

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 21 July 2009

Report Title. Rhodes Avenue Statutory Consultation on proposed expansion.

Report of Peter Lewis, Director of Children and Young People's Service

Signed :



Contact Officer : Eveleen Riordan, Acting Head of Place Planning 020 8489 5019

Wards(s) affected: potentially all, but with particular possible impact on Alexandra, Bounds Green, Muswell Hill, Noel Park, Fortis Green and Woodside wards.

Report for: key decision

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

- 1.1. The School Place Planning Report 2008 outlined the need for us to consider the possible expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School in Alexandra Ward within the West Area Children's Network from 2 to 3 forms of entry (fe). We carried out a first stage of consultation on this possible expansion between 10th October and the 28th November 2008. Any expansion would take effect from September 2011 beginning with that year's reception intake. The conclusion of that consultation, and all other material considerations, were reported to Cabinet in March 2009 and the recommendation that the Council should publish statutory notices proposing the expansion of Rhodes Avenue was agreed. The full Cabinet report from March 2009 can be found at Appendix 2.
- 1.2. Statutory notices in respect of the proposed expansion were issued on 24 April 2009 for a four week period ending on 22 May 2009. Concurrent with these notices, we carried out four weeks of consultation with interested parties. As objections have been received to the proposal, the Cabinet is required to make the decision as to whether or not the expansion should go ahead. This report recommends that the expansion should go ahead for the reasons outlined in paragraph 5 below.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1. We have seen an unexpected and substantial rise in the birth rate in the borough, and this trend is replicated in Enfield and Barnet. We estimate therefore that this planning area will need additional reception school places by 2011. We aim to meet parental choice as far as possible and, even more importantly, avoid a situation where we have children with no school place to go to.
- 2.2. Within the planning area it is localities to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes which are of most concern and while we considered other schools, it is expanding Rhodes Avenue which makes most sense in terms of meeting both choice and rising overall demand.
- 2.3. I have carefully considered the objections received. I am supporting the recommendation to expand Rhodes Avenue but I am mindful of the concerns of parents of existing pupils about the potential affect the building works may have on their children and of more general concerns relating to playground size and traffic generation. I will be continuing to monitor these aspects and ensure that there is ongoing consultation with the school, parents and local residents as necessary.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1. The careful planning and control of school places in the borough will contribute to the Council's Priority 3 "Encouraging lifetime well-being, at home, work, play and learning" and Priority 5 "Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services".

4. Recommendations

4.1. Members are asked to:

- Note the feedback from the consultation on the issuing of statutory notices;
- Note the analysis of other factors influencing the provision of and demand for school places in Haringey and, in particular, in Alexandra ward.
- Agree the recommendation that we expand Rhodes Avenue Primary School in Alexandra Ward from 2 forms of entry (60 pupils per year) to three forms of entry (90 pupils per year) with effect from September 2011.
- Note that work on the design of how the additional form of entry will be delivered on-site is ongoing.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. In March 2009 a report went before Cabinet asking members to agree a recommendation that we issue statutory notices on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School from two to three forms of entry (an increase from 60 pupils per year to 90 pupils per year) with effect from September 2011.
- 5.2. A rising population across the borough meant that surplus places in reception classes were reducing generally. Demand is more intense in Planning Area 1 (PA1) than in any other planning area. PA1 comprises Alexandra, Fortis Green and Muswell Hill wards and contains the following schools – Tetherdown, Coldfall, St James', Our Lady of Muswell, Muswell Hill Primary and Rhodes Avenue (see Appendix 1 for a map of all of

the Planning Areas across the borough). There is close to 0% surplus capacity in reception classes in this PA.

5.3. Our school roll projections showed that, based on birth rates and demand for school places, if we did not take any action, we would run out of school places across the borough. Rhodes Avenue Primary School Avenue had already been identified as the school that should be considered for expansion from 2fe to 3fe to meet projected demand. The January 2009 PLASC¹, the admissions data for September 2009 entry and the latest birth rates for the borough (2006/7) all supported our concerns for PA1's school place capacity when balanced against demand, and made the evidence for expansion even stronger.

5.4. In coming to our conclusions in March 2009, we looked very carefully at a number of factors including:

- the results of the consultation that we carried out in October and November 2008;
- demand for reception places and reception rolls both locally (PA1) and across the borough;
- admission applications for reception places;
- borough births;
- the current economic situation;
- other local schools;
- cross borough issues;
- other options for expansion.

5.5. The March 2009 Cabinet Report can be found at Appendix 2 to this report and provides a very detailed background on why we concluded that we should proceed to statutory notices on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School.

Statutory Notices and Consultation

5.6. On the 24th April 2009 we issued statutory notices on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School. Both the published notice and the Complete Proposal (the detailed version of the published notice) can be found at Appendices 3 and 4.

5.7. Concurrent with the Statutory Notices, we carried out widespread consultation on the proposed expansion. All head teachers and Chairs of Governors in Haringey received details of the proposed expansion through the Council's Educomms system which provides a weekly electronic update on all matters relating to schools. We also consulted with the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Boards, the Trade Unions and neighbouring boroughs, as well as Coppetts Wood and Hollickwood Primary Schools in Barnet, the latter having previously expressed concerns about the proposal.

5.8. We leaflet dropped 40 of the roads surrounding the school, the Statutory Notice was pinned to all of the entrances to the school, and in the local libraries at Alexandra Park and Muswell Hill. The Statutory Notice also appeared in the Journal series of newspapers that cover the borough in the week beginning the 20th April 2009. A flier for

¹ PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

the consultation was displayed in buildings close to the school where it could be seen by families with school age children. These buildings included The Pavilion Cafe at Albert Road Park, the Sunshine Garden Centre, Rosemount Nursery (Grosvenor Road N10) and CUFOS Community Building at the top of The Avenue, N10.

5.9. During feasibility stage, a Design Quality Indicator Workshop was carried out with pupils. Representatives from each year group were given the opportunity to table ideas in respect of design, and to discuss what works well in the school now and what doesn't work so well. This was carried out in conjunction with a separate session held for staff/governors which also included an invitation for parent and community representation. Further sessions will be established, which will be aimed at measuring this input against the output of the design.

5.10. Pupils were also invited to attend the feasibility drop in session held on the 30th April. In addition, representatives of the school council attended. Pupils were given the opportunity to raise questions directly with the Project Manager and Architect.

5.11. In response to this second stage of consultation we have received further comments. A full summary of the feedback we received from the consultation can be found at Appendix 5.

