings will not reduce usable space significantly. The local road system is good but some work needs to be undertaken on the School’s Travel Plan to ensure that expanding to 3FE does not place too much pressure on the local roads through car traffic.

2.36 It is recommended that The Federation of St Elphege’s Catholic Infant School should be expanded in September 2012.

**Funding Available and Summary of Estimated Costs of Key Stage 1 Expansion Projects**

2.37 The overall financial position reported to The Executive in May identified a number of issues regarding capital funding; the confirmation of capital allocations for just one financial year (2011-12); the uncertainty as to future levels of capital; whether any capital funding would be grant funded or in the form of supported borrowing, with implications for Sutton, as a floor authority, of the two forms of capital support.

2.38 The level of schools capital funding for 2011/12 currently available to support these primary expansions is £6.1m. A further £0.5m has been set aside from Local Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) funding, making a total of £6.6m. With costs for this phase of expansions currently estimated between £7.3m and £7.9m, there is a shortfall of between £0.7m and £1.2m.
2.39 It should also be noted that Sutton should receive some additional capital funding in 2011-12 following the Secretary of State for Education’s recent announcement that the Government will provide an additional £500m to help local authorities provide extra school places. Initial enquiry has established that this is grant funding but allocations to individual authorities will not be announced until the Autumn.

2.40 It is normally a requirement that VA schools contribute 10% to capital projects. However, whilst the funding is not directly cash funding; all the VA schools are contributing to these projects. All Saints Primary School, Carshalton has contributed the use of the house and its land to the school expansion. All Saints Primary School, Benhilton has secured the use and land of the old vicarage to the school project. The Federation of St Elphege’s Infant and Junior Schools have contributed £100,000 to the building works. Added to this both Dioceses, the Archdiocese of Southwark (RC) and Diocese of Southwark (Anglican) have agreed the use of LCVAP funding to the pupil place expansions at these schools. The total contribution. The total contribution amounts to approximately £1m and this exceeds their 10% funding requirement.

2.41 At this early stage of design development the range of latest estimated costs provided by the framework consultants (including a contingency allowance) are set out in the table below. The projects have been agreed with the relevant governing body and, during the latter part of the summer term, the opportunity was taken to share the work of the design core groups more widely and to seek input from parents, staff, pupils and other interested members of the schools’ communities.

2.42 Work is now continuing with detailed design which will occur in parallel with processes to more finely assess costs. These include consideration of off-site construction methods to speed up the construction process and rigorous value engineering to drive down the costs. It is to be hoped that final costings will reduce, once more detailed plans have been drawn and specifications have been trimmed. The report notes indicative costs, and measures will be taken to amend building plans so that the final costs can be contained within the budget envelope. It should be noted that these are indicative costs at present. School sites are very varied and bring differing building challenges which account for the variance in costs. For each subsequent expansion project, costs will increase as the Council has exhausted all low cost building options on previous expansions. In the event that costs can not be trimmed substantially, a further report will be submitted to CMT and The Executive. Once firmer costs have been established, DDNs and financial appraisals for each individual project will be circulated to obtain approval to release capital funding.

2.43 The estimated costs for September 2012 primary place programme are currently as follows:
2.44 As indicated, it is planned to phase any expansion project, initially to meet the demand coming through with the KS1 cohorts up to 2014 and then to address the demand for KS2 expansion in a second phase from 2015, and possibly beyond. This is prudent in that it allows assessment of future demand at a later stage before committing to expansion across the whole primary range.

2.45 Recently local authorities have been notified by DfE of a new five year programme of PFI funding for condition need and for the provision of new schools with procurement starting from 2012. There is one Sutton school which may which might well meet the condition criteria, but for the purposes of this report on the expansion of primary school provision, and assuming that suitable new sites could be identified, the new scheme could provide an additional source of capital funding to support the provision of primary school places. Potential applicants have been able to register their interest from 25 July and applications must be submitted by 14 October, 2011 and an update will be given in the paper scheduled for The Executive on 7 November, 2011.

**Statutory Proposals and Changes to Admission Arrangements**

2.46 To achieve the expansion of the five schools at Key Stage 1 from September 2012, it will be necessary to follow two formal, legal processes: the first to authorise the physical expansion of the schools; the second to change the admission arrangements. In addition, it is important to note that it will be necessary to secure planning consent and compliance with Building Control.

