

Council 18 January 2016**Requisition****Resolutions of the Children, Family and Education Committee held on 17 December 2015****61. School Places Update**

The Committee considered a report that provided updates on the delivery of school places in Sutton required due to demographic increase in the Borough and was included the following items:

Update on primary and secondary projections for the Borough

- Determination of statutory notices on the expansion of Manor Park Primary School
- The latest position with respect to proposed expansion of Hackbridge Primary School
- Update on Bandon Hill Primary expansion project and the requirement to authorise remaining funding for deferred works.
- Update on the delivery of a new secondary school in Sutton
- Update on the process by which sites for future school provision will be identified for future educational provision.
- Latest capital position with respect to basic need funding

The Chair announced that discussions on this report would take place in two parts, firstly on primary schools and then the secondary school. On the primary school section Bandon Hill Primary School would take place at the end to allow for Councillor Garratt to leave the room after declaring an interest.

The Head of Pupil Based Commissioning responded to Member questions including provision of nursery places, unfilled places, improvements to Manor Park play space and the phasing of Hackbridge Primary School.

In response to Member questions on the Secondary School provision it was reported that:

- The Education Funding Authority (EFA) had not set a budget for the scheme and any reimbursement would only take place if new free school provision was approved and the Sutton Hospital site agreed as the preferred site.
- That options b and c would mean that the Council would meet the capital costs of the school.
- That the £950k was from the Basic Need Grant and that the £8.8m for purchase of the hospital site was separate money to the £25m for school provision.

Councillor Garratt raised several concerns about the process for the hospital site that in his opinion/view:

- The process being adopted was not the normal route.
- That paragraph 7.9 of the report highlighted the risk to be taken.
- That the unorthodox approach was being taken because the schedule was so far behind.

- That both identified sites for the new school should be progressed together as two schools would be needed.
- That the issue of future school sites should not be dealt with under the Local Plan which would be considered by another Committee as they would be concerned with other matters.
- That the Council would be tying its hands with the Belmont site when it was clear that both sites would need to be built on.

The Chair explained that the Local Plan was the usual way of finding sites and that it would come back to this Committee for debate and that it was preferable not to build on Metropolitan Open Land whilst there was brownfield sites available.

The Head of Pupil Based Commissioning and Strategic Director, People Services responded to further detailed questions from Members. Due to not knowing of any known examples the Head of Pupil Based Commissioning undertook to respond to Members queries, outside of the meeting, whether the Council would have to fund an extension of a free school if they applied.

RESOLVED:

- a) The primary and secondary projections and the commentary associated with their use was noted.
- b) The proposed expansion of Manor Park Primary school to a three form entry school from 2017 was approved.
- c) To tender the Hackbridge primary school expansion after the resolution of the reserved matters application for the Felnax development.
- d) To endorse the Sutton Hospital site as the first site for new secondary school provision from 2018.
- e) That an initial sum of £950k to develop a planning application for a new secondary school on the Sutton Hospital site (inclusive of all surveys, professional fees etc) was approved.
- f) That expenditure of £480K already set aside within capital estimates for deferred works to complete the expansion of Bandon Hill Primary was authorised.
- g) That the issue of future school sites in the Borough will be addressed through the 'Issues and Options' consultation of the Local Plan in the new year was noted.

(Note: only resolutions d) and e) are subject to the requisition and consideration by Council)