

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 24th March 2009

Report Title. School Expansion Consultation – Rhodes Avenue Primary School N22

Report of **Peter Lewis, Director of the Children and Young People’s Service**

Signed :

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Wards(s) affected: all, but with particular possible impact on Alexandra, Bounds Green, Muswell Hill, Noel Park, Fortis Green and Woodside wards as they surround Alexandra ward where Rhodes Avenue School is.

Report for: **key decision**

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The July 2008 School Place Planning Report proposed consultation on the possible expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School in Alexandra Ward within the West Area Children’s Network from 2 to 3 forms of entry (fe). The consultation on this possible expansion took place between the 10th October and the 28th November 2008. Any expansion would take effect from September 2011 beginning with that year’s reception intake. This report sets out the responses received to the consultation and considers these and all other material considerations and makes a recommendation that the Council should publish statutory notices proposing the expansion of Rhodes Avenue.
- 1.2 If this recommendation is agreed, a further report will be brought to Cabinet in June 2008 for a final decision to be made.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member

2.1 We have seen an unexpected and substantial rise in the birth rate in the borough, and this trend is replicated in Enfield and Barnet. We estimate therefore that this planning area will need additional reception school places by 2011 if we are to avoid a situation where we have children with no school place to go to. Within the planning area it is localities to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes which are of most concern. I therefore support the recommendation that we expand Rhodes Avenue primary school.

3. Links with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

3.1 The careful planning and control of school places in the borough will contribute to the Council's Priority 3 "Encouraging lifetime well-being, at home, work, play and learning" and Priority 5 "Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services".

4. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 4.1 Note the feedback from the consultation
- 4.2 Note the analysis of other factors influencing the provision of and demand for school places in Haringey and in particular in Alexandra ward.
- 4.3 Agree the recommendation that we proceed to statutory notices on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School from 2fe to 3fe, commencing with the reception intake in September 2011.
- 4.4 Agree to design work continuing on the potential expansion concurrently with the consultation on statutory notices.

5 Reason for recommendation(s)

Background

- 5.1 The July 2008 School Place Planning Report recommended the need to consider whether or not to provide additional places in Alexandra Ward. A rising population across the borough means that surplus places in reception classes are reducing generally. Demand is more intense in Planning Area 1 (PA1) than in any other planning area. PA1 comprises Alexandra, Fortis Green and Muswell Hill wards and contains the following schools – Tetherdown, Coldfall, St James', Our Lady of Muswell and Rhodes Avenue (see Appendix 1 for a map of all of the Planning Areas across the borough).
- 5.2 Our projections, reported in the July report (Appendix 2) showed that, based on birth rates and demand for school places, if we did not take any action, we would run out of school places in across the borough. The Report identified Rhodes Avenue as the school that should be considered for expansion from 2fe to 3fe to meet projected demand. St James' C of E Primary School have also put forward a body of information and evidence as to why they should be considered over Rhodes Avenue, and this is examined in more detail later in this report. Since that report in 2008 we have had the benefit of three more pieces of evidence – the January 2009 PLASC¹, the admissions data for September 2009 entry and the latest birth rates for the borough (2006/7). All of the new data that we have confirms the

¹ PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

concerns we had for PA1's school place capacity when balanced against demand and makes the evidence for expansion even stronger.

5.3 The 2008 School Place Planning Report set out that a 1fe expansion at Rhodes requires formal statutory consultation as well as substantial building works. The statutory consultation has two main stages: 1) a consultation exercise with all stakeholders, followed by a decision to proceed or not, and 2) formal publication of statutory notices. We would need to begin the first stage of consultation in 2008 in order to meet a timetable for any expansion in 2011. The Report in July 2008 therefore recommended that stage 1 be approved so that we could carry out consultation and report back to Cabinet on the consultation and other material considerations in deciding whether or not we should proceed to statutory notices.

5.4 In examining all of these considerations we have been conscious of the need to make a balanced and fair decision based on all of the information before us. If we do not respond to the evidence that points to the need for additional places in this part of the borough we run a very real possibility that we will have insufficient school places to meet demand by 2011. However, if we were to expand a school and demand for places did not rise or were to fall we could affect the viability of local schools, seeing them short of pupils and therefore short of funding. The results of the consultation and all other considerations are set out below under headed sections for ease of reference. They consider material factors across the borough, as well as more local information pertaining to the area around Rhodes Avenue. These considerations include birth rates, admissions data, reception rolls, the current economic climate and the results of the consultation.