5.12. Overall, 125 people/bodies responded to the consultation. Of these, 75 (60%) expressed opposition to the proposal. Of these 75 responses, 59 (79%) are currently parents/carers of children who attend Rhodes Avenue Primary School. There have been 28 responses which support the expansion. Of these 28 responses, 7 (25%) are from parents/carers with children at the school. 3 (2.4%) of the responses were impartial, 18 (14%) raised concerns but did not say that they opposed the expansion, and 1 response expressed no firm view. One further email supporting the proposed expansion was received after the deadline of the 22nd May 2009. The representations that we have received raise a number of issues and these are discussed under separate headings below.

Why expand Rhodes Avenue and not another local school?

5.13. Opposers to the expansion at Rhodes Avenue Primary School have questioned why we are not expanding at other local schools instead, specifically at St James (who have expressed a desire to expand from 1fe to 2fe) or Bounds Green (currently 2fe but has previously been a 3fe school).

5.14. St James objected to the expansion at the last round of consultation in 2008, but we have had no response from either them or from the Diocese on this latest consultation. When we received their objection in late 2008 we listened very carefully to the reasons that were put forward by St James for their school to expand as opposed to Rhodes Avenue. There were two factors that led us to conclude that, at the present time, St James should not be the school in PA1 that is expanded. Both of these reasons centred on demand and supply. Firstly, we looked at the latest admission applications that we had for September 2009 entry, and we also looked at admission data for preceding years. The overall picture for admission applications in PA1 (where both Rhodes Avenue and St James' are situated) is an upward trend with first preference applications up

from 409 across the planning area in 2006 to 451 for September 2009 entry (an increase of 9%). First preference applications for St James between 2006 and 2008 averaged 37. However, the applications for entry in September 2009 showed a marked drop – with only 19 families placing St James as their first preference (0.6 applications for every available place). Based on this information, we were not confident that the case for St James as a sustainable 2fe school at the present time was as clear as the case for Rhodes Avenue as a sustainable three-form entry school. Linked to this was a geographical analysis of where the demand for places is that is not being met, and the admissions criteria. Residents have labelled an area to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes Avenue as the ‘black hole’. This is an area where it is less likely that parents will secure any of their preferences. St James is to the south-west of this area, some distance away from the so called ‘black hole’. This “black hole” is also the area that the Council identified when we made our decision to explore the need for additional school places in the area.

- 5.15. Pressure for school places has been somewhat relieved in the area around PA1 in recent years by the expansion of Tetherdown Primary school from 1fe to 2fe, and, to a lesser extent, by the expansion of Coldfall Primary from 2fe to 3fe. However, some pockets still exist where – at least on first offer – places cannot be offered at local schools. The March 2009 Cabinet Report (Appendix 2) has, at its Appendix 6, a map that shows these pockets by a shaded area. These areas are mainly in Alexandra ward, particularly around Rhodes Avenue Primary School. Added to this uncertainty as to whether St James is the right school to expand is the admissions criteria for the school. St James is a C of E school and the admissions criteria differ from other local (non-denominational) schools. St James’ places ‘church commitment’ as criterion 4 on its Admissions Criteria for 2009 entry. This means that it is likely that applications for the school will come from a wider geographical area. Based on the evidence of admissions applications for St James for 2009 entry and the local areas generally where there is very short supply of reception places, our current concern would be that the admissions criteria would not allow supply to be directed to those parts of PA1 where it is needed. Rhodes Avenue is geographically placed in a more appropriate position to meet the areas where there is greatest shortfall in the supply of preference places.
- 5.16. There is no new evidence before us that makes us further question the conclusion that we reached with regard to the expansion of St James in March 2009. Tetherdown was expanded from 1fe to 2fe in 2007 and it is in very close proximity to St James. Coldfall was expanded in 2005 and is approximately equidistant between Rhodes Avenue and St James. We will continue to monitor the demand for and supply of school places in this part of Muswell Hill, and whether, in future years, St James might be an appropriate school to expand to meet clear local demand. However, at the present time, we have concluded that the expansion of Rhodes Avenue is the most appropriate action to take to meet the rising birth rates and the demand for preference places that is not being met.
- 5.17. Opposers have also questioned why we have not chosen to expand Bounds Green Primary from 2fe to 3fe to meet demand. Bounds Green Primary falls within Planning Area 14 (PA14), which is adjacent to PA1 where Rhodes Avenue is. The school was expanded to 3fe in 1999. With hindsight, there was not, at the time of expansion, demonstrable demand to fill three forms of entry. Federation and reduction of admission numbers again to 2 fe from September 2007 entry has stabilised school

budgets and, with new leadership and a new children's centre, the school is building popularity. It is oversubscribed for 2009 entry. However, at this stage we would not be confident that a premature expansion would not again damage the school's development, though a future expansion may occur as rolls and demand grows for both this school and other schools in the area.

- 5.18. In considering the expansion of a school, regard must be had to the potential impact of that expansion on surrounding schools. One of the principles of school place planning that was first outlined in the School Place Planning Report 2005 is that we must have "regard for the impact of any changes on the viability and standards at existing and new schools". This impact has been looked at very carefully, with particular reference to schools both in and close to PA1. On balance, given the projected demand for school places in the local area that cannot be met, the almost 0% surplus capacity of schools in PA1 and the growing demand for school places in other local schools, we are of the opinion that the expansion of Rhodes Avenue will not detrimentally impact on the long term viability and standards in other local schools. We will continue to monitor demand for schools both in and outside of PA1, including PA14. However, rising birth rates in the local area, across the borough as a whole and in adjoining boroughs, reassures us that demand for school places will continue its upward trajectory.

Good schools are always oversubscribed, and oversubscription should not be a reason in itself to expand, particularly given the impact on other local schools that are less popular.

- 5.19. The Schools White Paper "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All - More Choice for Parents and Pupils", published in 2005, reiterated the Government's long-standing policy of encouraging popular and successful schools to expand, as part of the agenda to increase parents' access to high-quality education for their children - *"Schools that are popular with local parents, but are oversubscribed, should have an easy route to expansion"*
- 5.20. The Government's long standing policy of encouraging popular and successful schools to expand is part of the agenda to increase parents' access to high-quality education for their children. The provision of school places requires active management so that surplus places are removed from where they are not wanted. However, in this local instance, there are no surplus places at schools where they are not wanted. The schools in PA1 have at or close to 0% surplus capacity at Reception level and there is little or no parental preference for many families. Other local schools outside of PA1, including Bounds Green, have seen demand steadily rise, and they too are at close to capacity. We have looked carefully at the impact that the expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary might have on surrounding schools. Overall we are satisfied that there is current local demand that is only just being met, and birth and school roll projections suggest that this demand will continue to rise and we will run out of school places if we do not expand. As a local authority, we have a legal duty to provide a school place for all children who are of a compulsory school age. We are not proposing the expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School solely because it is oversubscribed. The March 2009 Cabinet Report at Appendix 2 sets out the reasons why we have proposed the expansion of Rhodes Avenue, and why we have chosen it over other local schools.

