

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

CABINET

9th MARCH 2006

Report of: Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

**Title: ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW 210 PLACE PRIMARY SCHOOL
IN BISHOPSTON WARD**

Ward: Bishopston

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RECOMMENDATION

- **That, subject to the Council's approval of capital funding, approval be given to consult on the establishment of a new 210 place primary school at the 'Brunel College' site at Ashley Down.**

Summary

This report outlines the reasons why a change to a previous Cabinet decision to consult on the expansion of Sefton Park Infant and Junior Schools is required.

The significant issues in the report are:

- In April 2004 Cabinet made a decision to consult on the relocation and expansion of Sefton Park Junior School and the expansion of Sefton Park Infant School. This report asks for a change to that decision.

Policy

The proposal set out in this report supports the following Council Priorities:

- Raising educational attainment;

- Providing new and better schools;

Consultation

Internal

- Legal Services
- Planning Services

External

Consultation will involve

- Parents (through consultation documents and public meetings);
- Trade Union Representatives (through consultation document and staff meetings);
- Local community through leaflet drop and publication of information on the Council's Website;
- Neighbouring schools (through consultation document);

Context

1. There has been a long-standing issue of lack of primary school places in the north-central area. Projected pupil numbers in the area (Appendix A) show continued growth and there is inadequate capacity within the current schools. All schools in the area have little or no potential for expansion due to the nature of their sites and buildings. Infant Class Size legislation exacerbated the problem as schools which previously offered 62 or 65 places could only offer 60 and the power of schools appeals panels to award places to deserving cases was very much restricted. Currently there are numerous occasions when parents are refused places at all of their 3 preferred schools and the closest school that can be offered is the 5th or 6th closest. Parents often view these offered schools as outside their community.
2. In 2001 and 2002 additional reception classes were admitted to Sefton Park. On both occasions it was intended to be a one year only solution pending a longer term solution. A temporary classroom was added to St Barnabas Primary School for September 2003. In 2004 and 2005 no additional places were provided. The issue has been widely covered in the local press.

3. The 'Brunel College' site was secured for a 210 place primary school as part of a planning agreement for redevelopment of the City of Bristol College at Ashley Down Road. The site includes playing fields currently used on a limited basis by Sefton Park Junior School and there is also Section 106 funding for education to be provided by the housing developer. A further planning condition means that if the site is developed for a school then community changing facilities must be provided.
4. Following Cabinet approval to consult on expanding Sefton Park schools meetings were held with planning officers and City of Bristol College. It became obvious that due to planning issues and space restrictions the option originally proposed was unachievable. Further feasibility work was commissioned to investigate other possible options. The result of this work was that the quickest and most cost effective way of providing the additional primary school places required was to establish a new school.
5. The new primary school would open with a Reception year group and build up with a new intake of 30 pupils each year.
6. The original proposals to expand the Sefton Park Schools included a proposal to investigate the possibility of relocating provision for primary age pupils from Elmfield School for Deaf children and co-locating this with the expanded provision on the Sefton Park site. Further options relating to Sefton Park and Elmfield are being considered and proposals will be brought forward as soon as possible.
7. Consultation on the establishment of a new primary school will be carried out between mid-March 2006 and the end of April. A report will be brought to Cabinet following with the results of this consultation. If the cabinet agrees Statutory Notices will then be published for a six week period. If representations are received the School Organisational Committee will consider them. If no representations are received the matter will be referred to the Director of Education and Children's Services to consider under delegated authority.

Proposal

8. It is proposed that consultation be undertaken on the establishment of a new 210 place primary school in Bishopston Ward. Subject to detailed design work and obtaining planning

permission the soonest the new school could open would be September 2007, possibly in temporary accommodation.

Other Options Considered

The other options considered include:

- The original proposal to move and enlarge Sefton Park Junior School and to enlarge the Infant School on the current site. This option was rejected as there is insufficient space on the new site.
- To move and expand Sefton Park Infant School and expand the Junior School on the current site. This option was rejected as there is insufficient space on the new site.
- Expand both Sefton Park Infant and Junior School on the current site. This option was rejected due to the estimated cost and space restrictions of the site.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment has been completed for this project a summary of the major risks is detailed in Appendix B.

Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix A shows a breakdown of pupils by ethnicity and shows that Ashley Down and Sefton Park Schools have a similar ethnic mix of around 70-80% white pupils and the remaining 20-30% made up of Asian, Black and mixed heritage pupils. It is likely that the new school will have a similar mix of pupils.

There are extreme contrasts in other schools surrounding the area with Henleaze Infant and Junior, Horfield C of E and St Bonaventure's Schools having only around 10% of pupils from minority ethnic backgrounds and Cabot and Millpond Schools having over 90% from minority ethnic backgrounds. These contrasts generally reflect the wider population of the areas and indicate that most primary school children attend their closest school.

The increase in available places in the area should have the effect of making it easier for parents to obtain a place at one of their preferred schools. Admissions to the new school would be in accordance with LEA published admission arrangements for

community schools which do not discriminate on the grounds of ethnic origin or gender and are fully compliant with the DfES code of Practice.

