

London Borough of Sutton Primary School Expansion Programme:

The possible expansion of Hackbridge Primary School from September 2016

CONSULTATION PAPER

The Council wants to hear your views on these important proposals

September 2014

CONSULTATION ON THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF HACKBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2016

As you may be aware, there has been a steeply rising demand for primary school places in the Borough over the last decade which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. We have therefore been increasing the number of primary school places to meet this demand which, so far, has resulted in the expansion of 18 of the 41 primary schools in the Borough to provide an additional 3800 places by September 2015. Despite these expansions, still more places are likely to be required particularly in the Hackbridge locality. Due to the demographic growth in the area and because of planned housing developments over the next 4 to 5 years, more places will be required from September 2016 onwards. We are confident that through the expansion of Hackbridge Primary School and the establishment of new provision on an additional site that we will be able to ensure that every child living in the Hackbridge locality requiring a primary school place will be able to have one.

We are now consulting with a wide range of interested parties including parents, carers and professionals working in education and related sectors to find out their views on the suggestions for the expansion of Hackbridge Primary School set out in this document.

We have also included at **Appendix 1** a number of Frequently Asked Questions, which I hope are helpful and informative, and at **Appendix 2** there is a response form for you to use.

This consultation document can be downloaded from the Council's Website: www.sutton.gov.uk. The consultation page has a direct link from the home page. Alternatively, please e-mail to primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk with your request.

This consultation starts on Monday 15 September 2014 with the last date for responding to the consultation being Friday 31 October 2014.

There will be an open public meeting held at the School. Details are set out on page 4 inside.

Your views are important to us and the Council wishes to hear from as many people as possible during this consultation. I look forward to receiving your response.

Tolis Vouyioukas Strategic Director of Children, Young People & Learning Directorate (CYPLD)

1. INTRODUCTION

This consultation document explains the Local Authority's proposals to create additional places in the Hackbridge locality for September 2016. Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to express your opinion on the proposals in this document.

For a number of years during the 1990s and early 2000s the Borough experienced falling pupil rolls and therefore undertook the necessary action to manage that situation by removing capacity in a number of primary schools. However, over the course of the last decade there has been a marked upturn in the number of births and we have had to increase capacity to meet the additional demand for places at reception year. This is an issue facing most London Boroughs.

Data on the number of births in the Borough indicates that there will be a continued rise in demand for the foreseeable future. The Local Authority has a core duty to ensure there are sufficient places to meet the needs of its children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity to meet this demand.

2. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

DAY/DATE	EVENT/KEY POINT			
15 September 2014	Start of public consultation on the possible expansion of Hackbridge Primary School and the establishment of an additional site adjacent to BedZED expansions.			
1st October 2014	Public Consultation Meeting at the School			
16 October 2014	Meeting of the St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley Local Committee			
31 October 2014	End of 1st Stage Consultation on the possible changes to Hackbridge Primary School.			
18 December 2014	Children, Family and Education (CFE) Committee – To consider consultation responses and to authorise the publication of Statutory Proposals proposing to expand Hackbridge Primary School.			
5 January 2015	Publication of Statutory Proposals on the Sutton Website and in the local press.			
3 February 2015	End of the 4 week representation (consultation) period on the proposed developments contained in Statutory Proposals.			
12 March 2015	Final decision (determination) by CFE Committee of Statutory Proposals.			
September 2016	Delivery of the building project for the new accommodation in the vicinity of the BedZED Site and admission of an expanded intake to the School.			

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Publication of this document marks the beginning of the consultation process to create additional places for September 2016 on an additional site at BedZED through the expansion of Hackbridge Primary School. This document will be made widely available and circulated to all schools and to other statutory consultees. It will also be available via the Council's website www.sutton.gov.uk

The consultation period will end at 5pm on Friday 31 October 2014. If you wish to express any views or comments on the proposals, please let us have your response by no later than the above time and date. All views and responses will be considered when making further decisions on the proposals.

There will be a public consultation meeting arranged to look at expansion of the School and the establishment of new provision on the BedZED Site and to provide further information to interested parties. This meeting will be open to all parents and members of the public who are interested in finding out more about the proposals.