5.5 Demand for Reception Places and Reception Roll

The demand for reception places in the borough is increasing (see Appendix 2). When looking at rising demand, we have plotted actual births against actual demand for a reception place in the corresponding school year. For example, of the 3844 births in 2002/3, 2932 required reception place when they reached school age in the school year 2007/8. The number of school places available for that year across all of our schools was 3083. This left a 4.90% surplus of reception places across the borough (but only 0.98% in PA1). We need to ensure that there is a balance between assisting schools with their long term financial planning by reducing the number of vacant places, against allowing some real scope for parental preference, and the DCSF accepts that this can be met by allowing for around a 5% surplus capacity at entry across schools. This is not evenly distributed across the borough, however, and PA1 is now in a position where that surplus capacity hovers at around 1%. Looking at population figures and demand for reception places (both real and projected by using figures given to us by the GLA), we have predicted that by 2011/12 we will not have enough reception places to meet the predicted demand across the borough, with the greatest pressure in PA1.

5.6 Reception roll information shows that our reception numbers are rising (Appendix 3). In October 2007 we had 2783 reception children in our schools. By January 2009 this figure had risen to 2987. We currently have the capacity for up to 3062 reception children across all of our primary schools. This figure of 3062 is known as the Planned Admission Number or 'PAN'

² This refers to total applications – that is, irrespective of whether a first or fourth choice.

5.7 Admission Applications

Applications to Haringey primary schools are also steadily rising (Appendix 3), up from 2662 on-time applications for reception admission in September 2007, to 2807 applications for admission in September 2009 - an increase in demand for reception places across the borough of 5.2% between 2007 and 2009, i.e. 145 more pupils are seeking a place for entry into primary school for September 2009 when compared with 2007. 145 children represent 4.8 reception classes (145 divided by 30).

5.8 Borough Births

The birth rate for Haringey is also rising – we can see this from actual figures that plot our birth rates dating from 1991/2 through to 2006/7. The GLA also gives us population projections which show how our birth rate is expected to increase or decrease in years to come, right up until 2017/18. Their projections suggest that the birth rate will continue to rise within the borough, as indeed they are predicted to rise across London and the south-east (birth rates in London have risen steadily for the last 19 years).

5.9 Our most up-to-date actual birth figures 2006/7 show that the birth rate for that year across the borough was 4292. This was a rise of 270 births from the figure for 2005/6 which was 4022. At the time that the School Place Planning Report was written in July 2008, we did not have an actual birth rate figure for 2006/7, only a projection. That projected figure was 3983. This means that there have been **309 more** births than had been anticipated by the GLA when they projected our figures. Births are therefore rising at a higher rate than we had anticipated when we decided that we needed to plan for additional capacity in reception places in PA1. This is a material consideration in the debate as to whether or not to expand Rhodes Avenue.

5.10 The Economic situation

The impact of the current economic climate on possible birth rate and demand for reception places is a factor that must be given due consideration. The School Place Planning Report 2008 acknowledged that the economic climate or 'credit crunch' had to be considered in planning for future school place demand. Since that time we have spoken with the GLA about their evidence, both past and present, of the impact of an economic downturn on the demand for school places in London. The GLA advice is that an economic downturn on its own cannot be a reason not to expand a good school. The evidence in Haringey is that there has been a sharp increase in births since 2005. This sharp increase follows a steadier increase that we have seen year on year for the last nineteen years. Latest actual figures for births in 2006/7 shows that the rise in birth rates has increased further than was projected, and has exceeded the projections that the GLA made for our birth rates. The children born in 2006/7 will enter reception class in 2011/12, and they represent a rise of approximately 10% on those born in 2003/4 (who entered reception in 2008/9). Latest provisional birth figures across England for the first half of 2008 show that births were up by nearly 5% when compared with the first half of 2007. So, while there may be a downturn coming, figures have not yet borne this out.

5.11 A further aspect of recession is the additional numbers entering reception classes due to the collapse of the housing market. The GLA would normally expect (and Haringey's figures bear this out) that many parents of pre-school children move away from London and so dilute the crude birth numbers before that cohort enters school. Evidence presented to the GLA Demography Liaison Group in October 2008 shows that this does not seem to be happening at the same rate as before as families are trapped in homes that they cannot sell,

or they are not willing to move to a larger home outside of the capital because of uncertainty around retaining their employment and therefore earning ability.

5.12 There has been some national evidence that the economic downturn has had a negative impact on the demand for private school places, which in turn has led to increased demand for state school places. We do not have any empirical evidence for Haringey. The Economist (22nd January 2009) has indicated that the funds available to prop up private school fees at the last recession, including sale of property and Grandparent investment returns, are less readily available in this recession, and so there may be a greater impact in terms of those taking their children out of private education and putting them into state education. It remains to be seen how this plays out. The Guardian (11th February 2009) has reported that The Headmasters and Headmistresses' Conference (Feb 2009) had indicated that independent schools are defying the slump at the present time, but commentators have predicted that the effects of the recession might not be felt on independent schools for another year or two. In conclusion, we need to continue to monitor the effect of the economic downturn. Current evidence does not suggest that, so far, it has meant a reduction demand for school places within the borough, or indeed within the area that is local to Rhodes Avenue, and GLA advice is that a recession *may* actually result in an increased demand for school places as people are stuck in their homes and unable to move.