Design Issues

- 5.19 Following completion of the feasibility stage, a drop-in session took place on the 30th April 2009, which was open to all pupils, staff, governors, parents and members of the wider community. The session tabled the feasibility design proposals, which in line with the recommendations of Building Bulletin 99 (space requirements) and in close consultation with the Head Teacher, the council felt could support the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue.
- 5.20 During the drop-in session and subsequent Statutory Consultation events, a number of design concerns were noted in respect of external play space provision, hall accommodation, traffic implications and how construction activities may impact on pupil education. All questions and notes of concern raised during these sessions are currently being collated into a question and answer document, which will be distributed on completion. The council's responses to these key questions are:
- 5.21 **External Play Space** - An initial review of existing and proposed external play space has been undertaken and evaluated in accordance with BB99 requirements. Rhodes Avenue Primary School is considered, as with many London Borough schools, a confined site. The result of this exercise demonstrated that the existing external play provision is 8,440m² against a recommendation within BB99 for a 2 form of entry at 5,122m².
- 5.22 The feasibility design proposal offers external play space at 8,130m² against a recommendation within BB99 for a 3 form of entry at 6,593m².
- 5.23 The design currently presents a separation of external play space between Foundation, KS1 and KS2. Concern has also been noted with regard to the space currently apportioned to KS2. We will continue to work closely with the Head Teacher and Governors regarding the design and in particular, how external play space could be scheduled across year groups, offering a variety of play and innovative uses.
- 5.24 **Hall Accommodation** - As with external play space, a review of the existing hall accommodation has taken place. This exercise demonstrated that the school currently have an overall allowance divided into 3 separate spaces at 516m² against a recommendation within BB99 for a 2 form of entry at 230m². Guidance offered for a 3 form of entry is £330m². Included within this, is a requirement to provide a hall space at 200m². As the existing infant hall is 175m², the design intent is to consolidate this space with the adjoining dining space to offer a provision, which is likely to exceed 200m².
- 5.25 **Traffic Implications** - The feasibility study incorporated an initial traffic impact assessment which began to analysis the impact during construction and as an expanded school. A full traffic impact assessment will be carried out as the design progresses. An allowance has been made within the overall project cost for the implementation of road safety improvements, which may be recommended as a result of the completed assessment.
- 5.26 **Disruption to the school** - the proposed design has considered carefully the impact it may have on the day-to-day operation of the school. It is proposed with the feasibility

report to carry out the construction work in three manageable phases. Temporary moves (decanting) will be inevitable and is very likely to be programmed over holiday periods. A phasing and decanting programme will be further developed in consultation with the school.

- 5.27 Potential disruption to pupil education and teaching is always a key consideration. This has proved successful in previous expansion projects in terms of overall delivery and inspections conducted by OFSTED post construction.

The majority of projected births are not in Alexandra ward and therefore not relevant to a discussion on Rhodes Avenue Primary School

- 5.28 The Cabinet Report dated the 24th March 2009 (appendix 2) looked in some depth at borough birth rates (paras 5.8 – 5.9), and at births in and around PA1 (paras 5.13 – 5.15). The Report concluded that 1) borough birth rates are rising faster than had been projected by the GLA, and 2) birth rates in PA1 are rising rapidly. PA1 has an increase of 33 births (7.2%) for children born between 2005/6 when compared with 2006/7 (the latter is the most up-to-date birth figures that the GLA are able to give us). Five of the fourteen PAs have a bigger rise in birth rates: PA3 (Crouch End and Hornsey) have an increase in births of 14.1% and an overall primary capacity of 7.7%. PA6 (St Ann's) has an increase in births of 22.6% and an overall primary surplus capacity of 7.46%. PA11 (White Hart Lane) has an increase in births of 14.5% and an overall primary surplus capacity of 5.81%. PA12 (Bruce Grove and West Green) has an increase in births of 15.4% and an overall primary surplus capacity of 4.42%. Finally, PA14 (Bounds Green and Woodside) has an increase in births of 9.4% and an overall primary surplus capacity of 8.77%. The corresponding overall primary surplus capacity for PA1 is just 1.08%.

- 5.29 The salient point here is **not just** that the birth rates are rising, or that there are other areas of the borough where the birth increase is greater, **but that PA1 has almost 0% capacity to cope with the additional demand for school places** that will result from rising birth rates in the local area. The point is that there are no school places for any additional children born in PA1. This is one of the very critical reasons why we are proposing the expansion of Rhodes Avenue in PA1, and not at a primary school in another Planning Area. While birth rates might be higher in PA14 (the PA adjoining PA1) there is capacity in the local schools to cope with this.

- 5.30 Also, local demand does not always correlate directly with birth rates. Some parts of the borough with very high birth rates (Seven Sisters for example) also have high proportions of temporary and low quality accommodation, so those born have often moved by the time reception places are needed. While their birth rates may be higher, demand for school places has not followed. The area around Rhodes Avenue has shown consistent steady demand for many years, related more closely to births.

- 5.31 Finally, we have had a further update on birth rates since the report on Rhodes Avenue to Cabinet in March 2009. The very latest birth rate data that we received from the GLA (received June 2009) provides us with information on birth rates (based on a calendar year and not a school year) up to 2008. The data provides information on London as a whole, and birth rates broken down by borough. The data tells us that London birth rates have increased by 22.6% since 2001. The children born in 2008 will be 4 years old by

2012 and will require a school place in that year. Between 2004 – 2008, the Haringey birth rate increased by 7% and the projection is for this upward trend to continue.

5.32 Our neighbouring boroughs, with the exception of Camden, saw an even greater increase in birth rates – Enfield 18%, Barnet 16%, Waltham Forest 16%, and Islington 9%. Hackney saw an increase of just 1%. The rise in adjoining borough birth rates does have a potential impact on our schools, particularly those that are close to the borough boundary – Rhodes lies close to both Barnet and Enfield. Both those boroughs have seen substantial increases in birth rates (Enfield's increase is one of the highest in London). While both boroughs are putting in place plans to meet the increased demand for places, there is potential for a ripple effect out to adjoining boroughs, including Haringey. This has been covered in some detail in the March 2009 Cabinet Report at paras 5.22 and 5.33. Further, we cannot continue to assume that the Haringey children that cross the border to go to school will continue to do so at the same rate. The salient point is that birth rates are increasing across London, leading to a greater overall demand for primary places, and leading to a campaign by London Councils for additional funding to support the requirement to provide more school places in the capital (see para 5.48 below).

