

Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission

Cabinet Member Confirmation of Briefing

Report for:

Mayor
 Mayor and Cabinet X
 Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)
 Executive Director

Information Part 1 Part 2 Key Decision x

Date of Meeting	11 April 2011		
Title of Report	Formation of the Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust; outcome of the consultation on the rebuilding of Brent Knoll School; and implications of the Trust arrangements in relation to land transfer		
Originator of Report	Charly Williams	Ext. 47013	

At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources	X	
Legal Comments from the Head of Law	X	
Crime & Disorder Implications	X	
Environmental Implications	X	
Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)	X	
Confirmed Adherence to Budget & Policy Framework	X	
Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)	X	
Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)		

Signed:  Executive Member
 Date: 29th March 2012

Signed:  Executive Director
 Date: 29th March 2012

Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Formation of the Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust; outcome of the consultation on the rebuilding of Brent Knoll School; and implications of the Trust arrangements in relation to land transfer	
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Executive Director of Children and Young People Head of Law Head of Access and Support Services Head of Education Development Head of Resources (CYP)	
Class	Open	Date: 11/04/12

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report outlines the consultation process and outcome regarding the proposal to rebuild Brent Knoll Special School on the old Greenvale School site (at 69 Perry Rise, London, SE23 2QU), as part of the Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme. The Mayor's approval is sought to proceed with the proposal.
- 1.2 The implications of the formal agreement by the governing bodies of Brent Knoll School and Watergate School to become trust schools and form a co-operative trust are considered alongside the proposal to rebuild Brent Knoll School on the old Greenvale School site in relation to the requirements regarding land transfer. The proposed implementation date for the establishment of the trust is 2 April 2012.

2. Recommendations

That the Mayor:-

- 2.1 having noted the positive response to the consultation, gives approval for Brent Knoll School to be rebuilt and relocated on the old Greenvale School site (69 Perry Rise, London, SE23 2QU) as part of the Council's BSF Programme, subject to all necessary consents and approvals under the BSF programme being obtained;
- 2.2 notes that there is no statutory requirement to publish a public notice in relation to the proposed relocation of Brent Knoll School as the proposed new site for the school is located within two miles of the existing site (as per the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007);

- 2.3 notes the formal agreement of the governing bodies of Brent Knoll and Watergate Schools to become foundation schools (trust schools) with an implementation date of 2 April 2012;
- 2.4 notes that, in accordance with Regulation 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007), the existing sites for Brent Knoll and Watergate School will be treated as having transferred to the trustees of the school on the implementation date;
- 2.5 authorises officers to proceed to complete the legal transfer of the existing Watergate School site to the trustees of the school for nil consideration as soon as possible following the implementation date and delegates authority to the Director of Asset Strategy & Regeneration, in consultation with the Head of Law, to finalise the terms of the transfer;
- 2.6 notes that, subject to the Mayor's approval at 2.1 of the proposal to re-site Brent Knoll on the old Greenvale Site, officers propose to defer the legal transfer of the existing Brent Knoll site to the trustees of the school.

3. Background

Brent Knoll School rebuild

- 3.1 On 3 October 2007 the Mayor received a report on the public consultation for the Lewisham Programme 'Strengthening Specialist Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs' (SSP). This identified a range of proposals aimed at improving the educational experience of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). One of the key proposals to achieve this aim was to redevelop Brent Knoll Special School.
- 3.2 The original proposal was that Brent Knoll should be relocated and redeveloped as a special school for secondary age and post 16 young people. This was in response to demand for improved site facilities for the school and for additional post 16 places for young people with SEN in the borough. The primary provision would be phased out and replaced by specialist resource bases in mainstream schools. However, the significant increase in the primary population experienced since this time has led officers to review the assumptions on which this recommendation was made.
- 3.3 The demand for primary places has grown substantially since 2007. The resulting pressure for mainstream primary school sites meant that the decision was taken to retain the Leahurst Road site (Ennersdale Primary School), to which Brent Knoll would have been relocated, as a primary school site. Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the number of primary places now required at Brent Knoll with funding allocated to the school to provide temporary classrooms for this purpose.

- 3.4 A report entitled *The Use of Leahurst Road Site for Primary Mainstream Educational Provision*, was taken to Mayor and Cabinet on 14 July 2010 requesting that Brent Knoll remain on its current site and with its current intake until there had been further opportunity to investigate the demand for places and funding issues for redevelopment. With the primary population still rising, there is a need to retain the primary element of Brent Knoll.
- 3.5 There is still a need to rebuild Brent Knoll as part of the BSF Programme, as planned from the outset. It should be noted that the existing building does not meet current standards by a significant margin. Previous feasibility studies for the redevelopment of Brent Knoll indicated that redeveloping the school on the existing site would not provide good value for money, nor meet current guidelines. This is because the building is in poor structural condition, does not meet the required functional standards, and presents poor energy conservation characteristics.
- 3.6 A new feasibility study was commissioned by the BSF Programme Team in early 2011 to examine better value options for rebuilding the school on a new site. This was completed with a feasible and viable option identified which utilises the old Greenvale School site, located within ½ km (approximately) of the existing school.
- 3.7 Use of the old Greenvale site as the new permanent home for Brent Knoll will result in the site no longer being available as a potential capital receipt on disposal. Following a recommendation in the report of 5 October 2011 *Proposed Bids to the Priority School Building Programme*, included in appendix 6, the Mayor agreed to a bid to the DfE for the establishment of 2 FE primary provision on the site of Brent Knoll if it becomes available due to the re-siting of Brent Knoll. The local authority (LA) is still awaiting the outcome of the resulting bid.
- 3.8 A report was submitted to Mayor and Cabinet on 13 July 2011 seeking approval to begin consultation on the proposal to rebuild Brent Knoll School as part of the BSF Programme. A copy of this report can be found in appendix 1. Approval was given and consultation began on 4 January 2012.
- 3.9 In the 13 July 2011 report, it was stated that the consultation period would be followed by the publication of a statutory notice and a representation period (Appendix 1: Paragraph 6.2). However, following subsequent legal advice, it has been determined that there is not a statutory requirement to publish a public notice or undertake a representation period in relation to the proposed relocation of Brent Knoll School as the proposed new site for the school is located within two miles of the existing site. In view of the positive outcome of the consultation, during which no responses were received against the proposal, it is anticipated that this will not prove problematic.

- 3.10 Progress by the BSF Team on the redevelopment of the school will recommence once the consultation has been completed following the Mayor's approval to proceed. Significant progress on the design was made in 2011 when, in consultation with the school, LEP, LA and other stakeholders, an 'Education Vision into Design' brief and 'Project Definition' document were developed and agreed. These documents were subsequently used to brief a concept architect who prepared options for stakeholder consideration. The options were refined in response to the views of stakeholders and a proposed concept design was established. Testing the commercial viability of the proposed concept design on the construction market, it was determined that the project could be delivered within budget and to the required standard. The Stage 0 report to PfS for the outline scheme was approved on 7 December 2011. No work beyond this stage has been undertaken as the Mayor's decision on the consultation is awaited. However, the concept proposals are still valid and will be used to form the basis of a robust detailed design proposal to move the project through Stage 1/2, the development of the Financial Business Case and into construction.

Development of Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust

- 3.11 On 15 December 2011, the governing bodies of Brent Knoll School and Watergate School agreed formally to a change of status to become foundation schools and to proceed together to form a co-operative trust. This followed a consultation period which ran from 9 November to 9 December 2011 and resulted in an 80 per cent approval for the proposal. A statutory notice was subsequently published on 13 January in order to give notice of the change to a foundation category of school and adopt trust status. No representations were received in response to the statutory notice. Following the end of the statutory notice period the governing bodies met on 6 March 2012 to approve the change to a foundation school with a trust and to agree the composition of their governing body.
- 3.12 The implementation date for the trust is 2 April 2012. The name of the foundation will be Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust. The proposed partners of the trust are Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust, Wide Horizons Trust, Greenwich University, Lewisham Local Authority and the Co-operative Movement.
- 3.13 In terms of the resulting implications in relation to land transfer, any transfer of land required for Watergate School should take place as soon as possible. However, if the proposal to rebuild Brent Knoll on the old Greenvale site goes ahead, the school will move to the new school being provided on that site. It is therefore proposed to defer the legal transfer of the existing Brent Knoll site to the trustees, with a view to the Council then only needing to complete the legal transfer of the new site to the trustees should the proposals for the new school go ahead.