5.13 Births in and around PA1

Appendix 4 shows the births rates broken down into the fourteen Planning Areas across the borough. The birth rate for PA1 in 2005/6 (the cohort of children who will enter school in 2010/2011) increased by 33 births in one year i.e. the equivalent of just over one reception class. Even allowing for some of these families to move away from the borough and not demand a school place in 2010/2011, this represents a substantial increase in the number of children who are likely to come forward in that year for a reception place. Further, the GLA have indicated that there is likely to be less mobility of pre-school families during an economic downturn. With reception classes very nearly at or at full capacity, there are almost no surplus places for these children to fill in PA1. PA1 is surrounded by PA2, PA3, PA13 and PA14. The demand for and supply of school places in these planning areas has a bearing on PA1 (and vice versa), even allowing for the fact that parents will have preferences for where they want their children to go to school.

Year of birth	Equivalent year for entry into reception	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA13	PA14
2005/6	2010/11	458	155	368	214	405
2006/7	2011/2012	491	146	420	201	443

5.14 If these Planning Areas, PA14 (containing St Martin of Porres, Bounds Green, Earlam, Nightingale, St Michaels CE and St Pauls RC) is probably the most relevant Planning Area as it contains the schools (particularly Bounds Green) that are sited closest to Rhodes Avenue School. The birth rate in PA14 has risen too, up by 38 births (9.4%) from 2005/6 to 2006/7. Birth rates are also up (by 14%) in PA3 but down in PA2 (5.8%) and PA13 (6.1%) for the corresponding period. Overall the net gain in births across all of these Planning Areas is 101 children, equivalent to over 3 reception classes.

5.15 Local Situation in PA1 – Reception Rolls and admission applications

Appendix 5 shows the number of pupils who are currently in reception across PA1. Rolls in PA1 are high with close to 0% surplus capacity across the schools in this area. We have also looked at admission applications for reception for the last four years. This information takes us up to those children who will be starting school in September 2009. This information is set out in Appendix 7. The admissions data shows that the number of applications has remained fairly steady over the last few years at around 450.

5.16 Dry Runs

We have been able to carry out 'dry runs' on the admissions data that we have for September 2009 entry. These runs give us an indication of which schools the children that have applied to school will actually be offered. We have also created a dry run on the assumption that Rhodes Avenue would be 3fe in 2009. This enables us to look at the impact that the expansion of Rhodes Avenue would have on surrounding schools at a particular point in time i.e. September 2009 (two years before the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue which is scheduled for 2011). The advantage of a dry run is that it gives us some indication as to what would happen to school rolls in the area. There are limitations on carrying out a dry run however. These include: 1) not knowing if those families who have applied to church schools will meet the criteria and therefore whether they will get into those schools or will require a place at another school; 2) not knowing if all of the offers made to pupils will be accepted – some families may opt to go to school out of borough or privately, or may move before they are due to take up a place. The dry runs suggest that, even on 2009 numbers of applications, expanding Rhodes Avenue would not significantly affect offers to other local schools.

5.17 Consultation

As part of the decision making process on whether we should proceed to statutory notices with the expansion of Rhodes Avenue to 3fe, the Council carried out consultation with local schools, parents, residents and other interested parties. This consultation was carried out between the 10th October and the 28th November 2008. The start date of the consultation was delayed from the end of September 2008 so that it did not clash with the local bye-election that was being held in Alexandra Ward. As part of that consultation we held three public meetings. Appendix 8 sets out in detail what the response to the consultation was. Overall, the response was fairly even with a similar number of responses being for and against the expansion. Those against the expansion cited issues including:

- Disruption during construction works and impact on local residents
- Increase in traffic and congestion at drop off and pick up
- Impact on the quality of the children's education
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of places means we should not expand at the current time
- Negative impact on surrounding local schools
- Expand other local schools to 3fe where there is existing physical capacity to do so
- Creating more places in a good school will attract more people to the area demanding school places
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them.

Those in favour of the expansion cited the following reasons for support:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- There is a need for additional school places in the area
- A larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places would have a positive impact on pockets of the local area where it is hard to secure a local school of choice
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5.18 We also received 8 responses from Governing Bodies of local schools, the Diocesan of London Board for Schools (C of E), Barnet Council, a primary school in Barnet and the Police.