The new primary school will be designed and built to meet all current legislation on accessibility and will meet the Bristol Access Standard. This will create a fully accessible school and have a positive impact for pupils, parents and staff with disabilities. Admissions to the new school would be in accordance with LEA published admission arrangements for community schools which gives priority to those pupils who it is considered should attend a particular school for special educational needs reasons and have the school named in their statement.

Legal and Resource Implications:

Legal

Close liaison with the Legal Department will be required throughout the statutory procedure to ensure that all legal requirements are met.

Genny Seneque – Senior Solicitor (Education)

Financial

Revenue

All maintained schools are funded in accordance with the agreed Formulae for Funding Maintained schools. A new primary school would initially require additional funding and this would need to be agreed by the School Forum.

Capital

The estimated cost of a new 210 place primary school is £4m. There will also be a need to provide alternative playing fields for Sefton Park Junior School, the estimated cost of this is £0.75m. This is provided for in the capital programme.

Land

The site for the proposed new school was secured as part of a planning agreement for the redevelopment of the City of Bristol College site.

Personnel

These proposals will have some Personnel implications.
Trade Unions will be involved in the consultation process.

Appendices:

Appendix A	Pupil Projections
Appendix B	Risk Assessment
Appendix C	Equalities Impact Assessment – Ethnicity Data

Appendix A

Pupil Projections – Primary Schools within 1 mile of Sefton Park/Ashley Down

School	Net Capacity	NOR	Projected NOR				
		Jan2006	Sept2006	Sept2007	Sept2008	Sept2009	Sept2010
Ashley Down Infant	209	179	187	195	208	216	222
Ashley Down Junior	239	234	237	256	262	278	286
Bishop Road	575	588	596	617	645	671	693
Cabot	210	182	189	201	206	226	245
Colston's	407	417	428	451	462	477	495
Filton Ave Infant	219	188	190	198	197	201	208
Filton Avenue Junior	233	270	259	249	246	246	245
Glenfrome	210	164	169	182	194	199	207
Henleaze Infant	210	270	256	260	254	262	252
Henleaze Junior	360	380	379	373	375	357	361
Horfield C of E	378	368	387	406	421	429	425
Millpond	210	164	180	201	214	229	257
St Barnabas	175	181	193	198	203	216	219
St Bonaventures	402	371	398	410	426	438	440
St Weberghs	189	183	196	205	212	223	238
Sefton Park Infant	255	180	195	209	227	234	245
Sefton Park Junior	227	290	284	285	258	248	262
Total	4708	4609	4723	4896	5010	5150	5300

(Data as at January 2006 PLASC. Projections revised 15/02/06)

Appendix B

Risk Assessment

Risk	Impact/Probability	Control/Mitigation
Council does not agree funding	High impact Medium probability	Long standing issue of lack of primary places in this area. Projections show this need continuing.
Statutory process does not result in decision to open new school	High impact Low probability	There would need to be investigation of alternative ways to provide additional places though these are likely to be more expensive than the current proposal.
Pupil numbers do not increase as projected	High impact Low probability	Projections use data on live births and the model has been tested against actual admissions.
Alternative playing fields for Sefton Park Junior not found	Medium impact Low probability	An agreement could be reached to allow Sefton Park Junior to use playing fields adjacent to the new school as pupils numbers will initially be low and there is no requirement for statutory playing field provision for infant pupils.
Planning Permission not granted	High impact Low probability	The site was secured for a 210 place primary school as part of a planning agreement. There will be continued discussions with planning officers to ensure that their views are taken into account in the design process.
Schools Forum does not agree start-up costs	High impact Low probability	Schools forum asked to reserve funding for schools which cannot operate with only 'formula' allocation.

Appendix C

Equalities Assessment Data

1. Ethnicity

Percentage of Pupils by Ethnic Origin

Name	Asian	Black	Chinese	Mixed	Not Obtained	Other	Refused	White
Ashley Down Infant	4	6	2	9	0	0	0	78
Ashley Down Junior	5	13	0	10	0	0	0	71
Bishop Road	5	2	1	6	0	0	0	85
Cabot	24	62	0	10	1	0	0	3
Colston's	7	8	2	12	0	0	0	70
Filton Ave Infant	9	6	1	7	0	2	0	75
Filton Ave Junior	10	6	0	5	0	2	0	76
Glenfrome	19	37	0	11	1	1	1	32
Henleaze Infant	5	1	0	4	0	1	0	90
Henleaze Junior	3	1	1	4	0	0	0	91
Horfield CE	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	90
Millpond	15	59	0	17	0	0	0	7
Sefton Park Infant	8	5	2	8	1	0	1	76
Sefton Park Junior	5	8	1	14	0	0	0	71
St Barnabas CE	16	42	3	19	1	4	0	13
St Bonaventure's C	0	1	0	7	3	0	2	89
St Werburgh's	25	27	1	16	1	0	0	32