The meeting will be held at 7.00pm Wednesday, 1st October 2014 at the current site of Hackbridge Primary School.

There will also be an opportunity to discuss the matter at the Local Committee: St Helier, The Wrythe and Wandle Valley Local Committee, which will be held at the Riverside Centre, Culvers Avenue at 7.00pm on Thursday 16 October 2014.

Following the end of this consultation period in October 2014 a report will be submitted to the Council's Children, Family and Education (CFE) Committee at its meeting on 18 December 2014 detailing responses received and any issues raised during the consultation period. The CFE Committee will consider these responses before deciding whether to take the proposals forward.

The expansion will require the establishment of provision on an additional site and a significant enlargement in the physical capacity of the school's buildings through a major building project on this site. Statutory Proposals, which are a formal legal notification of the changes it is intended to make to the School, will be required followed by a four week period of public consultation (the representation period). Views expressed in the representation period will be considered before a final decision is made. This final decision is likely to be taken during the Spring Term.

If a final decision cannot be made at that time, then the proposals will be referred to a third party, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, which will decide them. There is also some scope for certain interested parties – the governing body of the school to which the proposal relates and the local dioceses – to appeal to the Schools Adjudicator following the determination of the statutory notice if they disagree with the decision.

In addition, expansion will require an increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) with effect from September 2016. A separate consultation on this change will be undertaken as part of the annual round of admissions consultations in the late autumn of 2014 and the spring of 2015.

4. EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS

You can respond to this consultation in the following ways:

- Complete the attached response form and return it via post to Pupil Based Commissioning (The Grove), London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1BR.
- Email Sutton Council at: <u>primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk</u>
- Complete the response form on Sutton's website <u>www.sutton.gov.uk</u>. Search on Consultation –
 Possible Expansion of Hackbridge Primary School from September 2016.

5. BACKGROUND

Primary Education in Sutton

There are currently 41 primary schools in Sutton of which 26 are Community Schools, 2 are Foundation Schools, 4 are Academies, 4 are Church of England Voluntary Schools and 5 are Roman Catholic Voluntary Schools. 25 of these schools are all-through primary schools and there are also 8 infant and 8 junior schools. The number of primary pupils attending Sutton's schools in May 2014 was 15,233. This is projected to rise to just over 17,000 by September 2016 and to nearly 18,000 by September 2018. Currently the overall number of places (i.e. from Reception to Year 6) in Sutton's primary schools is 15,713. By 2016, with the completion of school expansion projects elsewhere in the Borough, the number of places will have risen to around 17,000.

There are currently 2,505 permanent places available for first admissions into Reception Year, which would increase by a further 60 places in 2016 should the proposal for the expansion of Hackbridge Primary School be agreed and implemented. The number of children seeking a place in Reception Year in September 2014 is over 2,500 and this is projected to rise slowly in the next four to five years.

The need for additional primary places

Since 2001 there has been an increase in births in the Borough of over 30% which is the fifth highest rise in the number of live births in London and the highest in south west London. Since 2008 (which was the first year over 2,700 births occurred) annual numbers of births have hovered just above the 2,700 level and projections indicate that births will remain at about this level or slightly higher for the foreseeable future. In response to the increased demand for school places, such rises in births, together with migration to the Borough has caused 15 of the 41 primary schools in Sutton, including Hackbridge Primary, to have been expanded and by 2015 around 3,800 additional places will have been provided.

Hackbridge has been identified as a Centre for Regeneration and Growth in the Local Development Framework and it is planned that the neighborhood will accommodate up to an additional 1,000 new homes. Therefore, in terms of new school provision, a focus upon the immediate area is required.

In addition to the increase in the birth rate, the growth in number of homes in Hackbridge will lead to a further increase of pressure on primary places in the immediate locality as dwellings are completed and become occupied and start to "yield" children of primary school age.