The Chair of Governors from St James', supported by the Director of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (Anglican), has made a case for why we should be expanding St James from its current 1 fe to 2fe to provide additional school places in the area as an alternative to the Rhodes Avenue proposal. In addition, the Chair addressed one of the public meetings that were held to set out why he considered that St James should be the first choice of school for expanding in the local area. He set out a four-fold case for St James:

- 1) Two teachers per year group allows an experienced teacher to be harnessed with an NQT, and also allows for greater flexibility in teaching different subject matters;
- 2) Year on year St James receive three applications² for every place, and so some local families are disappointed. Expanding to 2fe would allow a further 30 children a year to have access to a school that is rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted.
- 3) As a 1fe St James struggles yearly to avoid budget deficits, and there are no economies of scale available. Expanding to 2fe would enable the school to cover its fixed overheads much more readily, making budget balancing easier while continuing to achieve strong results.
- 4) The School and Diocesan Board have stated that an undertaking was made in 2003/4 to look at St James' as the next candidate for expansion when places were needed in the area. The School and Diocesan Board believe this undertaking has not been properly honoured.

5.19 We have listened very carefully to the reasons that have been put forward by St James for their school to expand as opposed to Rhodes Avenue. There are two factors that have led us to conclude that, at the present time, St James should not be the school in PA1 that is expanded. Both of these reasons centre on demand and supply. Firstly, we have looked at the latest admission applications that we have for September 2009 entry, and we have also looked at admission data for preceding years. The overall picture for admission applications in PA1 (where both Rhodes Avenue and St James are situated) is an upward trend with first preference applications up from 409 across the planning area in 2006 to 451 for September 2009 entry (an increase of 9%). First preference applications for St James between 2006 and 2008 averaged 37. However, the applications for entry in September 2009 have shown a marked drop – with only 19 families placing St James as their first preference (0.6 applications for every available place). Based on this information, we are not confident that the case for St James as a sustainable 2fe school at the present time is as clear as the case for Rhodes Avenue as a sustainable three-form entry school. Linked to this is a geographical analysis of where the demand for places is that is not being met, and the admissions criteria. Residents have labelled an area to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes Avenue as the

'black hole'. This is an area where it is less likely that parents will secure any of their preferences. St James' is to the south-west of this area, some distance away from the so called 'black hole. This is also the area that the Council identified when we made our decision to explore the need for additional school places in the area.

5.20 Pressure for school places has been somewhat relieved in this part of the borough in recent years by the expansion of Tetherdown Primary school from 1fe to 2fe, and, to a lesser extent, by the expansion of Coldfall Primary from 2fe to 3fe. However, some pockets still exist where – at least on first offer – places cannot be offered at local schools. At Appendix 6 is a map that shows these pockets by a shaded area. These areas are mainly in Alexandra ward, particularly around Rhodes Avenue primary school. Added to this uncertainty as to whether St James' is the right school to expand is the admissions criteria for the school. St James' is a C of E school and the admissions criteria differ from other local (non-denominational) schools. St James' places 'church commitment' as criterion 4 on its Admissions Criteria for 2009 entry. This means that it is likely that applications for the school will come from a wider geographical area. Based on the evidence admissions applications for St James' for 2009 entry and the local areas generally where there is very short supply of reception places, our current concern would be that the admissions criteria would not allow supply to be directed to those parts of PA1 where it is needed. Rhodes Avenue is geographically placed in a more appropriate position to meet the areas where there is greatest shortfall in the supply of preference places.

5.21 **Other Local Schools**

In considering the expansion of a school, regard must be had to the potential impact of that expansion on surrounding schools. One of the Principles of School Place Planning that were first outlined in the School Place Planning Report 2005 is that we must have "regard for the impact of any changes on the viability and standards at existing and new schools". The public meetings were attended by several local head teachers, and two of the local schools, St James' and Our Lady of Muswell, have written to us expressing views on the possible expansion. St James' views have been clearly outlined above and they opposed to the expansion for the reasons as set out in 5.20 above. Our Lady of Muswell (OLM) has also expressed opposition to the proposal. Their Governors have commented that they do not believe that the proposal for additional places in Alexandra ward is supported by sufficient evidence of projected demand. It is their view that the recent additional expansions in places are now beginning to impact the system, and are adequate to address the present and foreseeable demand. They have further commented that "the number of applications for Our Lady of Muswell this year (2008 entry) has decreased from previous years" and that they "do not believe that the proposal for additional places in Alexandra ward is supported by sufficient evidence of projected demand. Indeed, it is our view that the recent additional expansions in places are now beginning to impact the system, and are adequate to address the present and foreseeable demand. They conclude by saying that: "It is our view that to proceed to create additional places will, as the Consultation concedes, increase the risk of existing places at other schools not being taken up, with the consequential adverse impact on funding for those schools". Admission applications data for September 2009 admission show that OLM has had an increase in demand, up from 56 first place preferences in 2008, to 62 first place preferences for 2009. Further, OLM's objections need to be balanced against other evidence, including an actual birth rate that exceeds all projections. The local Barnet school, Hollickwood, have expressed concern at an expansion because of the potential impact on their school rolls. However, Barnet have

indicated that birth rates in their borough are rising, and that first preference applications for Hollickwood are also rising (see para. 5.22 below).