- 3.14 As stated in the legal implications, there are no implications for the school if the formal legal transfer of the existing Brent Knoll site does not take place as it is treated for all purposes as being the owner of the site following the implementation date. Upon moving to the new site, the school will give the existing site back to the Council and relinquish any interest it may have in the existing site, but without having to formally transfer it back to the Council. This will simplify the arrangements and save legal costs, as well as avoiding the need for the school to have to legally transfer the existing site back to the Council. Any delay in undertaking this at that time could also interfere with the Council's proposals for the existing site. The school has indicated that they are agreeable to proceeding on this basis.

4. Policy context

- 4.1 The proposal within this report is consistent with 'Shaping Our Future: Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy' and the Council's corporate priorities. In particular, it is related to the Council's priorities regarding young people's achievement and involvement, the protection of children and inspiring efficiency, effectiveness and equity.
- 4.2 Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan sets out our vision for improving outcomes for all children. It articulates the need to improve outcomes for children with SEN and disabilities by ensuring that their needs are met.
- 4.3 The LA has a duty under the Education Act 1996 to secure a sufficient number of school places to meet the needs of the local child population. In particular, it requires the LA to have regard to the need to ensure that special educational provision is made for pupils with SEN. Section 315 requires LAs to keep their arrangements for SEN provision under review.
- 4.4 The Government's SEN Green Paper contains many important elements for the LA to respond to over the coming months and years. Of particular relevance to this proposal is the focus on ensuring that there is a range of good quality educational settings available locally to meet the needs of all children with SEN.

5. The proposal

- 5.1 The proposal is to locate the school on the old Greenvale School site close to the existing Brent Knoll school site. The close proximity of the proposed new site to the existing site is of particular benefit in terms of the re-location process and the school's permanent position. It is proposed that the newly built school will offer 154 places for children aged 4-16 years with SEN.
- 5.2 According to the proposed timescale, the newly built school will be ready for its first intake by September 2014. This is based on a 54 week construction period using a 'volumetric' type construction. This is

considered the most appropriate design solution for the school, offering the greatest value in terms of quality, cost, time and space within the tight budgetary constraints governing the project.

- 5.3 The new building will offer almost twice the space per pupil as the existing school accompanied by enhanced external areas in terms of space and quality. The building will be attractive, robust and high quality, equivalent in terms of standards to the other schools developed as part of the BSF Programme. The proposal will deliver greatly improved and updated provision to support the ongoing educational and social needs of pupils.

6. The consultation

- 6.1.1 The consultation took place from 4 January to 2 February 2012. This is later than the original target of Autumn 2011 due to the need to confirm affordability before beginning consultation. This was confirmed in time for the consultation to begin in January 2012, with feasibility work to date indicating that the project can be delivered within the capital resources allocated as part of the BSF funding envelope.
- 6.1.2 A **consultation leaflet** describing the proposal and including a feedback form for completion was provided to all relevant stakeholders by post, email and online on the Lewisham Council website and Brent Knoll School website. Stakeholders included parents, school staff and governors, other Lewisham schools, LA and health professionals, unions, local MPs and Councillors, voluntary and community organisations, neighbouring local authorities and the Archbishop of Southwark. A copy of the leaflet can be found in appendix 2.
- 6.1.3 Of the 52 returned feedback forms, 48 were in agreement with the proposal, 3 were unsure and 1 circled both that they were in agreement with the proposal and unsure. One letter was also received in response to the consultation leaflet.
- 6.1.4 Officers ran **consultation events** with the school governing body on 17 January 2012, the school staff on 14 October 2011 and 4 January 2012 and parents/ members of the public on 10 January 2012. Consultation was undertaken with pupils during lessons dedicated for this purpose throughout the consultation period.
- 6.1.5 The responses were positive at all events held. The responses to the consultation are summarised below, according to each stakeholder group:

Brent Knoll school governors

- 6.2.1 Two school governors returned **feedback forms**, both of whom agreed with the proposals.

- 6.2.2 Officers attended a **governor's meeting** on 17 January 2012 to present the proposal and invite questions. Governors confirmed that the proposal had their full support. Specific comments and queries raised are included in sections 6.7.1-6.7.3

Brent Knoll school staff

- 6.3.1 Brent Knoll staff accounted for 32 of the respondents who returned **feedback forms**. Of these, all but one were in favour of the proposals and one was unsure.
- 6.3.2 The staff **events** included a presentation by officers and a question and answer session. The responses were very positive overall with no objections received. Staff liked the proposed extra space and facilities as well as the proximity to the current site. One member of staff queried the absence of car parking on site. Comments and queries raised and responses to these are included in sections 6.7.1-6.7.3.

Parents of pupils at Brent Knoll

- 6.4.1 Thirteen parents with children attending Brent Knoll School returned **feedback forms**, ten of whom were in favour of the proposals, two were unsure and one said that they were both in favour and unsure.
- 6.4.2 Two parents attended the **drop in session** on 10 January 2012 and were both very positive about the proposal. One was a parent of a current pupil at the school and another of a pupil previously at the school.

Brent Knoll pupils

- 6.5.1 All pupils were consulted. Materials facilitating access to all learners were created and different strategies implemented to engage those of all ages and levels of ability. These included:
- Display boards with photographic images of different areas of schools to stimulate choice making (i.e. Yes/no - like/dislike);
 - Discussion, further research and recording ideas about specific requirements during lessons;
 - The Pupil Forum (School Council) met and collectively completed a questionnaire on behalf of the pupils.
- 6.5.2 All pupils confirmed that they would like a new school building. Their responses about what facilities they would like to be available on the new site are included in section 6.7.2 and in appendix 4.
- 6.5.3 One pupil, from the Student Council, returned a **feedback form** and confirmed that they agreed with the proposal.

Other responses received

- 6.6.1 Three other feedback forms were received, one from the **Headteacher of a local special school** and **two anonymously**. All three were in favour of the proposal.
- 6.6.2 The **Archbishop of Southwark** wrote to confirm that they had no plans to raise concerns or objections to the proposal.

Detailed responses

- 6.7.1 The following were given as reasons for agreeing to the proposals (in order of most common first):
- There will be an opportunity for new services and facilities (12 staff, 5 parents)
 - The current school is too small (13 staff, 4 parents)
 - The current school is unsuitable to meet the needs of the current cohort of pupils (11 staff, 1 parent, 1 governor)
 - The current school is out of date (7 staff, 3 parents, 1 governor)
 - There will be an opportunity to reconsider and improve the learning environment (7 staff, 1 parent, 1 other)
 - The current playground and outside space is too limited (8 staff, 1 parent, 1 governor)
 - The current building is unsafe – or there are issues with the general fabric of the building (6 staff, 1 parent)
 - The school is overcrowded at present (3 staff, 3 parents)
 - There will be opportunities to improve the outreach service (2 parents)
 - There may be opportunities for 16-19 provision (2 parents)
 - Local community links that have been forged already are still viable at the old Greenvale site (1 governor)
 - There will be no need for a decant (1 governor)

Full responses are provided in appendix 3.

- 6.7.2 The following **facilities and services** were suggested during the consultation. Note that these are the most common responses. All responses are provided in appendix 3 and 4.
- Better outdoor spaces - suggestions included: sensory garden, climbing frames, safe flooring, play and quiet areas, sports areas, shaded areas and gazebos (25: 1 governor, 20 staff, 4 parents). Pupils also requested improved outdoor areas.
 - Break out spaces/ quiet spaces for learning (14: staff). Pupils asked for quiet corners in all rooms.
 - Sensory room (12: 1 governor, 10 staff, 1 parent). Pupils also requested this.

- Better ICT facilities (11: 1 governor, 6 staff, 4 parents). Pupils also requested this.
- Library (11: 1 governor, 8 staff, 2 parents). Pupils suggested separate book sections and a library with lots of books.
- A sports hall and good spaces and equipment for Physical Education (9: 5 staff, 4 parents). Pupils also requested this.
- 16-19 provision (9: 1 governor, 8 parents)
- Separate outdoor space for primary and secondary pupils (9 – staff). Pupils also requested this.
- Therapy rooms/services (7: 2 governors, 3 staff, 2 parents)
- Calm rooms (7: 5 staff, 2 parents).
- Good quality teaching spaces (6: 1 governor, 3 staff, 2 parents). Pupils suggested different sized classrooms, comfy areas in classroom or group room, primary pupils asked for carpet areas in classrooms.
- More toilets (5: 4 staff, 1 parent). Pupils asked for: girls and boys sharing toilets (unisex), open toilets (no doors) off corridors or class rooms with private cubicles.
- After school clubs, summer school, etc with transport (5: 2 governors, 3 parents).
- Vocational learning (5: 1 governor, 1 staff, 1 parent)
- Place of worship for all religions (pupils)
- Teacher preparation areas (4: staff)
- Extra staff toilets and shower facilities (4: staff)
- Good security (4: 1 governor, 2 staff, 1 parent). Pupils also asked for CCTV.
- Good storage (4: staff). Pupils also asked for this and secondary aged pupils asked for their own lockers.
- Cooking facilities for primary age pupils (4 – staff). Primary pupils also asked for this.
- Soft play space (4: 3 staff, 1 parent).