The ethos at 2fe is good and this will be diluted at 3fe.

5.33 Many of the objections to the proposal to expand have commented that the school's unique sense of community will be damaged by expansion. Inevitably an expansion of a school will bring changes. However, if managed well, these changes can bring positive results. One of the primary reasons that we have chosen Rhodes Avenue as a school for expansion is the very strong leadership that is evident from the Head, her Senior Leadership Team and all of the teachers, Teaching Assistants and other staff at the school. We have every confidence that the staff at the school will work to ensure that any expansion does not impact in a negative way on the sense of the community that is so evident within the school. We have seen other schools expand locally and not lose the values that the parents/carers speak of so highly at Rhodes Avenue.

Raise the standards at other local schools so that they will be as popular as Rhodes Avenue and parents will make them a preference when choosing a school for their child.

5.34 The council has a strong track record of working successfully to raise standards across Haringey. This work continues and is not an alternative to school organisational changes such as expansion, reduction or federation.

Views of Governing Bodies at Local Schools

5.35 Representations from the Governing bodies of Coldfall and Highgate Primary Schools have also been received.

5.36 Highgate School Governing Body raised issues in relation to:

- The adverse impact on local schools has clearly not been considered.
- Need has not been demonstrated taking into account recent changes that have

been agreed at other schools.

- Data for admissions in 2009 is available at or around the date of closing for this statutory consultation process, but this needs to be made available prior to the meeting of Cabinet and should show the impact of 1) expansion of other local schools, 2) changes to the application process: VA schools are now included, 3) "Dry run" data referred to in Cabinet papers should be made public.

5.37 Coldfall Primary School Governing Body have raised the following concerns:

- The expansion will have a detrimental impact on our school, specifically in relation to projected pupil numbers.
- We are concerned about the effect on community cohesion. While there is an agenda to expand successful schools, there are other schools in the area that could be expanded without using the amount of money that will be used to expand Rhodes Avenue. Bounds Green is an example of this

5.38 Responses to these issues have largely been covered above. The March 2009 Cabinet Report clearly set out why there was a need to additional school places in the area around Rhodes Avenue, and this need was illustrated while fully taking into account the recent changes made to other local schools. We have illustrated that additional places have been provided in recent years in PA1 and in PA3 but data shows that there is still an overall shortage of school places in the area when balanced against both real and projected population data.

5.39 The dry run data that was referred to in the March 2009 Report does have value, but it is limited as it is using admissions data based on set PANs at local schools, and is unable to take into account the schools parents/carers might select if more school places were available in the local area.

Letters supporting the expansion

5.40 The paragraphs above have looked in detail at the objections that have been made in respect of the expansion. There have also been letters and emails in support of the expansion, 25% of which have come from parents/carers with children currently at the school. The issues that they have raised include 1) the importance of allowing children school places close to their homes; 2) that there is a need for school places in the area; 3) that a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school; and 4) the extra places would have a positive impact on the "black hole" that exists where it is hard to secure a local school of choice.

5.41 In taking a balanced view of the opinions expressed as part of this consultation, the opinions of those in favour should be considered alongside those who are against the expansion or who have concerns about it.

Conclusion

5.42 The current economic climate is unprecedented in recent years. In March 2009 we concluded that an economic downturn on its own cannot be a reason not to expand a good school. We have seen that birth rates are rising at a level that exceeds previous

projections for the borough.

- 5.43 Latest provisional birth figures across England for the first half of 2008 show that births were up by nearly 5% when compared with the first half of 2007. So, while there may be a downturn coming, figures have not yet borne this out.
- 5.44 As recently as 28th April 2009, the BBC reported that the private school sector is weathering the recession, and that the numbers being educated in private schools was up by approximately 3,000 in 2008, to 514,531. Our projections have not relied on an influx of children from the private to the state sector, but this latest evidence reassures us, at least at the current time, that there is no substantial movement from public to state schools and no need to plan for this added increase.
- 5.45 The design work for the design of new building at Rhodes to accommodate the expansion is an ongoing process. Much comment has been made on why the design was not worked up in greater detail at the outset of the consultation process. The use of public money to pay for detailed design proposals must be balanced against what stage the principle of expansion has reached. Only as the Council moved towards a conclusion on recommending to Cabinet that the expansion go ahead, was it deemed appropriate to start developing a detailed design on how the expansion would unfold on the ground. The design work is at an early stage and will continue to at least the end of 2009 and possibly beyond. During that time the Council will continue to engage with the school (including staff and pupils), Governors, parents, carers, local residents and other interested parties in developing a design that best meets the needs of all concerned. This is an evolving process and the Council have publicly made a commitment to listen to the views that are expressed and adapt the design where appropriate and where necessary.
- 5.46 Since March 2009 there has been no material evidence that has led us to conclude that we should reverse our proposal to expand Rhodes Avenue Primary School.
- 5.47 We have looked very carefully at the objections that have been received in respect of the proposal, as well as the letters and emails that support the expansion. We have balanced this very carefully against the other evidence that we have around birth rates, school rolls, admissions data and surplus capacity.
- 5.48 Recent activity by London Councils is also pertinent to the debate on the demand for primary places. London Councils is currently lobbying the government to address the huge short shortage of primary places that is occurring across London. Many boroughs are under much greater pressure even than Haringey, and some have not planned adequately to meet the great rise in the birth rate that we have seen in recent years. Their lobbying covers issues of 1) rising birth rates in London (20.5% when compared with a national average of 16.8%); 2) the economic downturn – leading to a demand for state and not private places, and to families staying in London for a primary place, and not moving out, as well as more families staying in one and two bedroom flats instead of trading up to bigger homes and releasing these smaller homes for singles/childless couples; 3) improvements in primary education standards have led to a greater demand for local school places; 4) an increase in cross border applications from neighbouring boroughs with capacity issues. In conclusion, 25 of the 33 London boroughs have either a) been unable to meet the demand for places, or b) acknowledged that lack of

classroom capacity and insufficient capital funding for an expansion programme meant that they would be facing problems within the next 2-3 years. They have suggested that the solution to this problem of a London wide shortage in primary places is to 1) ensure Councils have enough capital funding; 2) provide an emergency capital grant where there is a mismatch in boroughs between the levels of capital grant and supported borrowing and the actual costs of school expansion, 3) London Councils proposes that the government offers authorities interest free capital loans to be repaid when the property market recovers. This would ensure that essential capital projects, such as school building and expansion are not compromised by the current difficulty in generating capital receipts.