5.22 **Cross Borough Issues**

We have spoken to the two neighbouring authorities, Barnet and Enfield, to ask them to tell us about their school place planning in the area immediately adjacent to the boundary with Haringey, and close to Rhodes Avenue Primary School. Neither borough expressed an objection to the proposal, although Barnet did comment that: “we would not have any formal objection to the expansion as there is clearly pressure for places in that area of Haringey. Our only concern would be the impact on Hollickwood school, which is near the Haringey boundary and currently has a number of empty places”. They went on to conclude that: “although we are concerned about Hollickwood, we understand the need for Haringey to look at this expansion and would not object to it going ahead” since they have made those comments, both boroughs have been in receipt of two important pieces of information: the September 2009 admission data and the latest birth rates from the GLA. As a result of this we have spoken again to Barnet. They have told us that there has been an upward trend in demand for places at Hollickwood primary – up from 17 first place preferences in 2008 to 25 first place preferences for 2009. Their birth rates have also risen – births in 2006/7 (i.e. children who will enter reception in 2011) have jumped by more than 28%. One can expect that this will result in an increased demand for school places in that year, even allowing for families that might move away from the area in the intervening years.

5.23 Enfield too has confirmed that their birth rates are rising and they are facing very real challenges in the provision of reception places across the borough. They have already experienced a shortfall between demand and supply which has necessitated some temporary classrooms and a programme of school expansion. Within the area close to our boundary they have indicated that the recent North Circular Area Action Plan (NCAAP) could provide up to 2000 new residential units along the North Circular Road (NCR) in the next 5 - 10 years. Enfield are keen to see a large portion of these units in the form of family housing with the resultant impact on demand for school places. Bowes Primary, situated just over the borough boundary, currently provides places for 90 Haringey children. As part of the NCAAP, there is a proposal to move Bowes primary to the other side of the NCR onto the Broomfield (Secondary) School site which would take it further from the borough boundary and make it less likely that Haringey children would gain a place there. Some of these families are likely to look to Bounds Green and Rhodes Avenue for places. Finally, the Ladderwood Estate and surrounding area to the south of Garfield school (in Enfield) is being redeveloped, with the replacement of small flatted units with more family type accommodation. Again, this has potential for an increased demand for school places. Even if Enfield are able to contain this demand within its own schools, the increased pressure will mushroom out across the borough boundary and is likely to affect demand in our schools.

6 **Other options considered**

6.1 We have given consideration to two other options. The first is to leave Rhodes Avenue at 2fe and to expand St James' C of E Primary School from 1fe to 2fe. However, as discussed in paragraph 5.13 above, we have concerns that an expansion of St James' would not meet the demand for school places in the part of the borough experiencing the greatest pressure. Further, latest admissions applications data gives us concern that demand for St James' as

a sustainable 2fe school is not proven. We have looked impartially at the cost of expanding St James' and not expanding Rhodes Avenue and have concluded that there is no economic advantage of expanding one school over the other.

6.2 We also have the option to do nothing – based on data available in 2008, we predicted that if we did not take action, that we would run out of school places in the local area by 2011. More recent data, including birth rates, admission applications and the January PLASC, gives added weight to these fears.

7 Chief Financial Officer Comments

7.1 Through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) the authority receives funding, and is in turn obliged to fund its schools, based on the actual numbers of pupils on roll at the time of the January PLASC count. In a stable environment it is possible for schools to plan class organisation to match as closely as possible pupil numbers regardless of the theoretical admission number(s).

7.2 However, schools often experience financial planning difficulties where there are surplus places in an area (as this maximises parental choice and planning uncertainties). Such difficulties are acutely felt in 1FE schools where the scope to merge classes and cover fixed overheads is particularly affected by downward pupil number fluctuations.

7.3 The School Forum has recommended, and Cabinet has agreed, to changes to the Haringey Formula for Financing Schools in 2009-10 to increase the lump sum allocations to 1FE schools in recognition of some of these difficulties.

7.4 In summary the risks that need to be balanced in this proposal relate to the possible inefficient use of capital resources and the potential effect on surrounding schools if demand was not as predicted, leading to surplus places being created.

8 Head of Legal Services Comment

8.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires the authority to secure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in its area. Consideration of the data set out in the report should be undertaken with this duty in mind. While this is not an issue for the determination of this report, the authority will need to bear in mind the duty to respond to parental representations concerning the provision of schools introduced by Section 3 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England Regulations) 2007 (as amended) state that all interested parties as specified in Schedule 5 Part 2 should be consulted in relation to any expansion. Section 176 of the Education Act 2002 also provides that Local authorities should consult pupils on the expansion that may affect them. In terms of the statutory proposals it must include the prescribed information as specified in Schedule 5 Part 1 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulation 2007 (as amended). A statutory notice including details of the proposals with details of how copies of the proposals can be found must be published in a local newspaper and also be posted on all entrances of the school and at another place in the area such as a local library or post office. Regard should be had to Schedule 5 Part 2 section 28 the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools (England) Regulation 2007 (as amended) which sets out the process for publication of proposals.