6.7.3 The following **queries and concerns** were raised (in italics). Responses are below (in plain type):

6.7.3.1 *Will appropriate measures be taken to ensure safety in the school and containing children who abscond, i.e. ensuring there are no opportunities for climbing trees around the perimeter?* (staff)

The school design will be developed to not only mitigate opportunities for absconding but eliminate them completely. Wherever possible this will be provided using “passive” solutions such as secure fencing, good external lighting, visual supervision of potential access/egress points etc, but also include active security solutions such as CCTV and zoned and dedicated door security systems.

6.7.3.2 *Will there be a 3D model available later in the process to help the pupils learn more about their new environment and to aid transition? (staff)*

If desired, Computer Generated Images (CGI) can be prepared providing 3D visualization of all parts of the building, both internally and externally. It should be noted that this is not a standard provision and would attract some additional costs. However, 2D visuals will be made available for this purpose. Officers will run workshops with pupils on the landscape design.

6.7.3.3 *Will there be a transport plan, i.e. information on how pupils travel in and get dropped off and picked up, access to public transport and parking for staff? (staff)*

The LA will work with the school to put a transport plan in place in preparation for the opening of the new school site. The plans for the new school include a vehicle drop-off point which is off-road and in a secure environment. Staff parking is not planned on site in order to maximise space available for the school, but there is parking nearby.

6.7.3.4 *The outreach package needs to be considered carefully (staff)*

The school offers a range of outreach services to support pupils with SEN in mainstream schools in the borough. The proposal to rebuild the school and the development of a co-operative trust between Brent Knoll and Watergate will enable these services to be built upon. The relocation of the school will not impact adversely on these developments. The package of support offered will be carefully considered by the school's senior leadership team in order to meet a wide range of needs.

6.7.3.5 *Will pupils, parents and staff be involved in the design and planning process? (staff and parents)*

The LA will take into consideration the comments and suggestions received by all stakeholders during the consultation period and in the ongoing development of the design, which will include further workshops with staff, governors, pupils and parents.

6.7.3.6 *Are we sure that no places will be lost by moving to a new site? (parent)*

The proposal outlines that the new school will be built to meet the needs of 154 pupils. The site will be specifically designed for this number of pupils unlike the current school site, which was built for less. Therefore, no places will be lost because of the proposed relocation and rebuild.

6.7.3.7 *Will post 16 provision be available on site, has it been agreed and can we have more information about it? (governors and parents)*

The LA are alert to the need for additional post 16 provision in Lewisham for young people with SEN and are working with partners to develop a

borough-wide strategy in response to this need. The original proposal for the redevelopment of Brent Knoll included the introduction of a number of post 16 places (as set out in the Mayor and Cabinet report, *Strengthening Specialist Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs*, 10 January 2007). However, the demand for specialist sixth form provision across Lewisham has increased considerably since this time, prompting a borough-wide review of supply and demand. A number of options are being considered currently which may have an impact on the decision for Brent Knoll. Other considerations in relation to this decision include the impact on the capital budget for the project, which is already constrained, and the impact on the available space on the site now and in future. Officers will report back to the Mayor later this year regarding proposals to meet the demand for specialist post 16 provision in the borough. In the meantime, the proposal aims to provide accommodation for older pupils which could be used flexibly should there be a future decision to include post 16 places at Brent Knoll.

6.7.3.8 *More clarity is needed on the designation of the school, i.e. what specific area of SEN will it be able to meet? (other local special school)*

The school will be designed to meet the needs of current and future pupils, with flexibility incorporated into the brief and design approach. Currently the majority of pupils have social and communication difficulties, with over 70 per cent diagnosed as having Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) although this may change as a result of the opening of the new ASD School, Drumbeat. There are no plans to change the current designation of mixed needs at the school, although it is anticipated that the school will be required to meet increasingly more complex needs in future due to a growing level of need across the borough for pupils with SEN.

6.7.3.9 *Does the local authority have a clear vision and strategic agreement for the development of all SEN provision in the borough? (other local special school)*

Lewisham's Children and Young People's Plan sets out our vision for improving outcomes for all children. It articulates the need to improve outcomes for children with SEN and disabilities by ensuring that their needs are met. The proposal in this report forms part of the LA's strategy for improving educational provision for all children and young people with SEN in the borough. This strategy was originally set out in the Mayor and Cabinet report of 3 October 2007, *Strengthening Specialist Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs*. The objectives of the Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme (SSP), which was developed in response to the outcome of this report, are as follows:

- To ensure that as many children with SEN as possible can learn in their local community;
- To develop a continuum of educational provision;
- To improve partnerships with parents;

- To achieve maximum value from the investment;
- To ensure the safety of our most vulnerable groups.

The SSP programme identified a range of proposals aimed at improving the educational experience of pupils with SEN, one of which was to redevelop Brent Knoll School. A CYP Select Committee monitoring report on the programme (*Strengthening Specialist Provision*, 22 March 2011) noted that the strategy is resulting in positive outcomes for children with SEN, including an enhanced range of specialist provision available locally and strengthened support, in particular, for children and young people with ASD. The Government's SEN Green Paper contains many important elements for the LA to respond to over the coming months and years. Of particular relevance to this proposal is the focus on ensuring that there is a range of good quality educational settings available locally to meet the needs of all children with SEN. Lewisham is one of the Local Authority Pathfinders for the SEN Green Paper. The SSP programme and strategy will be reviewed and developed in response to the SEN Green Paper and the outcome of the Pathfinder.

6.7.3.10 *Why isn't the existing site being redeveloped, rather than moving to an alternative site and what will happen to the current Brent Knoll site if the school moves? (staff and parent)*

The existing buildings and facilities are overcrowded and outdated. Much has been done to maintain the existing site but it is clear that it cannot be adapted or modified to meet the ongoing requirements of the school. The new building will offer almost twice the space per pupil as the existing school accompanied by enhanced external areas in terms of space and quality. The proposal will deliver greatly improved and updated buildings and facilities to support the educational and social needs of pupils.

In addition, it is important that the budget available for Brent Knoll School rebuild is spent on delivering a 21st Century school environment and not used to maintain an existing facility that is already demonstrably well past its serviceable life. The existing school facilities are attracting increasing maintenance costs as fabric and building services fail and require replacement. If the school were to be redeveloped on the current site, much of the budget would be spent on costs associated with decanting pupils whilst the building works took place.

With regards to the use of the current site, following a recommendation report of 5 October 2011, *Proposed Bids to the Priority School Building Programme*, the Mayor agreed to a bid to the DfE for the establishment of 2 FE primary provision on the Brent Knoll site if it becomes available due to the resiting of the school. However, the LA is still awaiting the outcome of the resulting bid.

6.7.3.11 *Will there be improved teaching and goal setting in the new school?*
(parent)

The school will continue to provide quality education as it does currently. Brent Knoll is a highly successful school, described recently by Ofsted as 'good with outstanding features' (2011). Teaching and goal setting within the school are the responsibility of the school's senior leadership team, with support from the LA, but the greatly improved buildings and facilities on the new site will assist significantly in supporting the ongoing educational and social needs of pupils.

6.7.3.12 *What specialist areas will be provided?* (staff)

Specialist areas will be provided for music, art/ design, drama, science and food technology, as well as therapy services, including sensory and speech therapy rooms. The ICT provision will incorporate the very latest technology available on the market when the school opens, supporting the specialist learning needs of individual pupils. Training rooms will be provided to support the expansion of the school's outreach services, offering increased training opportunities for parents/ carers, school staff and other professionals across the borough.

