

Children & Young People Select Committee		
Report Title	Response from Mayor and Cabinet – Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme	
Key Decision	No	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
Class	Open	Date: 1 July 2008

1. Summary

This report informs members of the response given by the Mayor to a report previously considered by this Select Committee.

2. Purpose of the Report

To report to members a Mayoral response to recommendations made by the Select Committee on the Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme.

3. Recommendation

The Select Committee is recommended to receive the Mayoral response.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Mayor considered the attached report entitled 'Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee - Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme' at a Mayor & Cabinet meeting held on May 28 2008. The report was included as an addendum to a report submitted to that meeting by the Executive Director for Children & Young People on the same subject.

5. Mayoral Response

- 5.1 The Mayor received presentations by the Chair of this Select Committee on the addendum report and by a representative of the Executive Director for Children & Young People on the substantive report. In agreeing his recommendations, the Mayor indicated he was accepting those put forward by this Select Committee in their entirety.
- 5.2 The formal recommendations agreed by the Mayor were as follows:

(i) the revision of the projections in the Mayor and Cabinet report of 16 January 2008 on the need for primary places in each of the 6 localities approved by the

Mayor be noted;

(ii) the framework for the Primary Strategy for Change and its contents at Paragraph 5 of the report be noted;

(iii) as part of the Primary Strategy for Change, and subject to feasibility work, the proposals for expenditure of a first tranche of capital funding over the period 2009-11 up to a limit of £23.6 million (including up to £9.6 million of Basic Need Supported Capital) on the following schools:

- A new build (or refurbishment) of Gordonbrock Primary School to meet conditions and suitability requirements, to create full teaching groups and to meet increased locality need for places through expansion from 2.5 fe to 3fe;
- A new build of Brockley Primary School to meet conditions and suitability requirements and to meet increased locality need for places through expansion from 1fe to 2fe;
- An expansion of Our Lady & St Philip RC Primary School from 1.5 fe to 2 fe to meet conditions and suitability requirements, to create full teaching groups and to meet increased locality need for places in a good school;
- An expansion of St Bartholomew's CE Primary School from 1.5 fe to 2 fe to meet conditions and suitability requirements, to create full teaching groups and to meet increased locality need for places;
- The following schools to be held in reserve (subject to feasibility) for capital expenditure in relation to feasibility studies on Our Lady & St Philip RC Primary School and St Bartholomew's CE Primary School:
 - An expansion of Dalmain Primary School from 1.5 fe to 2 fe to meet suitability requirements, to create full teaching groups and to meet increased need for places in the same locality in a good school;
 - An expansion of Kilmorie Primary School from 1.5 fe to 2 fe to create full teaching groups and to meet increased need for places in the same locality in a good school;

(iv) officers be instructed to investigate the potential to realise further capital resource through disposal of elements of primary school sites, subject to this not jeopardising the potential for further expansion of pupil numbers;

(v) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Children and Young People and to the Executive Director for Resources, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, to finalise and submit the Primary Strategy for Change to the DCSF by 16 June;

(vi) the results of ongoing consultation with stakeholders be noted; and

(vii) the recommendations made by the Children & Young People Select Committee shown in an addendum report be accepted in entirety as follows:

- (a) A thorough risk analysis of the potential sale of assets is carried out before any such action is taken.
- (b) Consider the Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme in conjunction with the SEN review to ensure that, in line with the SEN inclusion strategy, consideration of the needs of SEN children is mainstreamed across the Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme.
- (c) Carefully monitor the primary places statistics across the length of the programme to ensure actual need matches projected need, and swiftly review the programme in light of that need.
- (d) Carefully consider the potential difficulties of the proposal to expand two church schools in the Sydenham/Forest Hill locality.
- (e) Consider the impact of the programme on the quality of teaching in those schools affected and ensure that clear plans are in place to ensure that high quality teachers are secured and integrated into existing school staff teams, to ensure that the focus on providing a high quality education is maintained when the number of children and teachers rises at a rapid rate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minutes of the Mayor & Cabinet meeting May 28 2008.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business and Committee, 0208 3149327.

Mayor And Cabinet			
Report Title	Matters referred by the Children and Young People Select Committee - Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme.		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	11 (Addendum)
Ward	All		
Contributors	Children and Young People Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	28 May 2008

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Children and Young People Select Committee arising from discussions on the Presentation on Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme. These are set out in section three below.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to:

- (i) Note the views of the Children and Young People Select Committee as set out in section 3;
- (ii) Ensure that a thorough risk analysis of the potential sale of assets is carried out before any such action is taken
- (iii) Consider the Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme in conjunction with the SEN review to ensure that, in line with the SEN inclusion strategy, consideration of the needs of SEN children is mainstreamed across the Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme
- (iv) Carefully monitor the primary places statistics across the length of the programme to ensure actual need matches projected need, and swiftly review the programme in light of that need
- (v) Carefully consider the potential difficulties of the proposal to expand two church schools in the Sydenham/Forest Hill locality
- (vi) Consider the impact of the programme on the quality of teaching in those schools affected and ensure that clear plans are in place to ensure that high quality teachers are secured and integrated into existing school staff teams, to ensure that the focus on providing a high quality education is maintained when the number of children and teachers rises at a rapid rate.

3. Children and Young People Select Committee Views

- 3.1 On 20 May, the Children and Young People Select Committee considered the issue of the proposed Primary Strategy for Change and Primary Capital Programme. They received a presentation outlining the proposed framework of Lewishams Primary Strategy for Change and the proposed capital expenditure plans for the rebuild and amalgamation of a number of primary schools across the borough, from Chris Threlfall, Head of School Effectiveness. A copy of the report to Mayor and Cabinet dated 28 May 2008 was tabled at the meeting.

The following specific comments were made by the Select Committee:

- 3.2 There were concerns that the sale of school assets was being considered as a way to part fund the programme. The committee felt that the sale of school land should not be considered without a thorough risk analysis being carried out and all other possible methods of raising finance first investigated.
- 3.3 The committee felt that the needs of SEN children was not fully integrated into the Primary Strategy and Capital Programme. The opportunity to ensure that newly built or upgraded schools provided the opportunity to realise the inclusion aspirations of the SEN inclusion strategy had not been taken.
- 3.4 The statistics upon which the Programme is predicated are projections, not actual figures. It is important that continuous monitoring of actual numbers and predicted numbers is undertaken on an annual basis and the programme amended in line with proven statistics, as officer advice indicates that the formulas for producing projected figures are complicated and often changed by those providing the data, providing conflicting information.
- 3.5 The committee was concerned that both of the schools identified for expansion in the Sydenham/Forest Hill locality were church schools, which required the support of both Diocesan boards.
- 3.6 Whilst school space and facilities are important, sufficient staff numbers and excellent quality teaching staff are vital to the educational achievement of children in Lewisham. It is important that consideration is given at the earliest stage to the staffing numbers required, recruitment processes to be used and effective management of increased staff numbers at affected schools, to ensure a continuation of high quality teaching provision across the borough.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 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

- Primary Strategy for change and Primary Capital Programme, Mayor and Cabinet Report 28th May 2008.
- Presentation of Primary Strategy for change and Primary Capital Programme, Mayor and Cabinet 28th May 2008.

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Salena Whatford (ext. 0208 3143380), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Business & Committee (ext. 0208 3149327).