9 Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

9.1 Providing local school places to meet local demand helps to contribute towards the development of sustainable communities.

10 Consultation

10.1 Alongside the publication of Statutory Notices on the proposed expansion, the Council will carry out a further four week period of consultation with local school, residents and other interested parties running during April 2009. The results of this consultation will be fed back to HASOF in May 2009 as part of the report recommending whether or not the expansion should proceed. If there have been objections to the proposal, the consultation will also be reported to the July 2009 Cabinet who will make the final determination on the expansion.

11 Service Financial Comments

11.1 Current estimates based on early feasibility work are that the cost of expanding Rhodes Avenue, taking account of other works to address suitability and conditions problems (most of which would need to be attended to in any event) would be £8.4m. This project would be funded by government capital grant.

11.2 In common with most London Boroughs, we have submitted information to the DCSF through London Councils to show that further funding will be needed in coming years to meet other primary place needs. Haringey has put forward a case for a further £18m to provide for additional capacity by 2015.

11.3 To allow places at the school to be available by 2011, if expansion were to be subsequently approved by Cabinet, design work, with consequent fees expenditure, will need to continue concurrently with the consultation of statutory notices.

12 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- Appendix 1 - Map of Haringey School Planning Areas (PA1 – P14)
- Appendix 2 - Provision of primary school places
- Appendix 3 - Total Reception Rolls and Demand for Reception places across the Borough
- Appendix 4 - Birth Rates by Planning Area
- Appendix 5 - Number and surplus capacity of children in reception across PA 1.
- Appendix 6 - Furthest Distance Offered (On offer Day) For September 2008
- Appendix 7 - Primary Admission Applications 2006-2009
- Appendix 8 - Results of the consultation

13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

13.1 School Place Planning Reports 2007 and 2008
GLA roll and birth rate projections
Haringey PLASC returns
The Economist – January 2009

The Guardian – February 2009

Appendix 2 Provision of primary school places

The GLA projections show an increasing demand for places at reception. This is driven by two related factors: the increasing birth rate and the continuing high level of housing development in and around the Borough. If actual experience follows the projections we can expect that by September 2010 the number of reception aged pupils could exceed the number of school places available at reception. For this reason it would be prudent to plan for additional capacity within our schools.

Intake year	Actual & projected births applicable for that cohort intake	Actual (1996-2007) & Projection (2008-2017) reception aged pupils	PAN figure	% of reception surplus
1996/97	3386	2919	3020	3.34%
1997/98	3397	2849	3020	5.66%
1998/99	3396	2835	3020	6.13%
1999/00	3372	2880	3050	5.57%
2000/01	3474	2943	3071	4.17%
2001/02	3635	2978	3050	2.36%
2002/03	3581	2849	3050	6.59%
2003/04	3652	2820	3080	8.44%
2004/05	3689	2840	3059	7.16%
2005/06	3777	2855	3089	7.61%
2006/07	3759	2899	3119	7.05%
2007/08	3844	2932	3083	4.90%
2008/09	4021	2973	3062	2.91%
2009/10	3943	3004	3041	1.22%
2010/11	4022	3066	3041	-0.82%
2011/12	3983 (projection)	3073	3041	-1.05%
2012/13	3984 (projection)	3075	3041	-1.12%
2013/14	4004 (projection)	3100	3041	-1.94%
2014/15	4031 (projection)	3131	3041	-2.96%
2015/16	4058 (projection)	3159	3041	-3.88%
2016/17	4076 (projection)	3162	3041	-3.98%
2017/18	4082 (projection)	3178	3041	-4.51%

Appendix 3

Total Reception Rolls and Demand for Reception places across the Borough

Reception roll information shows that reception numbers in our schools are rising.

Number of pupils	PLASC Count	Actual	PLASC Count	Projection	PLASC
	Oct-07	Jan-08	Oct-08	Jan-09	Jan-09
	2783	2932	2959	2973	2987
Percentage Increase	5.35% increase		Maximum PAN=3062		0.95% increase

Source: October 07 and 08 counts and January 08 PLASC count

Demand for Reception places across the borough

The numbers of applications for reception are also rising.