6.7.3.13 *Will there be enough external play space?* (staff)

The plans detail sufficient attractive outside spaces tailored for the particular needs and number of pupils attending the school. They will also be used for curriculum delivery as well as recreation, including a purpose built multi-use games area and a sensory garden. The exterior will have a variety of spaces with play equipment appropriate for different age groups. Officers will involve the staff and pupils in developing the final design.

6.7.3.14 *Is the proposal affordable, is it definitely going to happen and when?*
(staff)

The project budget has been constrained by a reduction in funding imposed in early 2011. This reduction required a review of how the school could be procured within the funding allocation whilst still ensuring that the spatial and functional needs of the school were met with a good quality standard. The "volumetric building" solution to be adopted is considered to meet all these criteria and, provided there are no unexpected changes in construction price inflation, the outline scheme proposed to PfS at Stage 0 (approved 7 December 2011) is considered affordable. It is hoped that the new developed school will be ready for its first intake by September 2014.

Summary

6.8 In summary, the consultation was extremely positive with no responses received against the proposal. If the Mayor's approval is given for the

rebuild of Brent Knoll school on the old Greenvale site, officers will continue to work closely with the school community to ensure that their views are taken into account during further planning work and to ensure that queries and concerns are addressed in a timely and appropriate fashion.

7. Risks

- 7.1 This report would not be complete without highlighting the main risks associated with the decision sought. The main risks identified are as follows:
 - 7.1.1 That the project timetable is not met due to unforeseen circumstances or insufficient progress made in any of the processes through which a project of this nature must pass;
 - 7.1.2 That the Local Education Partnership (LEP) is not able to produce a proposal that delivers to the unit costs that have been achieved in the Primary Places programme;
 - 7.1.3 That the cost of the project escalates, thereby impacting upon the overall programme affordability;
 - 7.1.4 That the necessary planning consent is not achieved.
- 7.2 Though the risks outlined above can not be completely eradicated, as in all projects, officers will take all necessary steps to minimise risks, monitoring them regularly at Project Board meetings, and responding to any arising issues in a timely and appropriate fashion.

8. Financial implications

Capital implications

- 8.1 The former Greenvale School site was earmarked for disposal as part of the funding arrangements for the construction of the new Greenvale school as part of the Group Schools PFI project. However, use of the old Greenvale site as the new permanent home for Brent Knoll will result in the site no longer being available as a potential capital receipt on disposal. Following a recommendation in the report of 5 October 2011, *Proposed Bids to the Priority School Building Programme*, included in appendix 6, the Mayor agreed to a bid to the DfE for the establishment of 2 FE primary provision on the site of Brent Knoll if it becomes available due to the resiting of Brent Knoll. The LA is still awaiting the outcome of the resulting bid.
- 8.2 The feasibility works to date indicate that a project can be delivered within the capital resources allocated as part of the BSF project funding envelope. However this is subject to the LEP being able to deliver a

proposal that matches the construction costs per m2 that has been achieved on the primary places programme.

- 8.3 If the Brent Knoll site is to be retained for future educational use alternative funding will need to be identified to make up the shortfall to the Group Schools PFI project.

Revenue implications

- 8.4 The costs of running Brent Knoll School, as rebuilt, with additional numbers will be funded from the relevant share of the Dedicated Schools Grant. There will be no additional burden on the general fund resources of the Council.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 The Human Rights Act 1998 safeguards the rights of children in the borough to educational provision which the local authority is empowered to provide in compliance with its duties under domestic legislation.
- 9.2 Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local authorities to ensure that there are sufficient schools to provide primary and secondary school education, and requires them, in particular, to have regard to the need to ensure that special educational provision is made for pupils with special educational needs. Section 315 of the Education Act 1996 requires local authorities to keep their arrangements for special educational needs provision under review.
- 9.3 Section 9 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local authorities and funding authorities to have regard to the general principle that children are educated in accordance with their parents/ carers' wishes, so far as that is compatible with the provision of efficient education and training, and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure.
- 9.4 The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to consider and respond to parental representations when carrying out their planning duty to make sure that there is sufficient primary and secondary provision and suitable SEN provision in their area.
- 9.5 Departmental guidance requires that when proposals are developed for reorganising or altering special educational needs provision, local authorities and/or other proposers will need to show how they will improve standards, quality, and/or range of educational provision for children with special educational needs.
- 9.6 Current legislative provision for the establishment, discontinuance, or alteration of schools is contained in sections 7, 15 and 18 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The proposals contained in this report are not prescribed alterations for the purposes of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)

(England) Regulations 2007 as the proposed relocation is within 2 miles and there is no requirement to publish a statutory Notice.

- 9.7 The implementation date for the establishment of the trust is 2 April 2012. In accordance with Regulation 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England)Regulations 2007, the existing school sites must transfer to and by virtue of Regulation 2 vest in the trustees of the school on the implementation date.
- 9.8 Regulation 8 provides that where land has not been legally transferred to the trustees as at the implementation date, Regulation 2 is to apply to the school as if the land had been so transferred by that time (i.e. even if the formal legal transfer of the sites by the Council has not taken place). This means that there are no implications for the school if the formal legal transfer of the sites does not take place as it is treated for all relevant purposes as being the owner of the sites following the implementation date.
- 9.9 This report authorises officers to proceed to complete the legal transfer of the existing Watergate School site to the trustees as soon as possible following the implementation date. However, if the proposals for the rebuilding of Brent Knoll go ahead, the school will move to the new school being provided on the old Greenvale site. Under paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Council is required to provide any new site for a foundation special school which is to be provided instead of the school's existing site and to transfer its interest in the site to the trustees. In order to make this process simpler and to save legal costs, it is therefore proposed to defer the legal transfer of the existing Brent Knoll site to the trustees with a view to the Council then only needing to complete the legal transfer of the new site to the trustees should the proposals for the new school go ahead. As stated at para 9.8 above, there are no implications for the school if the formal legal transfer of the sites does not take place as it is treated for all purposes as being the owner of the site following the implementation date. Upon moving to the new site, the school will give the existing site back to the Council and relinquish any interest it may have in the existing site, but without having to formally transfer it back to the Council.
- 9.10 In accordance with paragraph 12 of Schedule 3 of the 1998 Act, Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 (requirement to obtain Secretary of State's consent to a disposal of land at less than best consideration) does not apply in the case of a disposal of land for the purposes of a foundation special school. A transfer under the 2007 Regulations does not constitute a disposal for the purposes of Section 77 of the 1998 Act (protection of playing field land). The Council does not therefore require either of these consents to proceed with any transfer to the trustees.

10. Crime and disorder

10.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

11. Equalities

11.1 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) brings together all previous equality legislation in England, Scotland and Wales. The Act includes a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty), replacing the separate duties relating to race, disability and gender equality. The duty came into force on 6 April 2011. The new duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

11.2 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

11.3 As was the case for the original separate duties, the new duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

11.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission issued guides in January 2011 providing an overview of the new equality duty, including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. The guides cover what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guides were based on the then draft specific duties so are no longer fully up-to-date, although regard may still be had to them until the revised guides are produced. The guides do not have legal standing unlike the statutory Code of Practice on the public sector equality duty, However, that Code is not due to be published until April 2012. The guides can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-duties/new-public-sector-equality-duty-guidance/>

11.5 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for the SSP programme. Officers are currently in the process of updating the assessment in line with the Equalities Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equalities Duty dated April 2011. This will be completed by the end of April 2012.

- 11.6 In common with all aspects of education in Lewisham, close equalities monitoring is undertaken in relation to children with SEN. As the proposal is developed following consultation, the impact on equalities will be actively considered, and highlighted issues responded to.
- 11.7 The proposal in this report supports the achievement of the LA's goals as set out in its Access Plan. It will assist significantly in the improved access to the curriculum for children with disabilities.

12. Environmental implications

- 12.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report, although consideration will be given to the environmental impact of the building works if the proposal goes ahead. The energy conservation performance of the school will be at least as good as other new build schools in the LBL BSF Programme. The design and specification of the rebuild will be sympathetic to environmental issues and contractors will be expected to give a statement on their environmental policy to which they must adhere.

13. Originator

- 13.1 Charly Williams, Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme Manager, 3rd Floor, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, SE6 4RU. Tel: 0208 314 7014. Email: charly.williams@lewisham.gov.uk.

14. Background papers & Appendices

Appendix 1: Mayor and Cabinet report, 13 July 2011 - *Brent Knoll Special School BSF Rebuild – Permission to Consult*.