Currently, the two existing primary schools in the immediate locality are recruiting strongly. Hackbridge Primary's mean intake over the last 3 years is 85 (Published Admission Number (PAN) = 90) and Culvers House Primary's averages 58 (PAN of 60). Recruitment to the two schools is largely from the immediate areas but also a few from wards to the west. The additional demand from development in Hackbridge simply cannot be accommodated by both schools in their current situation. New school provision is therefore needed, probably from September 2016.

The new provision will be located in the vicinity of the BedZED area.

Due to the philosophy and principles behind the Hackbridge Development, it is essential to ensure that any new school provision will have evident eco-school credentials (i.e. sustainably sourced, energy efficient, low carbon, generally sympathetic to the natural environment...) and meet the Borough's aspiration of meeting the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) "Excellent" standard for major new school provision.

6. THE PROPOSALS

The proposal is to expand Hackbridge Primary School from being a 3 Form of Entry (3FE) school with a capacity of 630 places to a 5FE school with a capacity of 1,050 places and to establish part of the School's provision on an additional site adjacent to the BedZED development with accommodation for up to 420 pupils by September 2016.

The School was identified for expansion following the Council's request in March for expressions of interest from maintained schools within the Borough. Six confirmed formal submissions were put forward to the Council for consideration.

The decision was made by elected members at the CFE Committee on 26th June, 2014 to select Hackbridge Primary School as the favoured applicant.

The Local Authority believes that it is right to expand schools with good quality permanent accommodation rather than with temporary buildings wherever possible. Permanent expansion enables the provision of new facilities to accommodate additional children and therefore gives parents a much greater degree of reassurance that their children's needs will be met and the most favourable outcomes for their children will be achieved. Accordingly, the new accommodation will require a substantial investment of capital funding to ensure that appropriate and high quality accommodation is provided.

The feedback from this consultation will be reported to the Council's elected members in December when a decision to proceed to the next stage of the overall processes involving the formal publication of Statutory Proposals will be taken. Following this stage, the Council would be in a position to take the final decision on the expansion of the School for September 2016 at its meeting in March 2015.

Previous reports to the Children, Family and Education Committee from March and June 2014 which refer to the possible expansion at Hackbridge can be viewed on the Sutton website at: https://www.sutton.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16269

Specific Consultees

Copies of this consultation document and the summary have been made available to the following:

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of Hackbridge Primary School.

Parents/Carers, Staff, Chairs of Governors of all other nursery and primary schools and academies in Sutton.

Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all secondary schools and academies in Sutton.

Headteachers of all special schools and special academies in Sutton.

Headteachers/Teachers in Charge of Pupil Referral Units in Sutton.

Children's Centres.

Principal of SCOLA.

Principal of Orchard Hill College.

Principal of Carshalton College of Further Education.

All Elected Members (Councillors) of the London Borough of Sutton.

Chairs of all Sutton Local Committees.

Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring Local Authorities (Merton, Croydon, Richmond,

Kingston and Surrey).

MPs and MEPs.

Local Dioceses – Church of England and Roman Catholic.

Chair of the Sutton Schools Forum.

Chair of the Sutton Admissions Forum.

Chair of the Sutton Primary Headteachers Group.

Chair of the Sutton Secondary Headteachers Group.

All Strategic Directors (London Borough of Sutton).

All Executive Heads of Service (London Borough of Sutton).

Secretaries of relevant Trades Unions and Teachers Professional Associations

Sutton Racial Equality Council.

Chair of Early Outcomes and Extended Services Partnership.

Chair of Sutton Voluntary Sector Forum (Children and Families).

Chief Executive, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust.

Metropolitan Police – Area Commander, Sutton.

Early Years and PVI settings.

GPs.

Young Advisors Faith and Belief Forum.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How was Hackbridge Primary identified for expansion?

Expressions of interest were sought in March from schools across Sutton to find out which ones would be interested in expanding and developing the BedZED Site. It was indicated that in order to ensure high quality primary provision it would be essential that the following criteria for the school to be expanded should be fulfilled:

- It is Local Authority maintained (through the expansion of an existing school)
- It is judged by The Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) to be outstanding or good.
- It has the capacity in terms of leadership, management and governance to maintain the quality of education for pupils whilst the Headteacher is engaged in establishing the new expansion on a different site.
- It has the capacity in terms of management and experience to develop into a large, diverse and inclusive and community focused operation.
- It is in reasonably close proximity to the designated site on the Hackbridge Development.