First preference for intake Sept 07	2662	
First preference for intake Sept 08	2775	4.1% increase from 07
First preference for intake Sept 09	2807	1.2% increase from 08



Haringey Council

Appendix 4 Birth rates by Planning Area

Year of birth	Number of births for the equivalent school intake year	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	PA 5	PA 6	PA 7	PA 8	PA 9	PA 10	PA 11	PA 12	PA 13	PA 14	Total
1998/1999	2003/2004	382	142	325	188	207	198	279	225	253	204	181	465	177	434	3660
1999/2000	2004/2005	429	164	317	196	194	222	244	250	257	193	208	414	188	380	3656
2000/2001	2005/2006	440	146	350	183	198	212	242	251	266	252	190	480	197	373	3780
2001/2002	2006/2007	428	142	347	172	191	215	240	246	245	234	234	480	209	353	3736
2002/2003	2007/2008	441	118	370	184	215	233	240	288	249	263	205	471	168	388	3833
2003/2004	2008/2009	487	176	381	188	229	214	268	257	261	279	193	508	208	358	4007
2004/2005	2009/2010	437	141	395	174	215	241	269	252	242	254	234	494	194	401	3943
2005/2006	2010/2011	458	155	368	182	233	221	281	259	257	294	227	468	214	405	4022
2006/2007	2011/2012	491	146	420	181	247	271	297	240	275	280	260	540	201	443	4292
2010/2011 difference		33	-9	52	-1	14	50	16	-19	18	-14	33	72	-13	38	
% increase or decrease		7.2%	-5.8%	14.1%	-0.5%	6.0%	22.6%	5.7%	-7.3%	7.0%	-4.8%	14.5%	15.4%	-6.1%	9.4%	
% difference between average of 2008/09-2010/11 against 2011/12 births		6.6%	-7.2%	10.1%	-0.2%	9.5%	20.3%	8.9%	-6.3%	8.6%	1.6%	19.3%	10.2%	-2.1%	14.2%	

Appendix 5 Number and surplus capacity of children in reception across PA 1.

The schools across planning area 1 are full with very little surplus capacity.

Name of School	Reception numbers by year		
	2007	2008	2009
Coldfall	86	89	90
Our Lady of Muswell RC	60	59	56
Rhodes Avenue	60	60	60
St. James CE	30	30	30
Muswell Hill	60	60	60
Tetherdown	60	60	60
Total	356	358	356

Name of School	Surplus Capacity		
	2007 Surplus	2008 surplus	2009 surplus
Coldfall JMI	4%	1%	0%
Our Lady of Muswell RC	0%	2%	7%
Rhodes Avenue	0%	0%	0%
St. James CE	0%	0%	0%
Muswell Hill	0%	0%	0%
Tetherdown	0%	0%	0%
Total	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%



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Appendix 6

Furthest Distance Offered (On offer Day) For September 2008 – shaded area shows pockets where Families were not offered any of their preferences



Appendix 7

Primary admissions applications 2006-2009

Planning Area	Network	School Name	Admission information				Difference between 09 and 08 first preference applications	Difference between average of 06-08 and 09 first preference applications
			Number of 1st place preferences (admissions data)					
			2009	2008	2007	2006		
1	West	Coldfall JMI	100	86	83	55	14	25
1	West	Our Lady of Muswell RC	62	56	70	63	6	-1
1	West	Rhodes Avenue JMI	98	93	102	93	5	2
1	West	St. James CE JMI	19	38	39	34	-19	-18
1	West	Muswell Hill Primary	65	81	61	69	-16	-5
1	West	Tetherdown JMI	107	90	103	95	17	11
PA 1 Total			451	444	458	409	7	14
2	West	Highgate JMI	31	42	39	46	-11	-11
2	West	St. Michael's CE JMI N6	75	82	70	81	-7	-3
PA 2 Total			106	124	109	127	-18	-14
3	West	Campsbourne Infant/junior	32	37	37	40	-5	-6
3	West	Coleridge JMI	152	149	138	132	3	12
3	West	Rokesly Infant	87	96	79	89	-9	-1
3	West	Rokesly junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	West	St. Gilda's RC Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	West	St. Mary's CE Infant/(junior)	59	67	61	67	-8	-6
3	West	St. Mary's CE junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	West	St. Peter-in-Chains RC Infant	54	44	43	57	10	6
PA 3 Total			384	393	358	385	-9	5
14	North	Bounds Green Infants	60	67	35	53	-7	8
14	North	Bounds Green Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
14	North	Earlham JMI	35	34	21	48	1	1
14	North	Lordship Lane Primary	68	84	70	88	-16	-13
14	North	Nightingale JMI	36	50	47	59	-14	-16
14	North	St. Martin of Porres RC JMI	42	51	41	54	-9	-7
14	North	St. Michael's CE JMI N22	17	18	24	24	-1	-5
14	North	St. Paul's RC JMI	25	22	23	23	3	2
PA 14 Total			283	326	261	349	-43	-29

Appendix 8

Responses to Rhodes Avenue Consultation (running from 10th October to the 28th November)

119 individuals or families responded to the Rhodes Avenue consultation, and **8 'others'** i.e. Governing Bodies, Barnet LA, the local Police and the Diocese), making a grand total of **126 responses**.

The responses from individuals/families (120) were:

Opposed to	52 (43.3%)
In favour of	61 (50.8%)
Impartial	4 (4.1 %)
Inconclusive (did not complete the relevant part of the questionnaire)	2
Total responses	119*

*Rhodes Governing Body appeared twice so removed one.