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=2016>

Appendix 2: Consultation leaflet

Appendix 3: Summary of written responses

Appendix 4: Summary of pupils responses

Appendix 5: Mayor and Cabinet report, 5 October 2011 - *Proposed Bids to the Priority School Building Programme*

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=2062>



Tell us your views

Consultation on the proposal to relocate and rebuild Brent Knoll Special School

Lewisham Council proposes to relocate and rebuild Brent Knoll Special School in order to improve the facilities and opportunities that the school can offer. This is part of a wider programme of improvements in educational provision for all children and young people with special educational needs in the borough of Lewisham.

It is important to us to hear your views on this proposal. There is a form at the back of this leaflet for you to fill in and return. We will also be holding a drop-in session for parents/ carers and other interested parties to discuss the proposal and find out more. This will take place on:

Tuesday January 10th, 3.30pm – 6.30pm at Brent Knoll School, Mayow Road, SE23 2XH

Alternatively, you can email or write to us directly (contact details on feedback form attached). Your feedback will help us to shape developments at Brent Knoll School.

What is the proposal?

The proposal is to relocate and rebuild Brent Knoll School on the old Greenvale School site. This is located close to the existing site at 69 Perry Rise, London, SE23 2QU.

The newly built school will provide a modern and innovative learning environment for 154 children aged 4-16 years with special educational needs. We will aim to provide accommodation for older pupils which could be used flexibly should there be a future decision to include post-16 places at Brent Knoll. This decision would form part of the local authority's wider strategy for post-16 provision across Lewisham for older learners with learning difficulties and disabilities. It is hoped that the redeveloped school will be ready for its first intake by September 2014.

Why are we proposing this?

The main benefits of relocating and rebuilding the school are as follows:

- Brent Knoll is a highly successful school, described recently by Ofsted as 'good with outstanding features' (2011). However, the existing buildings and facilities are overcrowded and outdated. Much has been done to maintain the existing site but it is clear that it cannot be adapted or modified to meet the ongoing requirements of the school. The new building will offer almost twice the space per pupil as the existing school accompanied by enhanced external areas in terms of space and quality. The proposal will deliver greatly improved and updated buildings and facilities to support the educational and social needs of pupils.

- A more spacious site and better accommodation will allow the school to develop its existing Outreach Service, supporting a greater number of pupils with special educational needs at mainstream schools in the borough, as well as parents/ carers, school staff and other professionals across Lewisham.

What would the rebuilt school offer?

Design

The design for the school rebuild will be developed in consultation with school staff and governors in order to ensure that it meets the school's existing and future requirements through flexibility in the briefing and design approach.

The newly built school will offer a safe, spacious and attractive environment in which pupils will feel valued and inspired to learn. The buildings will be light and airy with good circulation and attractive outside spaces used for curriculum delivery as well as recreation, including a purpose built multi-use games area and a sensory garden. The construction materials used will be high quality and environmentally sensitive. The security of the site will be tailored for the specific daily needs of pupils from the time they arrive at the school to the time they leave.

Specialist areas will be provided for music, art/ design, drama and food technology, as well as therapy services, including sensory and speech therapy rooms. The ICT provision will incorporate the very latest technology available on the market when the school opens, supporting the specialist learning needs of individual pupils. Training rooms will be provided to support the expansion of the school's Outreach Service, offering increased training opportunities for parents/ carers, school staff and other professionals across the borough.

Curriculum

Currently the school's curriculum is based on a mainstream model but differentiated to meet the individual needs of all pupils. The school offers a wide range of strategies to support pupils' educational and personal development needs. The school's existing approach will be built upon and developed on the newly built site. Increasingly the school will be required to meet the needs of pupils with more complex difficulties. As such, the teaching areas provided in the redeveloped school will be flexible and multifunctional in order to meet changing curriculum demands.

The rooms and facilities provided for older pupils will assist with the delivery of a curriculum focussed on developing functional and life skills, including a range of vocational options. The focus will be on supporting pupils to make a successful transition to adult life including developing independence and social skills.

Extended services

The school will be outward looking, providing a valuable community resource. There will be a wide range of extended services available on the site, including:

- A breakfast club
- After school curriculum and enrichment activities
- An expanded Outreach and Training Service providing advice, support and guidance on special educational needs to mainstream schools across Lewisham.

Proposed timescale

4th January – 2nd February 2012: Consultation with parents/ carers, staff, governors and other interested parties.

10th January 2012, 3.30 – 6.30pm, Brent Knoll School, Mayow Road, SE23 2XH: Drop-in session for parents/ carers and other interested parties to share their views on the proposal and find out more. Everyone welcome!

March 2012: Based on the outcome of the consultation, the Mayor will decide whether to issue a public notice informing the public of the proposed change and marking the start of a six week 'representation period' during which anyone can comment on or raise concerns about the proposal.

March – May 2012: Six week representation period (as above)

June 2012: Following the outcome of the representation period, the Mayor will make the final decision about whether to proceed with the proposal.

Approximately February/ March 2013: Building works will begin on the new site.

September 2014: It is hoped that the newly built school will be ready for occupation by September 2014.

If you have difficulty understanding this document in English please call the number below.

Për të marrë informacion mbi këtë dokument, ju lutemi telefononi numrin e mëposhtëm.

Albanian

Pour plus d'informations sur ce document, veuillez appeler le numéro ci-dessous.

French

更多有关本文件的信息，请拨打如下电话。

Mandarin

Sidii aad u hesho macluumaad ku saabsan dokumentigaan fadlan soo wac lambarka hoos ku qoran.

Somali

இப் பத்திரத்திலுள்ள தகவல் தேவையானால் தயவுசெய்து கீழேயுள்ள எண்ணில் தொடர்புகொள்ளவும்.

Tamil

Bu doküman hakkında bilgi için lütfen aşağıdaki numarayı arayınız.

Turkish

Để biết thêm thông tin về tài liệu này, quý vị hãy gọi số điện thoại sau.

Vietnamese

020 7253 7700

Also call this number for other formats, including Braille, large print, audio tape, BSL or computer disc.

Email: lewisham@pearllinguistics.com Typetalk: 18001 020 7253 7700

© Published 2010. Ref:

Produced on recycled paper using environmentally friendly print methods. For more information visit www.lewisham.gov.uk

Visit www.lewisham.gov.uk for all the latest news and information about your Council's services and job opportunities



Feedback form

Completed forms need to be returned by Thursday 2nd February 2012.

To return the form, please detach from the rest of the leaflet or return the leaflet in full. You can:

- Leave it in the box provided in Brent Knoll School reception area
- Email it to: charly.williams@lewisham.gov.uk
- Send it to: Charly Williams, Programme Manager, Strengthening Specialist Provision Programme, London Borough of Lewisham, 3rd Floor, Laurence House, Catford, London, SE6 4RU

Do you broadly agree with this proposal? Yes / No / Unsure (please circle)

Please state your reasons why:

What services and facilities would you like to be available at the rebuilt school?

Do you have any other comments about this proposal?

Please tell us about yourself overleaf....

Your details

How would you best describe yourself in relation to this consultation? *(please tick one)*

- Parent/ carer of a child at Brent Knoll School
- Parent/ carer of a child at another school *(please state which)*:.....
- Pupil Governor School staff Member of local community
- Other *(please specify)*:.....
- I am representing an organisation in making this response *(please specify)*:.....

Equalities monitoring is the collection of information which helps Lewisham Council ensure that they are providing a fair and inclusive service. We need to know who our customers are to check that everyone in the borough is accessing the services they are entitled to, and that nobody is discriminated against unlawfully.

Any information provided by you will be treated **confidentially** and in accordance with the Data Protection Act. All questions are voluntary and you do not have to answer them. However, by answering the questions you will help us to ensure that our services are fair and accessible to all.

How would you describe yourself?