2.47 To expand the schools physically, the Local Authority can publish expansion proposals for any category of maintained school within its area. The Governing Body of a voluntary (Voluntary Controlled (VC) and Voluntary Aided (VA) school may also publish such a proposal. On this occasion, it has been agreed with the school governing bodies, the Southwark Diocesan (Anglican) and the Archdiocese
of Southwark (Catholic) Boards of Education that the Local Authority will be responsible for the publication of the proposals.

2.48 The provisional date for the publication of the proposals has been set for the week commencing 19 September 2011. This is followed by a four week period of consultation after which any objections or other comments will be considered prior to determination of the proposals. It is recommended that the authority for deciding (determining) the proposals should be delegated to the Strategic Director (Education). The decision should be taken during the week commencing 24 October, 2011.

2.49 For all of the schools involved, such expansion will also require a permanent increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) with effect from September 2012. If an admission authority for a maintained school wishes to increase the admission number, or any other aspect of the admission arrangements, of a school after their admission arrangements have been determined, they must refer a variation to the Schools Adjudicator. The determination by the Schools Adjudicator should follow the approval by the Local Authority of any related proposals for enlargement of the school. The admission authority for a community school is the Local Authority. The admission authority for a voluntary aided school is the Governing Body.

2.50 It is important that the set of changes associated with this phase of primary school expansion for September 2012 should be well co-ordinated and to that end, it is proposed that officers should liaise closely with the governing bodies of the VA schools (and with the Diocesan Board as necessary) in order to provide a co-ordinated and consistent set of documentation to the Schools’ Adjudicator in order to assist in an expeditious determination.

2.51 Clearly, it is of utmost importance that parents are made aware from the outset of these possible changes and are notified in good time before the deadline date (Sunday 15 January 2012) for the submission of preferences for admission to Reception Year for the school year commencing September 2012 as to exactly what the admission arrangements are. (A more detailed description of the formal, legal processes involved is set out in Appendix 5 to this report.)

Outline timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY/DATE</th>
<th>EVENT/KEY POINT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid August – End September</td>
<td>Submission of planning applications in respect of proposed Key Stage 1 Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 September</td>
<td>The Executive – To consider consultation responses and authorise the publication of Statutory Proposals to expand schools where necessary for September 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/c 19 September</td>
<td>Publication of Statutory Proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/c 17 October</td>
<td>End of the 4 week representation period on proposals contained in Statutory Proposals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Financial Implications

3.1 Work to expand primary school places for the September 2011 intake is nearing completion. In the May report to The Executive, it was reported that the work to expand the six schools and to provide an additional three bulge classes could largely be funded from existing capital funding. However following further review, the estimated shortfall has increased to just over £200K between the anticipated costs of £9.2m and available funding of £9m. Officers are exploring the possibility of using part of the £321k non-ringfenced capital grant funding for Short Breaks for Disabled Children to support a proportion of this shortfall. This is possible since there are already a number of areas of planned expenditure to support disabled children in the CYPLS capital programme.

3.2 The report sets out the estimated costs of the expansions required to accommodate the September 2012 intake. The total cost of the works at the five schools listed in the report is estimated within the range of £7.3m to £7.9m at KS1 and £5.6 at KS2. As reported in May, £6.6m grant funding is available in 2011-12 to support further expansions. This sum includes £0.5m Local Co-ordinated Voluntary Aided Programme (LCVAP) funding. This would leave a shortfall of between £0.7m and £1.3m. Work is continuing during the detailed design stage to reduce this shortfall through consideration of off-site construction methods and rigorous value.

3.3 In the last report it was highlighted that London Boroughs had received proportionately less national funding, despite experiencing over 64% of the growth in demand for places nationally. Since then the Secretary of State for Education announced in July that the Government will provide an additional £500m in 2011-12 to help local authorities provide extra school places. Initial enquiries have established that this is grant funding but allocations to individual authorities will not be announced until the autumn and will be based on information already held by Partnerships for Schools. Sutton should expect to receive some additional funding which could be used to bridge part or all of the shortfall highlighted above.
However the Council will need to consider ways in which to reduce the expected shortfall further should this additional capital allocation not be sufficient.

3.4 Since local authorities have only received one year allocations for education capital through the last finance settlement, it is currently unknown how much funding the Council will receive in 2012/13 and beyond. Given the projected continued increase in the birth rate and the likely need to begin expansions at KS2 resulting from the first wave of expansions at KS1, our assessment is that there is likely to be a shortfall in funding.