The decision was made by elected members at the CFE Committee on 26 June.

The School was assessed to have met the criteria best out of all of the applicants.

While it is accepted that Hackbridge will become one of the largest primary schools in Sutton, there is no reason to believe that size, in itself, is a particular obstacle to maintaining a school that is good or better or that securing excellent outcomes for pupils will be put at risk.

It is envisaged that the expanded school, which would continue to be a single legal entity, would have one management team led by an Executive Headteacher and which would include two senior members of staff each responsible for the day to day operation of one site. There would be one Governing Body.

2. Shouldn't the new provision be an Academy/Free School?

Councillors came to the decision, following their recent previous experience with the expansion of Bandon Hill Primary School, that this had been successful and so decided to replicate procedures. The expansion of an existing school will mean that there will be a depth and continuity of local experience and understanding across the senior management and governors of the expanding school to develop the new provision, establish good practice and give greater opportunities for the engagement and contribution of the local community in shaping the new school provision. Accordingly, local schools were asked whether they would like to become involved in the establishment of the new provision.

3. What evidence is there of the need for new primary school?

The population growth in the Borough has been unprecedented over the past 10 years and the demand for school places has reflected this year on year.

Birth and other demographic data is carefully monitored along with the pupil numbers on school rolls on a regular and systematic basis. As new data becomes available and if there are changes in factors such as the transfer rate from birth to reception year or the levels of in and out migration, for example, we adjust our projections accordingly. In practice it is found that pupil number projections over a five year period are accurate within a few percent.

The children who will be entering Sutton schools up to 2018 have already been born. The transfer rate has been rising steadily and the likely additional demand will also rise. There is also an increasing level of in-migration to the Borough which puts further pressure on school places.

At the level of individual schools, where sometimes because of changes in the success of particular schools, or parents' perceptions of how successful particular schools are, there can be fluctuations in levels of recruitment in the short term. However, this will be decreasingly likely in Sutton because of the very tight match between provision and demand so that, except in extreme instances, there will be no such variations. Accordingly, we are planning for a level of school place capacity at reception year where all, or the vast majority, of Sutton's schools recruit strongly and are, therefore, more or less full.

The expansion of primary schools in Sutton has involved 15 of the 41 schools so far. The point has now been reached where all of the existing sites where expansion is possible have been used.

Hackbridge has been identified as a Centre for Regeneration and Growth in the Local Development Framework and it is planned that the neighbourhood will accommodate up to an additional 1,000 new homes. Therefore, in terms of new school provision, a focus upon the immediate area is essential.

The increase in the birth rate, the migration to the Borough and the growth in number of homes in Hackbridge will lead to a further increase of pressure on primary places in the immediate locality as dwellings are completed and become occupied and start to "yield" children of primary school age.

The new provision will be sited in the vicinity of the BedZED area. Due to the philosophy and principles behind the Hackbridge Development, it is essential to ensure that any new school provision will have evident eco-school credentials (i.e. sustainably sourced, energy efficient, low carbon, generally sympathetic to the natural environment...) and meet the Borough's aspiration of meeting the BREEAM "Excellent" standard for major new school provision.

4. Where do schools in the locality currently recruit their pupils?

	dge Muschamp Rushy Sey Meadow /Ha	mour rris TOTAL	% TOTAL
1	1 4 6	1	1
19	19 18 15	20 7	7
10	10 32 26	7 8	3
2	2 4 3	5 1	4
2	2 5 1		8
34	34 63 51	32 19	3 7.3
29	29 12 3	7 5	9
26	26 13 2	10 5	3
5	5 2 3	7 2	0
101	101 8 11	98 23	2
41	41 4 4	7 6	4
202	202 39 23	129 42	8 16.2
14	14 18 34	164 24	4
50	50 180 129	50 42	6
70	70 108 142	227 62	7
195	195 100 77	31 64	6
329	329 406 382	472 194	3 73.3
	3		3
	1		2
1			7
	3 1		7
1	1 9 3	1 1	8 0.7