Age	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 18
	<input type="checkbox"/> 18-65
	<input type="checkbox"/> Over 65
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/> White British background
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other White background
	<input type="checkbox"/> Black and minority ethnic background
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Disability Are you disabled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male
	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say

**Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.
We look forward to hearing your views.**

Appendix 3 - Summary of written responses

Agree		
1	<p>Reasons why I agree: It is important that the facilities and technology are up to date for the children to be given the best opportunities in the future. This is a long time coming to bring the school into the 21st century. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: vocational learning, possibly adult education in the evenings, 16-19 facilities, out of school services e.g. summer school, sensory room, library, therapy rooms. Other comments: I fully support the new build and the enthusiasm and passion shown by the staff for the transition to be a smooth and positive experience for the pupils.</p>	Governor
2	<p>Reasons why I agree: Current accommodation at Brent Knoll is not suited to the pupils needs and has become increasingly so, due to the changing nature of the cohort. This has been compounded by the addition of three temporary classrooms in already limited play areas. Moving to another site locally will allow relationships built up with the local community to be maintained. In addition, the fact that the school can relocate directly without the need for a decant is extremely beneficial for the young people as they struggle with change anyway.</p> <p>I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Good outdoor spaces suited to play and sensory needs, adequate circulation around the building, specialist teaching areas and therapy areas, secure site to ensure safety of young people, facilities to allow extended services to be provided, flexible and adaptable classrooms to ensure that they can be adapted to meet a wide range of needs, state of the art IT facilities which are as far as possible future proof.</p> <p>Other comments: I'm disappointed that the strategic decision around the possibility of post 16 provision has not been reached as I believe this could very effectively be implemented to coincide with the proposed Sept 2014 completion date.</p>	Governor/ member of staff
3	<p>Reasons why I agree: I do agree strongly with a new build for Brent Knoll School. The pupils will hugely benefit from a larger outside space with play facilities, also larger classrooms to accommodate pupils. A cooking room/kitchen for primary pupils due to the lack of facilities and unable to cook there is only a food tech room for secondary pupils. A flat for secondary pupils to be able to practice life skills such as decorating, changing beds and general housekeeping, extra storage for all classrooms, extra staff toilets. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Working projectors and white boards in all classrooms, a specialist sensory room for children to access, a staff shower room. Other comments: Brent Knoll is a fantastic school and can only benefit from a new build, the school can only strive and move forward with the help of a new school.</p>	Staff
4	<p>I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Mentoring room (10 people), meeting room, a room where nurse/doctor can see parents so we can still do first aid, separate shower/toilet room for anxious or escorted pupils, SALT room, counselling room (1 day per week), sensory room. Other comments: 3D mode for kids to look at nearer the time, worried about staff parking, worried the kids climbing the trees and escaping.</p>	Staff

5	Reasons why I agree: Current School building and site are not fit for purchase and although we endeavour to make the best of the situation, children are missing out. A new building represents the opportunity to incorporate as many essential features as the budget will allow. It gives us the impetus for reconsidering the impact of the environment upon children's experiences and learning. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: sensory sensitive environments – awareness of light, sound, texture, wider corridors, safe/secure site/buildings, range of flexible but easily defined (when needs be!) spaces, facilities to reflect/ promote good practice. Other comments: Issues around outside space needs to be carefully considered, currently we have very limited outside space and are very keen to have more attractive outside areas. Concern over transport/buses which I know will be considered. Currently some children have to wait at the end of the day up to 15/20 minutes for their buses to be able to enter our car park, which is not ideal.	Staff
6	Reasons why I agree: Staff parking? I like the idea of pupils progressing through school moving through areas. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: It would be advantageous to have a room set aside for mentoring – for our mentees to visit us and feel safe and secure. It would be decorated to help and instil calm, it needs to be large enough for group work (2 adults and 6-8 pupils), it needs to be the same room for the sake of being consistent. Other comments: I hope this site is actually big enough for what we need!	Staff
7	Reasons why I agree: I feel the current site is not suitable for the children or their needs. Resources need to be updated. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Calm room, better storage, library, safe working areas, art area, quiet rooms for children to go when they are not able to work in class, garden area (scented) for sitting in, garden area for planting seeds.	Staff
8	Reasons why I agree: New buildings are not the only priority – it is also what goes on in them in a fresh context. The current provision is insufficient for the number of pupils and the complex needs that we are currently trying to manage and teach within the current bounds for the school. A 'fresh start' with newer facilities should enable all colleagues to react positively and help create a better learning environment. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: quiet, small spaces/ areas for children to play in without the rambunctiousness of some of the current pupils who exclude (unintentionally) the less physical from their games, quiet, safe areas for self-elected withdrawal from lessons, decent staff preparation areas with a larger number of computers/printers to set up work, secure/safe staff relaxation area with NO access to pupils, safe, secure cycle provision for staff and pupils – we need a proper transport/travel plan!	Staff
9	Reasons why I agree: The building as it is is not fit for purpose and out of date. New technology is available which would improve the children's learning. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: spacious classrooms, quiet spaces, more of a divide between primary and secondary students.	Staff
10	Reasons why I agree: I cannot see any downside to the plans. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: sensory garden, separate	Staff

	play area/sports area (outdoors).	
11	Reasons why I agree: Overcrowding, decaying fabric, insufficient teaching space for individual subjects, unsafe at various points. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Quite 'pods' in each teaching room, science lab with proper chemical storage facilities and separate preparation area.	Staff
12	Reasons why I agree: Can't see any negative points in the plans. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: More 'quiet' rooms for students, fully equipped DT workshop.	Staff
13	Reasons why I agree: To improve the children's education, more space. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: bigger sports hall and bigger playground.	Staff
14	Reasons why I agree: Anything to improve the limitations of being in a very small school. More space, facilities, etc. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Safe rooms for children to have a 'refuge', discrete playgrounds for the secondary students – 1 x boisterous, 1 x quieter kids.	Staff
15	Reasons why I agree: It would be nice to have more space! I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Bigger space for play time and PE lessons, 'cam room' for students under distress, more toilets.	Staff
16	Reasons why I agree: Lack of space in current building is a major issue.	Staff
17	I would like the following services/facilities to be available: H2O Machine, more specialised help for pupils.	Staff
18	Reasons why I agree: Because the current school is too small and outdated, the playground is too small for the children to use as porta-classrooms now take up most of the space. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: More facilities aimed towards the children's needs, more visual learning, better f/t and d/t classrooms, better PE facilities, library. Other comments: The school should be aimed more to the child's needs rather than following the N.C.	Staff
19	Reasons why I agree: The current building is unsuitable for purpose. It has three portakabins seriously restricting play area. The building is in a state of disrepair. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Up to date technology facilities to encourage the pupils have a full opportunity to access the wider curriculum. A laser cutter for DT/ food, art & crafts curricular activities suitable playing areas, possibly a pool.	Staff
20	Reasons why I agree: Building at present is unfit for purpose/ size of the school. Playground space is too small due to temporary classrooms. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: State of the art facilities that are fit for purpose, enough space to play, a sports hall with 2 or 3 badminton courts (full size), wireless is essential but not a reliance on laptops – a hideaway desktop solution would be more useful and although more expensive, should save money on repairs to laptops.	Staff
21	Reasons why I agree: the school should relocate and rebuild so that we can look to the future. The current building is overcrowded and outdated and a modern innovative learning environment would help the school move forward. More space and better facilities would only help to improve the school. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Library, better ICT facilities, a referral area (for pupils who cannot settle in a lesson and are making teaching impossible).	Staff

22	Reasons why I agree: I like new builds. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Garden.	Staff
23	I would like the following services/facilities to be available: swimming pool, nice staff room.	Staff
24	Reasons why I agree: Current facilities too small. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Air-conditioned classrooms, library for children/quiet or study space.	Staff
25	Reasons why I agree: Present school dated and not fit for purpose. To have ownership of our new school and to feel involved in its development. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Good and varied outdoor space around the site, more cooking facilities, better sensory environment, high quality staff provision, staff room, toilets, preparation rooms, shared spaces – toilets, group rooms, break out rooms between 2 classes, internal communications system for safety and general improved communication, variable lighting across the school, good quality black out blinds, fabulous outdoor play facilities, good parking/ access for transport buses – real concerns over busy road. – safety issues. Other comments: Can't wait! We would welcome the opportunity for ourselves and the children to be involved on ongoing basis in this project, will there be a tree?	Staff (Turtles team)
26	Reasons why I agree: The current building housing Brent Knoll School is totally inadequate to meet the needs of the pupils. Classes are overcrowded, corridors dangerous at change of lesson because of the number of pupils moving along narrow corridors. Problems would arise evacuating the secondary department in an emergency. The fabric of the building is poor with cracks and loose plaster in classrooms. Not all curriculum areas have a dedicated space to teach in. This involves teachers carrying equipment from class to class and consequently losing teaching time. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Adequate outdoor space for play for both primary and secondary pupils, adequate working space for teachers to prepare lessons, IT that is reliable and sufficient to meet the needs of all pupils needing to use it, subject specific classrooms so teachers do not have to migrate around the school having heavy loads with them, a sensory room. Other comments: I appreciate that LB Lewisham wishes staff to use public transport rather than cars. For some staff travel by public transport is difficult. Will it be possible to negotiate some parking close by e.g, with Sainsburys?	Staff
27	Reasons why I agree: The current buildings and grounds do not met the needs of incoming children to the school and those already on site, the current building does not look up to date or inviting for children and visitors, there will be more space for extra facilities aimed specifically at the children's needs i.e. a sensory room, our current land without buildings on is increasingly reduced in size due to extra classrooms being required and moved in,, the play areas at present provide little stimulation to the children. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Primary cooking room, additional room space between two classes to share for calming down or quiet work, library area, more toilets/ one at reception for visitors, big sensory rooms in primary and secondary, sensory garden, music rooms primary/secondary, separate playground areas, climbing frames, quiet areas, shaded areas, walk on piano, secured corridors, own primary art room, doors – small with windows at the top.	Staff