5.49 On balance we remain of the opinion that the expansion should go ahead in September 2011 and provide the additional school places in PA1 that will enable us to meet our legal obligation to provide all children with a school place.

5.50 We have listened to the views that have been expressed both for and against the expansion. On balance, none of the views expressed have led us to conclude that the recommendation to expand Rhodes Avenue Primary School from 2fe to 3fe from 2011 was wrong. The expansion will undoubtedly bring challenges to the school, but we are confident that the school and its management are fully equipped to meet these challenges and turn Rhodes Avenue into an outstanding 3fe school. Also, the demand for school places in the local areas, and its trajectory upwards reassures us that there will not be an adverse impact on other local schools. This has been one of the primary concerns from the outset, and is an area that has been considered very carefully and with detailed consideration of the statistical data that we have had before us.

6. Summary

6.1. Members are asked to agree the recommendation that Rhodes Avenue Primary School be expanded from two to three forms of entry with effect from 2011. A rising population across the borough means that surplus places in reception classes are reducing generally. Demand is more intense in Planning Area 1 (PA1) than in any other planning area. Our school roll projections show that, based on birth rates and demand for school places, if we do not take any action, we will run out of school places across the borough.

6.2. Rhodes Avenue Primary School has already been identified as the school that should be considered for expansion from 2fe to 3fe to meet projected demand. The January 2009 PLASC², the admissions data for September 2009 entry and the latest birth rates for the borough (2006/7) all support our concerns for PA1's school place capacity when balanced against demand, and makes the evidence for expansion even stronger.

² PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

7. Chief Financial Officer Comments

The financial issues in this report can be separated into those of a capital and revenue nature; arising firstly from the need to provide additional accommodation and then on-going funding for the education of the associated pupils.

Capital

- 7.1. Whilst the use of estimated pupil numbers is essential in order to plan for any changes to accommodation it does carry a degree of risk particularly where pupil numbers have traditionally been volatile. The current projections are complicated by the fact that they are influenced by the current economic climate, the effect and timing of which on pupil numbers are unknown.
- 7.2. There is currently provision within the CYPS Capital Programme for the expansion of Rhodes Avenue and a provisional amount to provide a limited amount of additional short-term temporary accommodation in each of the 3 years covered by the approved programme. However, the availability of resources post March 2011 is very uncertain as described in the report elsewhere on the agenda concerning the re-phasing of the CYPS programme.
- 7.3. London Councils have proposed, to the government, various solutions to deal with the predicted shortfall in resources being experienced by Authorities in London; however no firm proposals have yet emerged.

Revenue

- 7.4. The revenue consequences of pupil number fluctuations falls to be managed largely by schools themselves, since the calculation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and school's delegated budgets are determined by reference to actual (January) pupil numbers.
- 7.5. For increasing pupil numbers there tends to be a 'funding lag' between admissions in September being at a higher level feeding through into school budgets in the following financial year; this is in part compensated as pupil number falls caused by large year groups leaving schools and being replaced by smaller cohorts also does not reflect until the following financial year – giving a time delay cushion.
- 7.6. However, difficulties can be experienced in situations where it is in the best interest of strategic planning to maintain staffing establishments in anticipation of increase pupil numbers. This is particularly seen in situations such as regeneration areas where the decanting of families (and the associated pupils) can result in reductions with an expectation of their return at some future date. The volatile economic situation and in particular its effect on regeneration and housing schemes can amplify this situation.
- 7.7. All of these scenarios can be managed by schools in conjunction with the Local Authority primarily through the application of Licensed Deficit arrangements or by application to the contingency for schools in financial difficulty, the latter of which has recently been discussed by the School Forum with a view to the LA making applications on behalf of schools in situations where the issues are caused by strategic

considerations.

8. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 8.1. The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires the authority to ensure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in its area.
- 8.2. With respect to the publication, determination, and implementation of the proposals for alterations to maintained schools in England the authority must observe Schedule 5 Part 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended).
- 8.3. In particular, Regulation 31(1) (Schedule 5 Part 2) of the Regulations deals with the consideration and determination of proposals by the local authority. This provides that a local authority can approve the proposals without modifications. Regulation 34(1) (Schedule 5 Part 2) provides that any determination must be made within 2 months of the end of the representation period. As the representation period ended on 22 May 2009 we are well within the prescribed time limit. The Regulations state that all interested parties as specified in Regulation 34(1) should be consulted in relation to notification of the decision.
- 8.4. Regulation 33 (Schedule 5, Part 2) provides that various bodies can appeal against the decision to expand the school by way of referral to an adjudicator and sets out the process that should be followed if an appeal is received.
- 8.5. Regulation 8 provides that local authorities and the Schools Adjudicator should have regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State when consulting, considering or determining proposals."

9. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

- 9.1. Providing local school places to meet local demand helps to contribute towards the development of sustainable communities.

10. Consultation

- 10.1. We have consulted widely on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School (see paragraphs 5.7 – 5.10 above).
- 10.2. All head teachers and Chairs of Governors in Haringey received details of the proposed expansion through the Council's Educomms system which provides a weekly electronic update on all matters relating to schools. We also consulted with the Church of England and Roman Catholic Diocesan Boards, the Trade Unions and neighbouring boroughs, as well as Coppetts Wood and Hollickwood Primary Schools in Barnet, the latter having previously expressed concerns about the proposal.

10.3. We leaflet dropped 40 of the roads surrounding the school, the Statutory Notice was pinned to all of the entrances to the school, and in the local libraries at Alexandra Park and Muswell Hill. The Statutory Notice also appeared in the Journal series of newspapers that cover the borough in the week beginning the 20th April 2009. A flier for the consultation was displayed in buildings close to the school where it could be seen by families with school age children. These buildings included The Pavilion Cafe at Albert Road Park, the Sunshine Garden Centre, Rosemount Nursery (Grosvenor Road N10) and CUFOS Community Building at the top of The Avenue, N10.

10.4. If Cabinet agree the recommendation to expand Rhodes Avenue Primary School to 3fe, the design of the expansion will be an ongoing process until at least the end of this year. Once a final design has evolved, it will need to be the subject of a planning application. A planning application will consider, among other things, the impact of any proposal on the local area, including issues of the generation of traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, in the local area. This planning application will also be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which is an assessment of the possible impact—positive or negative—that a proposed project may have on the environment; considering natural, social and economic aspects.

10.5. The Haringey School Organisation and Admissions Forum (HASOF) have been consulted on a draft of this report, and their comments will be reported verbally to this Cabinet meeting.