3.5 The current position is summarised in the table below and takes into account the KS2 phase of expansion costs which will be required to complete the primary 1FE expansions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Year</th>
<th>Intake</th>
<th>KS1 Costs £m</th>
<th>KS2 Costs £m</th>
<th>Total Cost £m</th>
<th>Confirmed Funding £m</th>
<th>Shortfall £m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010/11</td>
<td>Sep 2011</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Please see para 3.1 for possible elimination of shortfall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/12</td>
<td>Sep 2012</td>
<td>7.3 to 8.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7.3 to 8.4</td>
<td>6.6 + potential share of £500m tbc</td>
<td>0.7 to 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/13</td>
<td>Sep 2013</td>
<td>5.6 to 11.2</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>8.8 to 14.4</td>
<td>tba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/14</td>
<td>Sep 2014</td>
<td>Currently unknown</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>tba</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/15</td>
<td>Sep 2015</td>
<td>Currently unknown</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6 **Revenue costs and implications**

On expansion, the schools will need additional resources as each additional class opens. Such costs include the need to employ additional teachers and the funding will be allocated, principally based on the additional number of pupils entering each new class. However, should a school find that it does not attract sufficient pupils to meet additional costs, the Authority will fund as a minimum, the cost of an extra teacher, including planning and preparation time, for the first academic year. This funding will be charged to the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) and will result in a budget pressure. This is due to a time lag between the period when funding is allocated to the individual schools in September and when the DSG attracts additional Government funding due to increases in roll in the following April.

3.7 Accordingly, funding will be included within the schools contingency budget to meet the revenue costs of this expansion in 2012/13. Thereafter increased roll numbers will attract additional revenue funding via the DSG.

3.8 There will also be an increase in floor area costs and these will be contained within existing budgets.
4 Contribution to the Achievement of the Council’s Policy Aims

4.1 The Primary School Expansion Programme will enable the Council to meet its statutory duty of securing sufficient school places.

5 Influence of the Council’s Core Values

5.1 Expansion projects at individual schools will be agreed after appropriate consultation and will be developed in partnership with schools and other key bodies.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Changes to the admission arrangements and associated changes to school buildings have been developed with due regard to the Council’s Equalities and Diversity Policy. Project choice has been guided by a range of factors including meeting local demand for places, facilitating parental preference and securing value for money with the overall aim of ensuring new arrangements work to the benefit of all children and their families.

6.2 Faith (denominational) schools have always had an important part to play in the provision of education in Sutton. Currently in the primary sector there are 9 faith schools of which 6 take children at first admission into the Reception Year (YR). The Local Authority, in its strategic role as the commissioner of school places, has a general duty to promote the diversity of provision across schools in its area and this includes the need to ensure, wherever possible, there should be no reduction in the proportion of faith school provision offered. In recent years, the proportion of YR places available in the faith sector has been approximately 15%.

6.3 In the first phase of primary school expansions for September 2011, when 6 primary schools were each expanded by one form of entry, it was not possible to include any faith schools. The Council did, however, give an undertaking to work closely with the Dioceses and schools to ensure that it would be possible to include faith schools in the second tranche of expansions to take place with effect from September 2012. Accordingly, All Saints CE Primary, Benhilton, All Saints CE Primary, Carshalton and The Federation of St Elphege’s Catholic Infants schools are put forward for expansion. If this were to be agreed, the proportion of faith places offered at YR would rise slightly to between 16% and 17%. However, as previously stated, the faith schools will be providing open places and so will be serving the young citizens of Sutton regardless of denominational belief.

7 Background Papers

7.1 Report to The Executive 30 November 2010 – Primary School Expansion Programme

7.2 Report to The Executive 3 May 2011 – Primary School Expansion Programme (Resolutions at Appendix 1)

7.3 Consultation Paper: Options for the possible expansion of Primary Schools from September 2012
7.4 Appendices

Appendix 1: Resolutions of The Executive of 3 May 2011
Appendix 2: Consultation and Analysis of Consultation Responses
Appendix 3: Response to areas of concern raised during consultation
Appendix 4: School size and School Effectiveness
Appendix 5: Statutory Proposals and Changes to Admission Arrangements
Appendix 6: Developments in Neighbouring Local Authorities