	Other comments: It will be very beneficial to have a building more suited to it's purpose of teaching special needs.	
28	Reasons why I agree: The current school building for Brent Knoll is too small for the pupils and their needs. We desperately need more outside space and inside spaces separate from the classroom. Quiet rooms away from the classroom would be so beneficial, allowing pupils to concentrate better on their learning tasks. Areas inside and out are needed to allow pupils to calm down, regain composure and be read to rejoin their class. The current building is very dark, dingy and drab. Pupils struggle to thrive and remain enthusiastic when the learning environment is not exciting or motivating place to achieve. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: More toilets, primary cooking room, bigger/attractive playground, lots more storage space, sensory room, practical dining hall, sports hall, therapy room, calm rooms, 2 areas of playground separated, children's equipment in playground, teachers resource room, shower room, Library, lift for wheelchair users, a mock flat for secondary pupils to learn life skills in, common room for y10 and 11. Other comments: The new proposal can only be of benefit to the whole of the Brent Knoll team in particular the pupils. We would like the new building to be as energy efficient as possible to save money on bills and be able to spend more money on resources for pupils.	Staff
29	Reasons why I agree: 1) the current building is no longer fir for purpose, 2) the current building is too small to accommodate the number of pupils on roll, 3) the facilities in the current building do not match the needs of the current/prospective cohort. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Sufficient outdoor space with facilities for play/games and curriculum activities, ensure that ICT hardware/software reflect the needs of the pupils and their abilities (not too much emphasis on Microsoft Office), ICT hardware and peripherals support all curriculum areas (not only ICT), such as: CAD/CAM in DT, data logging in science, etc, accommodation for vocational/life skills curriculum.	Staff
30	Reasons why I agree: improved accommodation and facilities for pupils with SEN, improved opportunities for pupils to develop and achieve in all aspects of their life – academic, personal and life skills essential for pupils with SEN. Focus/emphasis on meeting pupils needs more specifically and sharing info between schools. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Therapy/training rooms, parent room, meeting room, soft play, sensory room, garden, teacher prep room, designated play areas, cage for all ball sports, climbing facilities, kitchen for class cooking, separate halls for dining and sports/assembly, library and quiet areas for small group work, staffroom, gardening area, medical room, safe space/calm room, mentors room, slopes and ramps, landscaped areas, toilets near classrooms/open plan cloakrooms near classrooms. Other comments: Natural and improved lighting, IWB and ICT facilities, bike shed, car parking for staff, security.	Staff
31	Reasons why I agree: The lighting in the classrooms and around the school are inappropriate for ASD children who are sensitive to sound, children who have problems toileting sometimes need to be made clean and comfortable, we need a washroom facility nearby the classrooms to reduce the possibility of contamination due to the distance we have to take	Staff

	<p>the children to clean them and when cleaning them in the toilet due to poor facilities, many ASD children have delayed development and need the facility of access to purpose built outdoor area. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: A wet room/changing area, teachers toilets close to classrooms, kitchen facilities for primary children, a purpose built outdoor area for foundation and Key stage 1 pupils, plenty of storage spaces where resources can be stored away to make the classroom as clutter free as possible and deter those children who throw missiles, breakout areas to recover after and during a crisis, enough chairs so that children don't have to keep moving chairs from one area to another in the classroom. Other comments: calmness is important for our children, so appropriate sound proofing is important for individual classrooms, soft play room, inviting rooms is important for face to face discussion with parents and outside agencies, the ability to be able to dim the lights would be supportive to some children in crisis.</p>	
32	<p>Reasons why I agree: We would like our suggestion and comments to be taken into account during the planning. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: For the EYFS and y1 pupils we would require: access to covered outside area that is self contained, a room directly accessible from the classroom for changing nappies, shower area and changing area – with cupboards for spare clothes, toilets that have an extractor fan and or ventilation, low sinks, age appropriate toilets and sinks, adult and pupil sinks in the classroom (size appropriate), appropriate ASD lighting, acoustics and décor, calm room direct access from classroom, sensory environment/soft play area, outdoor sensory area, fixed age appropriate climbing equipment, appropriate outdoor play surface, appropriate amount of storage for EYFS pupils, access to food technology, age appropriate chairs and tables, teacher resource area with computers for the whole school, In class: black out or plain curtains, meeting rooms, fencing, doors and grates appropriate to pupils who may potentially abscond or climb, dining and/or hall space appropriate to ASD pupils with accessible PE equipment. Other comments: Our team are very pleased to have a new building as our current building has a negative effect on our pupils learning and behaviour, the current outside area has good access from the class but very poor drainage which can limit use.</p>	Staff
33	<p>Reasons why I agree: Chance for a new food technology room with updated equipment, better IT facilities, better teaching resources for children. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: a library/learning spec for lunchtimes.</p>	Staff
34	<p>Reasons why I agree: Enhances ASD provision in Lewisham, improved facilities for a good school. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Sensory room adequate for needs, provision for EYFS. Other comments: Should carefully consider the outreach package that would be available.</p>	Staff
35	<p>Reasons why I agree: As laid down in the proposal, the new school will offer twice the space per pupil as the existing building, providing greatly improved and updated buildings and facilities which can only be of benefit to the pupils/students. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Sensory room, gymnasium, proper outdoor playing areas, up to date IT. Other comments: Only that I hope it is implemented.</p>	Parent

36	Reasons why I agree: I think this would be a great idea and have a positive effect and allow great opportunities for students. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Vocational opportunities and sixth form.	Parent
37	Reasons why I agree: As parents of a child just started at Brent Knoll we strongly agree with the proposal to rebuild Brent Knoll School. We can see the expertise this school offers but it is held back by the restraints of a basic and outdated building. To enable the school to thrive further and keep up it's standards the new building is a necessity. The rebuild of this school will both serve the children and community now, but will also be an investment in Lewisham's future for the provision of children and young people with additional needs. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: speech therapy facilities, welcoming outdoor area with sensory garden, a meeting room with nearby kitchen facilities for training, annual reviews, etc. Other comments: Welcome the idea of looking into the future needs of 16+ as well.	Parent
38	Reasons why I agree: The existing school is outdated and overcrowded. I would also like to see provision for 16-19 years. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Vocational training.	Parent
39	Reasons why I agree: Appropriate building and facilities for the children at Brent Knoll, my son was at mainstream before he transferred to Brent Knoll – having an improved outreach service would have helped him, staff and his family greatly, I would hope with more space that Brent Knoll would seriously consider providing a 16+ education for children/young adults with MLD. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: 16+ educational provision. Other comments: I would hope that in the planning and design of the school suitability for disabled children and adults would be included, also a design that is kind to those who are on the Autistic Spectrum.	Parent
40	Reasons why I agree: I think that it is a good idea if it means improving the facilities for all children and also the opportunities. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: More homework facilities, especially for my son who has special needs, more computers and more space available, more after school activities. Other comments: improved facilities and space available for more computers and books, also an after school club would be beneficial for my child.	Parent
41	Reasons why I agree: 1) the school needs more space, it can feel overcrowded, not so good with children especially with some of the children's special needs, 2) I think Brent Knoll could provide a good service to more children that are still in mainstream, may need to go to a specialised school such as Brent Knoll. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Bigger well lit and aerated classrooms, sporting facilities, a good music department, perhaps look at BTECs or easier qualifications for the 16+. Other comments: Excellent idea, I especially like the possibility of children remaining until they are 18.	Parent
42	Reasons why I agree: I support the plan to build a new school for Brent Knoll, but it must not lose places in the design phase. All children should be able to transfer and shouldn't change the daily routine that they currently receive now. To ensure the curriculum is still able to meet the needs of special needs children in the new school. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Good learning places with a chill out	Parent