Out of Borough	N/A	10	20	6	9	14	59	
Unknown	N/A	1	3		3	1	8	
Misc Sub- Total	Misc	11	23	6	12	15	67	2.5
TOTAL		418	589	523	471	649	2650	100

May 2014 Census Data

5. How can you be certain that you know how many children the new flats and houses are going to produce?

The most widely used models for "child yield" (Oxford and Wandsworth) which were drawn up in the mid to late 2000s have now been rendered somewhat out of date because assumptions, particularly to do with the child population in smaller houses and flats, simply no longer apply. In addition, birth rates have increased quite considerably so that any model of this vintage is likely to provide a significant underestimate of "child yield". For example, in Sutton the annual numbers of live births has risen by over 30% in the decade following 2001 from around 2000 to around 2700.

Nevertheless, modelling has been carried out using the Wandsworth and Oxford models as applied to the type and mix of proposed dwellings in and around Hackbridge (Felnex, Wandle Valley Trading and piecemeal prior approvals, but excluding Hackbridge Road and Kelvin House which are already completed).

On these models around 240 children aged 3 to 10 years of age will be "generated" by the developments according to the Wandsworth model and around 250 such children "generated" according to the Oxford model. If adjustment were to be made for the considerably greater yields now anticipated from 1 and 2 bedroom flats and houses, the figures will be significantly higher.

The Greater London Authority is currently in the process of developing a more up to date and accurate child yield model. Development sites of varying sizes across London have been looked at and the changes in population that could reasonably be attributed to them have been estimated. On the new London model as it is currently developed, estimates of between 280 and 480 children of primary age and younger for the planned size and mix of dwellings at Hackbridge are given.

6. There are lots of spaces in primary schools elsewhere. In fact, Hackbridge Primary, which was expanded four years ago, has spaces as do neighbouring schools. If the new school is built surely it will also be half empty?

It is incorrect that there are lots of spaces in other primary schools. The "slack" for schools to take additional places in Sutton has shrunk considerably over the past few years and the scope to absorb expansion of demand has become untenable. The projections show that there will be a very tight match indeed between demand and the supply of places and this is likely to mean that, increasingly, parents will look to their most local schools for places for their children.

On the latest figures, 20 of the 41 primary schools in the Borough have a pupil number on roll (NOR) greater than the school's physical capacity. The percentage of unfilled places in primary schools in Sutton stands at just under 2% (just under 300 places over all year groups) which is in the lowest 5 of all local authorities in England. Because of the need to operate the admissions system in order to facilitate and enhance the exercise of parental preference, in practice between 5% and 10% spare places is required in practice. There is also the matter of the unavailability of "empty" places to families with young children who live some way distant and who have children attending different schools.

The most recent projections of overall pupil numbers on roll (NOR) indicate that by 2018 there will be just over 2600 more pupils than there are currently. For September 2014, the total number of places available for first admission at Reception Year was 2505. The total number of places across all year groups (the Net Capacity) in primary schools in Sutton is 15,713 places. By 2015 with the completion of the Key Stage 2 projects currently planned and possible bulge classes there will be around 1250 additional places in primary schools i.e. a total Net Capacity of around 17,000 places. 2FE of new provision at Hackbridge would increase this total further.

It is quite possible that in the year or so immediately following the expansion, the School will not recruit right up to its admission limit. However, we do not expect such a situation to persist into the longer term because of the build-up of demand for places in primary schools not only in the Hackbridge locality but more widely across Sutton

7. If the proposals are agreed, how will that affect pupils already attending Hackbridge Primary?

In terms of ensuring that the enlarged school continues to offer a safe, secure and nurturing environment for its pupils, the view of many headteachers, advisers, inspectors, educational psychologists and other experienced education professionals is that this is likely to occur because well managed schools with skilled and experienced staff will be proactive in assuring children do not experience any adverse reaction to the increase in school size. Staff will be very child focussed and child friendly and the overall management and operation of the school, which will aim for a calm and secure environment where children can engage in purposeful activities and flourish, will underpin all of this.