Of the 120 responses, the figures can be summarised as;

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ³	Other*	Unknown
Online questionnaire	64	13	51	n/a
Consultation booklet questionnaire	25	13	12	n/a
Written representations (emails/letters)	30(2 before consultation start, 3 after consultation closing date.	n/a	n/a	30
Objections	52 (of which 21 were written reps)	17	14	21
Supporters	61 (of which 10 were written reps)	6	43	12
Impartial	4 (of which 1 written were reps)	2	1	1

³ We could only determine if it was a Rhodes Avenue parent if they filled in an on-line questionnaire, or a hard copy questionnaire. Where we received a response in the form of a letter it was often impossible to determine if this was from a Rhodes Avenue parent or from another interested party. This means that we probably received more than 24 responses from parents/carers at the school, but we cannot ascertain exactly how many because letters don't always indicate this information.

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ³	Other*	Unknown
Missing (i.e. didn't tick the box on the questionnaire indicating their opinion)	2	1	1	0
Total	119	26	59	34

*local residents, parent of a child not yet at school age, member of staff at another school, police, governor at another school, teacher at another school, previous Governor at Rhodes, parents at St James' and Coldfall

OBJECTIONS

Overall, 52 individuals/families expressed opposition to the proposal. The main points made were:

- Disruption during construction works (including health and safety implications, and impact on local residents.
- Increase in traffic and congestion.
- Impact on quality of the children's education.
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged by the enlargement.
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of school places means we should not expand.
- Negative impact on Bounds Green Coldfall and surrounding schools.
- Bounds Green has capacity to be 3 forms of entry so expand there.
- Creating more places in a good school will lead to more people moving to the area for school places.
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them go ahead.

IN FAVOUR

Overall, 61 individuals/families expressed support for the proposal, and the following main points were made:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- That there is a need for school places in the area
- That a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places will have a positive impact on the "black hole" that exists where it is hard to secure a local school of choice

IMPARTIAL

4 respondents were impartial about the proposal, and made the following observations:

- Does the projected growth in numbers actually exist?
- Would any required building works actually be completed given the current economic situation?

RESPONSES OTHER THAN FROM INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

8 representations were received from Governing Bodies of local schools, the Diocese of London Board for Schools, Barnet Council, a Barnet Primary School and the Police. 4 were opposed, 2 were impartial and 1 was in (overall) support of the expansion.

Representations from the **Governing Bodies** of the following schools were submitted:

- Our Lady's of Muswell Hill.
- Coldfall primary school.
- St James C of E.

The main objections from these Governing Bodies were:

- Tetherdown, Coldfall and Coleridge have all recently been expanded. Expanding Rhodes Avenue could negatively impact these schools.
- The consultation lacks information on the impact of expansions that have already taken place
- A harsher economic environment will have an impact on the housing market reducing demand for school places.
- There are no new housing developments planned.
- Bounds Green has the capacity to become 3 forms of entry and expanding Rhodes will have a negative impact on this school.
- Educational - (greater flexibility within the school for specialisation etc).
- Social – (allowing another 30 children to have access to a school of high standards).
- Financial – (economies of scale).
- Moral - (there is a reason for the authority now to consider St James as a very real alternative to the Rhodes Avenue proposal)

An objection from the **Diocese of London Board for Schools** was submitted. The main objections and concerns of this objection were:

- Local Authorities long standing discussions and commitment regarding the expansion of St James.
- Quality of education – (St James C of E is a popular and successful school and meets the criteria for expansion as set out by the DSCF).
- Popularity of school – (St James C of E is oversubscribed).
- Desirability of a Two Form Entry School – (economies of scale and the feeling that it is better for the Local Authority to expand a one form of entry school than a 2 form of entry school).
- Requirement to keep a balance – (the Local Authority is required to keep in mind the balance of denominational provision, as recent expansions have been taken place amongst the community schools)

A representation from **Rhodes Avenue Primary School Governing Body** was received requesting more information. They have reserved the right to express a firm opinion following further information, including the outcome of the feasibility study

Barnet Council also responded commenting that “Overall, we would not have any formal objection to the expansion as there is clearly pressure for places in that area of Haringey. Our

only concern would be the impact on Hollickwood School, which is near the Haringey boundary and currently has a number of empty places. Further capacity at Rhodes Avenue would probably only exacerbate this”.

A representation in (overall) support of the proposal from the local **Police** was submitted. The police said:

“This proposal is good as it meets the needs of the local community; however consideration needs to be given to how the extra pupils will arrive at the school as there are already issues with parking when at the start and end of the school day”.

A representation from a local Barnet School was received – Hollickwood Primary school. They have objected to the proposed expansion on the basis that their school rolls are not full and, because of their proximity to Rhodes Avenue School, any expansion will have a negative impact on their rolls, reducing them still further.