11. Service Financial Comments

12.1 The expansion of Rhodes Avenue has the following implications for the Council's capital and revenue budgets:

Capital

Feasibility studies have been carried out on the works required to facilitate the expansion of the school to accommodate 3 Forms of Entry and to deal with essential condition and suitability issues at the school. The estimated total cost of these works is £8.9m and provision for this sum has been included in the approved capital programme for the Children and Young People's Service. The total estimated cost of the project is made up as follows:

	£000
Construction	6,640
Fixtures and fittings	630
Fees	710
Disbursements	176
Contingency	744
Total	8,900

Revenue

The additional intake of pupils will generate additional support for the school's budget in the form of increases in dedicated schools grant for both curriculum support and general school overheads. Any additional floor area of the school that will be created is also included as a factor in the funding formula for school budgets. The school will need to be mindful of the requirement to make sufficient provision in the future for any additional facilities management and maintenance costs as a result of the expansion from within the schools delegated budget.

12. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- 12.1. Appendix 1 – Map of Planning Areas across the borough
- 12.2. Appendix 2 – Cabinet Report of the 24th March 2009
- 12.3. Appendix 3 – Published Statutory Notice
- 12.4. Appendix 4 – the Complete Proposal to the Statutory Notice
- 12.5. Appendix 5 - Results of the consultation carried out between April and May 2009.

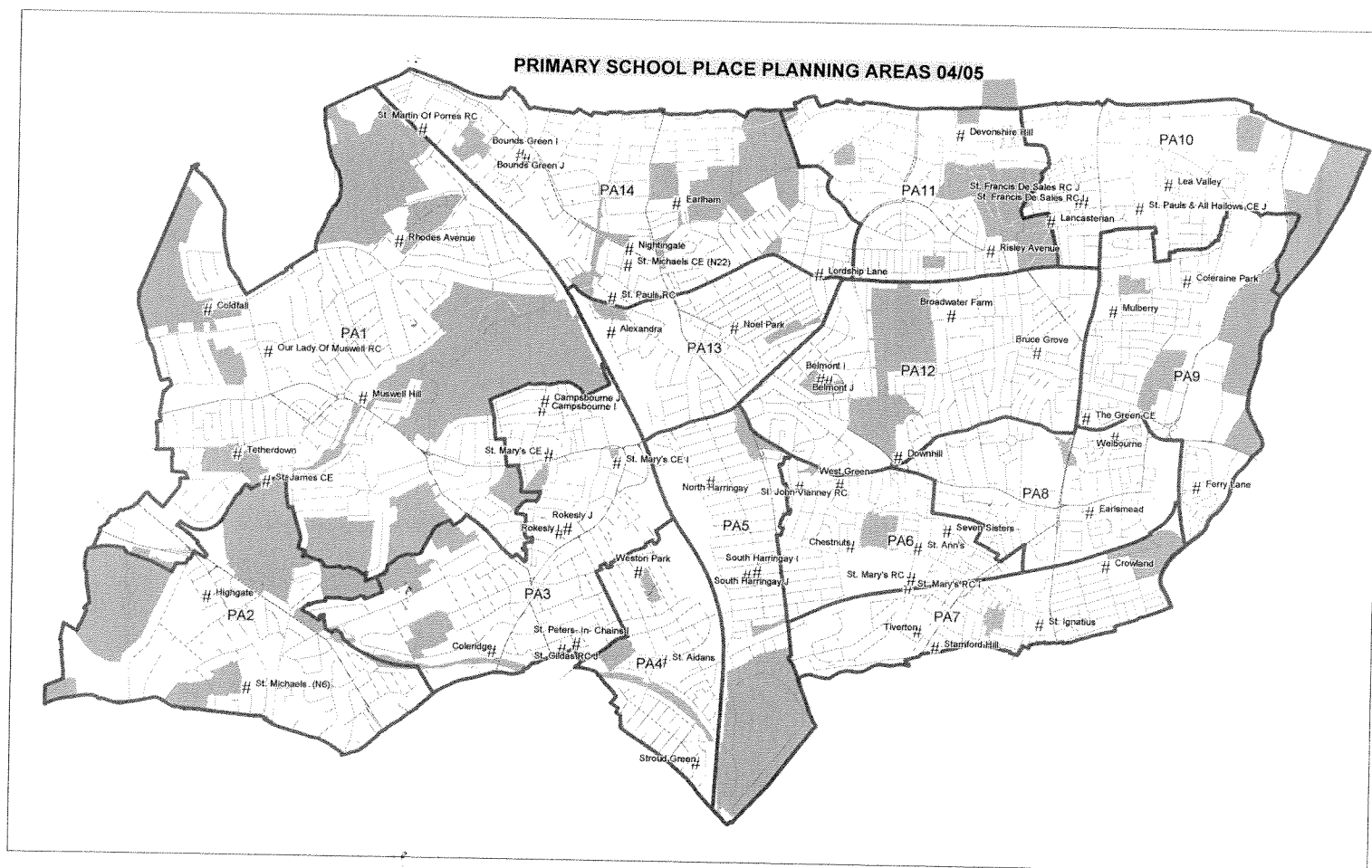
13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 13.1. Previous School Place Planning Reports, School PLASC returns, GLA birth and school roll data and projections, ONS birth data, latest analysis on the economic downturn, demand for school places and private school data from the BBC, Guardian, and The Economist.

Appendix 1

Detailed information about Planning Areas 1-14

To enable manageable analysis and planning, primary school roll data is provided in localities. As in the 2005 report the borough has been split into 14 planning areas. Each corresponds to one or more wards (the Greater London Demography system does not permit more than 14 areas).





Haringey Council

Appendix 2

Agenda item:

[No.]

Cabinet

On 24th March 2009

Report Title. School Expansion Consultation – Rhodes Avenue Primary School N22

Report of Peter Lewis, Director of the Children and Young People's Service

Signed :

Contact Officer : Eveleen Riordan 020 8489 5019 eveleen.riordan@haringey.gov.uk

Wards(s) affected: all, but with particular possible impact on Alexandra, Bounds Green, Muswell Hill, Noel Park, Fortis Green and Woodside wards as they surround Alexandra ward where Rhodes Avenue Primary School is.

Report for: key decision

14. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 The July 2008 School Place Planning Report proposed consultation on the possible expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School in Alexandra Ward within the West Area Children's Network from 2 to 3 forms of entry (fe). The consultation on this possible expansion took place between the 10th October and the 28th November 2008. Any expansion would take effect from September 2011 beginning with that year's reception intake. This report sets out the responses received to the consultation and considers these and all other material considerations and makes a recommendation that the Council should publish statutory notices proposing the expansion of Rhodes Avenue.
- 1.2 If this recommendation is agreed, a further report will be brought to Cabinet in June 2008 for a final decision to be made.