All pupils already attending Hackbridge will remain on the school roll. We have an excellent track record in respect of managing major building projects at primary schools and we aim to keep disruption to a minimum both for those teaching and learning as well as for anybody who lives close to the school.

The expanded Hackbridge School will take an enlarged intake into Reception Year from September 2016. Currently it admits up to 90 children per year. From September 2016 on the assumption that the School expands by 2FE (60 places) it will be possible to admit up to 150 children.

Children at their first admission at Reception Year would be entered onto the roll of the School but would normally be allocated for the duration of their primary school career to one site. In other words, the School would not operate with, say, one site catering for Key Stage 1 children and the other for Key Stage 2 children. Equally staff would normally be deployed at one site only. The policies, practices and internal routines on both sites would closely resemble each other and school uniform would be the same irrespective of site.

The admission arrangements would continue to be those currently applicable to Hackbridge Primary which is a community school, save for a change in the Published Admission Number (PAN) and changes for operating the distance tie-breaker when the School is over-subscribed to reflect the fact that the School operates out of two sites.

For children who move into the locality and who are seeking a place at a year other than Reception Year, the arrangements may be more complex. One approach could be to offer such "in-year" admissions a place in the already established year groups at the original site. However, it is probable that this approach will not be sustainable over a number of years as housing developments are completed and significant numbers of children move into the immediate locality. So, by 2018, it might prove necessary to establish on the new site a "lower Key Stage 2" class to pick up the Year 3 and 4 children needing a place along with an "upper Key Stage 2" class for children who need a place in Year 5 and 6 who could not otherwise be accommodated through filling of spaces in the year cohorts attending the original site. Clearly, this will be a decision of the School itself in the light of the circumstances at the time.

If the proposals are agreed, any changes to the admission arrangements for schools will be notified to parents in good time and before the final date for submission of preferences for places in reception year.

8. How will the overall expansion programme be funded?

School building is funded using grant funding from the Government. The designated site is owned by the Council, as is the adjacent land. There are also payments known as developer contributions made by the commercial building companies developing Hackbridge which will be allocated in full to support the capital costs of providing the additional places. Currently it is estimated that it will cost in the region of £7m to provide the buildings for the expanded school.

APPENDIX 2

Response Form: Primary School Expansion Programme

Which school is closest to your home?

new provision on the BedZED Site?

		YES	NO	NOT SURE
Hackbridge Primary				
(By 2FE or 420 places)				
Please use the space provide Hackbridge Primary School.	ed below to ac	dd any comments o	or views on the prop	osed expansion of
For monitoring purposes, ple	ease could yo	u provide the follow	wing details:-	
Capacity in which respondin	g:			
Parent/Carer				
Pupil				
Headteacher				
Member of School Staff				
Governor				
Other				
School or organisation you r	epresent, if ar	ıy:		
I am:	Male		Female	

Do you support the proposal to expand Hackbridge Primary School through the establishment of

My ethnic origin is:	
White (British or Irish)	White British
Black (Caribbean)	White (other)
Black (Other)	Black (African)
Bangladeshi	Indian
Chinese	Pakastani
Mixed (White & Black Caribbean)	Asian (Other)
Mixed (White & Asian)	Mixed (White & Black African)
Other (please state)	

My post code is:

Please complete the attached response form and return it:

- By post to Primary Consultation, Pupil Based Commissioning CYPLD (The Grove), London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1BR
- By e-mail to Sutton Council at: <u>primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk</u>
- By completing the response form on-line on Sutton's website www.sutton.gov.uk. Search on Search on Consultation Possible Expansion of Hackbridge Primary School from September 2016.

The last date for responding to the consultation is Friday 31 October 2014

Thank you for taking the time to complete the response

Please return this form to: Primary Consultation CYPLS London Borough of Sutton FREEPOST CN2117 Civic Offices St Nicholas Way Sutton SM1 1BR