	space provided, good outside space to encourage sports, place for parents to get involved, I would like after school services for the children, I think a growing space outside for the children to look after, a soft room and a library, all the types of classrooms that are offered in a new mainstream school but able to use for special needs children. Other comments: Do we have 100% that no places will be lost in building the new school? I support the new school being able to offer post 16 learning and would like to learn more about these plans.	
43	Reasons why I agree: Existing site cramped and dated. It will be fantastic for the pupils to have new facilities, to expand the outreach service will be a huge benefit to the children with SEN being taught within a mainstream environment. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Something that would benefit the community, parent workshops.	Parent
44	I would like the following services/facilities to be available: The design section has already stated what the specialist areas would be provided with. And it is really up to scratch in terms of the services and facilities – therapy services, ICT provision, Outreach Service, Music, Art/Design/Drama/Food Technology. Other comments: This proposal is really good, I would say so without reservation.	Parent
45	Reasons why I agree: The school needs more space. There are more children there than ever before in a smaller space because of portakabins. More chance for the school to develop and help more children with special needs. Gives a chance to have a sixth form. It will be great for future generations of children. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: 2 halls (separate dining area from PE), quiet spaces and separate playgrounds, outdoor classrooms like wooden gazebos, safe toilets - individual and mixed, new playground – especially games area with Astroturf or safe flooring, leisure facilities for us and the community, security with swipe cards, better ICT – tablets – use own devices, space for wet play times, dry and sheltered, common room, calm rooms.	Pupil (Student Council)
46	Reasons why I agree: More space, better learning environment, more play areas, modern equipment/building, safer environment.	Anonymous
47	Reasons why I agree: A more spacious site, a better accommodation, the design of the rebuild school will be very good compared to the old one as it were. It would offer a safe, spacious and attractive environment in which pupils will feel valued. All of this will support the educational and social needs of pupils.	Anonymous
48	Reasons why I agree: It is critical that children and young people with learning difficulties / disabilities have access to the highest possible quality learning environments, specifically designed to meet their special needs. An important factor of Lewisham's medium and long term plans to strengthen SEN provision has to be to secure appropriate, exciting and flexible buildings for our young people, schools that are able to adapt and change to meet future needs. I would, however, be most interested to understand the LA's view as to designation of pupils who will be placed in Brent Knowl School, now and in the medium/long term. With the apparent lack of appropriate and clear admission criteria for our special schools some clarity in relation to the needs of the young people to be placed there is essential. The proposal above describes developing a school to meet the needs of 'children aged 4-16 years with special educational needs'.	Local special school

	This is at best a vague and 'broad brush' descriptor. My considerable experience of developing special educational provision in a number of authorities leads me to conclude that the very best provision can only be developed when designers are absolutely clear about the specific requirements and needs of the children and young people who will use the building and its facilities. It is my view that we require a far more clearly articulated vision and strategic agreement in relation to the development of SEN provision in Lewisham and that this should be the driving force that informs all capital projects.	
Unsure		
49	Reasons why I am unsure: Like a lot of things, you can't tell what it will be like until it happens. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: a better play area for primary and a soft play room and a room for year 11s, also a much better sensory room and a library, a referral room for pupils who need that bit longer to calm down. Other comments: only that it all goes well.	Staff
50	Reasons why I am unsure: I assumed that they were being moved while the old school was being renovated. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: decent garden for pupils to grow themselves (i.e. vegetables, etc), communal area with skylight, transport to after school clubs, facilities to 19 years old.	Parent
51	Reasons why I am unsure: My child is in year 9 at the moment. I am not sure he will benefit from new state of the art building – he is not severely autistic and does not need life/functional skills. It is not clear what benefits this will have for older pupils and in what way. Nothing is being done to promote better education for more able pupils in the subjects and options they have to choose to gain GCSEs. The teaching needs to improve so they can have better grades in future exams so they can progress onto further education colleges etc – more choice – they are limited now. I would like the following services/facilities to be available: Post 16 – retake GCSEs take further exams for better grades, library, study area, support teachers. Other comments: There is another special school proposed on old Pendragon School site there is no need for Brent Knoll to change academically at all – unless it is going to improve students grades and overall achievement for each individual child. My son's grades have dropped since moving to Brent Knoll – he is not getting any homework – I am not happy with school – the teaching is lacking in goals.	Parent
Yes/Unsure		
52	No comments	Parent
Disagree – No responses received.		

Appendix 4 - Summary of pupil responses

Introduction

All pupils were consulted. Materials facilitating access to all learners were created and different strategies implemented to engage those of all ages and levels of ability.

These included:

- Display boards with photographic images of different areas of schools to stimulate choice making: Yes/no - like/dislike
- Discussion and further research using the internet
- Recording ideas about specific requirements

The Pupil Forum (School Council) met and collectively completed a questionnaire on behalf of the pupils.

All pupils confirmed that they would like a new school building.

Main Findings

Area	Pupil suggestions
Play ground	Climbing frame See-saw Slide Special area for football/ball games/ football cage/full size goals & small goals Basketball nets Astroturf Somewhere to show where to line up in a straight line Trampoline Painted games on the ground like hopscotch, snakes and ladders Shed for storing bikes and playthings Grass and hard area Water play Pond, allotment, garden area Sandpit with a cover Wendy house Climbing wall Swing ball Separate playgrounds for KS1, KS2 and secondary Shaded area when it gets hot Chill out area Sensory garden Tables and chairs fixed to ground. Not strips – solid wood. Chairs with backs, not benches Zipwire Climbing plants, like roses Trees

	<p> Lots of space to run around A statue of someone CCTV Bins Music A balcony overlooking the playground A covered area for wet play with things like table tennis Some girly spaces with wall art and flowers A lunch area for eating outside A picnic area Water fountains with cold water Climbing wall Exercise equipment Doors straight onto toilets Floodlights </p>
Class rooms	<p> <u>Primary</u> Round lights (spheres) Separate book section Coloured carpets A kitchen for cooking next to the classroom Carpet area in classrooms </p> <p> <u>Secondary</u> Lockers we can keep our stuff in Well equipped science room Bigger and better food tech room DT room with workstations, benches Drama and dance studio </p> <p> <u>Primary and Secondary</u> Not strip lights or square lights in grids Soft lights (dimnable) Not fluorescent lights Big organised cupboards Roller blinds Very big windows Lots of natural light Nice big classrooms CCTV Cameras A smart floor that you can keep clean Water cooler dispenser A coat area Air conditioning Work stations and small group rooms off all classrooms Soundproof rooms Quiet corners in all rooms Library with lots of books, computers and Interactive White Board – touch screen and modern snake chairs More round tables in classrooms </p>

	<p>Better heating Windows that open and close Different sized classrooms Comfy areas in classroom or group room Sheltered walkways between classrooms</p>
Hall	<p>Two Halls – one for dining, one for sports</p> <p><u>Dining</u> Tuck shop/café/snack bar/canteen Decent tables and chairs Water fountain Healthy eating pics/photos</p> <p><u>Sports</u> Gym Locker room/changing rooms Big equipment cupboard Games for wet play Basketball hoops Football goals Volleyball Badminton tennis Giant climbing wall Rubberised floor Water fountain Pics/photos of athletes Monkey bars Yoga room Gymnastics</p> <p><u>Other</u> Theatre Stage for performances Stage curtains Stage lighting Blackout blinds Cinema Place of worship for all religions Viewing gallery Sound system Brighter lights and more natural light Permanent data projector and roll up screen Big strong windows</p>
Sensory room	<p>Soft cushions and pillows Light Music including opera Bubble machine</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tent Soft play 3D shapes Illuminated ball pool Padded floor Help button/telephone Movie room option Shoe storage Coloured lights Soft chairs Fish tank that lights up Projector
Toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls and boys sharing toilets (unisex) Open toilets (no doors) off corridors or class rooms with private cubicles, so teachers can see the sinks and it's safer Toilets near classrooms Wet rooms Showers with nice changing area Nice colours Disabled toilets Big toilets with lots of room Hand gel on walls next to doors Hand dryers – not too loud that go on and off quickly, like airblade ones Automatic flush that you don't have to touch Easy to use taps like the ones in disabled toilets Automatic soap dispenser with nice soap Incense Music Soft lights - dimmable

February 2012