15. Introduction by Cabinet Member

- 2.1 We have seen an unexpected and substantial rise in the birth rate in the borough, and this trend is replicated in Enfield and Barnet. We estimate therefore that this planning area will need additional reception school places by 2011 if we are to avoid a situation where we have children with no school place to go to. Within the planning area it is localities to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes which are of most concern. I therefore support the recommendation that we expand Rhodes Avenue primary school.

16. Links with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

- 3.1 The careful planning and control of school places in the borough will contribute to the Council's Priority 3 "Encouraging lifetime well-being, at home, work, play and learning" and Priority 5 "Delivering excellent, customer focused, cost effective services".

17. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 4.1 Note the feedback from the consultation
- 4.2 Note the analysis of other factors influencing the provision of and demand for school places in Haringey and in particular in Alexandra ward.
- 4.3 Agree the recommendation that we proceed to statutory notices on the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School from 2fe to 3fe, commencing with the reception intake in September 2011.
- 4.4 Agree to design work continuing on the potential expansion concurrently with the consultation on statutory notices.

5 Reason for recommendation(s) Background

- 5.1 The July 2008 School Place Planning Report recommended the need to consider whether or not to provide additional places in Alexandra Ward. A rising population across the borough means that surplus places in reception classes are reducing generally. Demand is more intense in Planning Area 1 (PA1) than in any other planning area. PA1 comprises Alexandra, Fortis Green and Muswell Hill wards and contains the following schools – Tetherdown, Coldfall, St James', Our Lady of Muswell and Rhodes Avenue (see Appendix 1 for a map of all of the Planning Areas across the borough).
- 5.2 Our projections, reported in the July report (Appendix 2) showed that, based on birth rates and demand for school places, if we did not take any action, we would run out of school places in across the borough. The Report identified Rhodes Avenue as the school that should be considered for expansion from 2fe to 3fe to meet projected demand. St James' C of E Primary School have also put forward a body of information and evidence as to why they should be considered over Rhodes Avenue, and this is examined in more detail later in

this report. Since that report in 2008 we have had the benefit of three more pieces of evidence – the January 2009 PLASC³, the admissions data for September 2009 entry and the latest birth rates for the borough (2006/7). All of the new data that we have confirms the concerns we had for PA1's school place capacity when balanced against demand and makes the evidence for expansion even stronger.

5.3 The 2008 School Place Planning Report set out that a 1fe expansion at Rhodes requires formal statutory consultation as well as substantial building works. The statutory consultation has two main stages: 1) a consultation exercise with all stakeholders, followed by a decision to proceed or not, and 2) formal publication of statutory notices. We would need to begin the first stage of consultation in 2008 in order to meet a timetable for any expansion in 2011. The Report in July 2008 therefore recommended that stage 1 be approved so that we could carry out consultation and report back to Cabinet on the consultation and other material considerations in deciding whether or not we should proceed to statutory notices.

5.4 In examining all of these considerations we have been conscious of the need to make a balanced and fair decision based on all of the information before us. If we do not respond to the evidence that points to the need for additional places in this part of the borough we run a very real possibility that we will have insufficient school places to meet demand by 2011. However, if we were to expand a school and demand for places did not rise or were to fall we could affect the viability of local schools, seeing them short of pupils and therefore short of funding. The results of the consultation and all other considerations are set out below under headed sections for ease of reference. They consider material factors across the borough, as well as more local information pertaining to the area around Rhodes Avenue. These considerations include birth rates, admissions data, reception rolls, the current economic climate and the results of the consultation.

5.5 Demand for Reception Places and Reception Roll

The demand for reception places in the borough is increasing (see Appendix 2). When looking at rising demand, we have plotted actual births against actual demand for a reception place in the corresponding school year. For example, of the 3844 births in 2002/3, 2932 required reception place when they reached school age in the school year 2007/8. The number of school places available for that year across all of our schools was 3083. This left a 4.90% surplus of reception places across the borough (but only 0.98% in PA1). We need to ensure that there is a balance between assisting schools with their long term financial planning by reducing the number of vacant places, against allowing some real scope for parental preference, and the DCSF accepts that this can be met by allowing for around a 5% surplus capacity at entry across schools. This is not evenly distributed across the borough, however, and PA1 is now in a position where that surplus capacity hovers at around 1%. Looking at population figures and demand for reception places (both real and projected by using figures given to us by the GLA), we have predicted that by 2011/12 we will not have enough reception places to meet the predicted demand across the borough, with the greatest pressure in PA1.

5.6 Reception roll information shows that our reception numbers are rising (Appendix 3). In October 2007 we had 2783 reception children in our schools. By January 2009 this figure had risen to 2987. We currently have the capacity for up to 3062 reception children across

³ PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census

all of our primary schools. This figure of 3062 is known as the Planned Admission Number or 'PAN'

5.7 Admission Applications

Applications to Haringey primary schools are also steadily rising (Appendix 3), up from 2662 on-time applications for reception admission in September 2007, to 2807 applications for admission in September 2009 - an increase in demand for reception places across the borough of 5.2% between 2007 and 2009, i.e. 145 more pupils are seeking a place for entry into primary school for September 2009 when compared with 2007. 145 children represent 4.8 reception classes (145 divided by 30).

5.8 Borough Births

The birth rate for Haringey is also rising – we can see this from actual figures that plot our birth rates dating from 1991/2 through to 2006/7. The GLA also gives us population projections which show how our birth rate is expected to increase or decrease in years to come, right up until 2017/18. Their projections suggest that the birth rate will continue to rise within the borough, as indeed they are predicted to rise across London and the south-east (birth rates in London have risen steadily for the last 19 years).

- 5.9 Our most up-to-date actual birth figures 2006/7 show that the birth rate for that year across the borough was 4292. This was a rise of 270 births from the figure for 2005/6 which was 4022. At the time that the School Place Planning Report was written in July 2008, we did not have an actual birth rate figure for 2006/7, only a projection. That projected figure was 3983. This means that there have been **309 more** births than had been anticipated by the GLA when they projected our figures. Births are therefore rising at a higher rate than we had anticipated when we decided that we needed to plan for additional capacity in reception places in PA1. This is a material consideration in the debate as to whether or not to expand Rhodes Avenue.

