

<b>MAYOR AND CABINET</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee – 8 January 2008 – Review of Primary Places	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No. 4
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Children & Young People Select Committee	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 16/1/08

## 1. Summary

This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments/views of the Children and Young People Select Committee arising from discussions on the review of Primary Places in Lewisham Schools. These are set out in section 3 below.

## 2. Recommendations

The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) note the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out in section 3; and
- (ii) agree that the appropriate executive directors are asked to comment and provide advice on the views and recommendations of the select committee.

## 3. Children and Young People Select Committee Views

3.1 On 8 January, the Select Committee looked at the Review of Primary Places in Lewisham.

3.2 The Committee made the following comments;

### Localities

3.3 The Committee approved the localities described in paragraph 5.7 as the basis for analysing the demand for places and for future consultation on reorganisation proposals.

3.4 The Select Committee noted the localities as generally acceptable, but expressed some reservation that there were some distortions in some

areas, for example, Downham, or the projections omitted to include Lewisham Bridge.

#### Projection of Need

- 3.5 The Committee noted the projection of need for primary places in each locality to 2012 and on to 2017.
- 3.6 The Select Committee expressed reservations in particular, the impact of housing developments (projections should take account of the cumulative effect of smaller developments, for example in-fills, housing density, etc) the impact of the inclusion agenda, and the projected shortage in the north of the borough.
- 3.7 The Select Committee noted that proposals for promoting the matching of provision and need in each of the localities and also addressing condition issues will be the subject of a further report to Mayor and Cabinet. The Select Committee asked to see the report before it goes to Mayor and Cabinet.
- 3.8 The Select Committee noted the process for consultation on the analysis of need for primary places, but expressed reservations about the short timescale.

#### Other Issues

- 3.9 The Select Committee noted the summary of the objectives for primary education as set out in paragraph 6.2 as the basis for consultation and expansion with stakeholders for inclusion in the Primary Strategy for Change (PSfC). Members expressed reservations that some of the information outlined in paragraphs a to g misrepresents the views of the Select Committee from previous discussions. The Select Committee objected that the information is read out of context and has been lifted out of other documents.
- 3.10 Members made particular reference to paragraph 6.2 d, where the intention is to strengthen primary school collaboratives and look to develop hard federations. At a meeting on 18 October 2007 where the Committee looked at federation arrangements of schools, the majority of members raised concerns about the rationale and management of hard federations, particularly at the lack of local accountability. Members asked officers to produce a business case on hard federations.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report, however, the committee is calling for detailed information on the funding.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

The Constitution provides for the Select Committees to report to the Mayor and Cabinet and for the Executive to consider the report within one month of receiving it.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### A Review of Primary Places in Lewisham Schools

If you have any queries on this report, please contact James Jennings, Policy and Research Officer, extension 49952 or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee, extension 49327.