5.10 The Economic situation

The impact of the current economic climate on possible birth rate and demand for reception places is a factor that must be given due consideration. The School Place Planning Report 2008 acknowledged that the economic climate or 'credit crunch' had to be considered in planning for future school place demand. Since that time we have spoken with the GLA about their evidence, both past and present, of the impact of an economic downturn on the demand for school places in London. The GLA advice is that an economic downturn on its own cannot be a reason not to expand a good school. The evidence in Haringey is that there has been a sharp increase in births since 2005. This sharp increase follows a steadier increase that we have seen year on year for the last nineteen years. Latest actual figures for births in 2006/7 shows that the rise in birth rates has increased further than was projected, and has exceeded the projections that the GLA made for our birth rates. The children born in 2006/7 will enter reception class in 2011/12, and they represent a rise of approximately 10% on those born in 2003/4 (who entered reception in 2008/9). Latest provisional birth figures across England for the first half of 2008 show that births were up by nearly 5% when compared with the first half of 2007. So, while there may be a downturn coming, figures have not yet borne this out.

- 5.11 A further aspect of recession is the additional numbers entering reception classes due to

⁴ This refers to total applications – that is, irrespective of whether a first or fourth choice.

the collapse of the housing market. The GLA would normally expect (and Haringey's figures bear this out) that many parents of pre-school children move away from London and so dilute the crude birth numbers before that cohort enters school. Evidence presented to the GLA Demography Liaison Group in October 2008 shows that this does not seem to be happening at the same rate as before as families are trapped in homes that they cannot sell, or they are not willing to move to a larger home outside of the capital because of uncertainty around retaining their employment and therefore earning ability.

5.12 There has been some national evidence that the economic downturn has had a negative impact on the demand for private school places, which in turn has led to increased demand for state school places. We do not have any empirical evidence for Haringey. The Economist (22nd January 2009) has indicated that the funds available to prop up private school fees at the last recession, including sale of property and Grandparent investment returns, are less readily available in this recession, and so there may be a greater impact in terms of those taking their children out of private education and putting them into state education. It remains to be seen how this plays out. The Guardian (11th February 2009) has reported that The Headmasters and Headmistresses' Conference (Feb 2009) had indicated that independent schools are defying the slump at the present time, but commentators have predicted that the effects of the recession might not be felt on independent schools for another year or two. In conclusion, we need to continue to monitor the effect of the economic downturn. Current evidence does not suggest that, so far, it has meant a reduction demand for school places within the borough, or indeed within the area that is local to Rhodes Avenue, and GLA advice is that a recession *may* actually result in an increased demand for school places as people are stuck in their homes and unable to move.

5.13 Births in and around PA1

Appendix 4 shows the births rates broken down into the fourteen Planning Areas across the borough. The birth rate for PA1 in 2005/6 (the cohort of children who will enter school in 2010/2011) increased by 33 births in one year i.e. the equivalent of just over one reception class. Even allowing for some of these families to move away from the borough and not demand a school place in 2010/2011, this represents a substantial increase in the number of children who are likely to come forward in that year for a reception place. Further, the GLA have indicated that there is likely to be less mobility of pre-school families during an economic downturn. With reception classes very nearly at or at full capacity, there are almost no surplus places for these children to fill in PA1. PA1 is surrounded by PA2, PA3, PA13 and PA14. The demand for and supply of school places in these planning areas has a bearing on PA1 (and vice versa), even allowing for the fact that parents will have preferences for where they want their children to go to school.

Year of birth	Equivalent year for entry into reception	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA13	PA14
2005/6	2010/11	458	155	368	214	405
2006/7	2011/2012	491	146	420	201	443

5.14 If these Planning Areas, PA14 (containing St Martin of Porres, Bounds Green, Earlham, Nightingale, St Michaels CE and St Pauls RC) is probably the most relevant Planning Area

as it contains the schools (particularly Bounds Green) that are sited closest to Rhodes Avenue Primary School. The birth rate in PA14 has risen too, up by 38 births (9.4%) from 2005/6 to 2006/7. Birth rates are also up (by 14%) in PA3 but down in PA2 (5.8%) and PA13 (6.1%) for the corresponding period. Overall the net gain in births across all of these Planning Areas is 101 children, equivalent to over 3 reception classes.

5.15 Local Situation in PA1 – Reception Rolls and admission applications

Appendix 5 shows the number of pupils who are currently in reception across PA1. Rolls in PA1 are high with close to 0% surplus capacity across the schools in this area. We have also looked at admission applications for reception for the last four years. This information takes us up to those children who will be starting school in September 2009. This information is set out in Appendix 7. The admissions data shows that the number of applications has remained fairly steady over the last few years at around 450.

5.16 Dry Runs

We have been able to carry out 'dry runs' on the admissions data that we have for September 2009 entry. These runs give us an indication of which schools the children that have applied to school will actually be offered. We have also created a dry run on the assumption that Rhodes Avenue would be 3fe in 2009. This enables us to look at the impact that the expansion of Rhodes Avenue would have on surrounding schools at a particular point in time i.e. September 2009 (two years before the proposed expansion of Rhodes Avenue which is scheduled for 2011). The advantage of a dry run is that it gives us some indication as to what would happen to school rolls in the area. There are limitations on carrying out a dry run however. These include: 1) not knowing if those families who have applied to church schools will meet the criteria and therefore whether they will get into those schools or will require a place at another school; 2) not knowing if all of the offers made to pupils will be accepted – some families may opt to go to school out of borough or privately, or may move before they are due to take up a place. The dry runs suggest that, even on 2009 numbers of applications, expanding Rhodes Avenue would not significantly affect offers to other local schools.

5.17 Consultation

As part of the decision making process on whether we should proceed to statutory notices with the expansion of Rhodes Avenue to 3fe, the Council carried out consultation with local schools, parents, residents and other interested parties. This consultation was carried out between the 10th October and the 28th November 2008. The start date of the consultation was delayed from the end of September 2008 so that it did not clash with the local bye-election that was being held in Alexandra Ward. As part of that consultation we held three public meetings. Appendix 8 sets out in detail what the response to the consultation was. Overall, the response was fairly even with a similar number of responses being for and against the expansion. Those against the expansion cited issues including:

- Disruption during construction works and impact on local residents
- Increase in traffic and congestion at drop off and pick up
- Impact on the quality of the children's education
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of places means we should not expand at the current time
- Negative impact on surrounding local schools

- Expand other local schools to 3fe where there is existing physical capacity to do so
- Creating more places in a good school will attract more people to the area demanding school places
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them.

Those in favour of the expansion cited the following reasons for support:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- There is a need for additional school places in the area
- A larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places would have a positive impact on pockets of the local area where it is hard to secure a local school of choice

5.18 We also received 8 responses from Governing Bodies of local schools, the Diocesan of London Board for Schools (C of E), Barnet Council, a primary school in Barnet and the Police.

The Chair of Governors from St James', supported by the Director of the London Diocesan Board for Schools (Anglican), has made a case for why we should be expanding St James from its current 1 fe to 2fe to provide additional school places in the area as an alternative to the Rhodes Avenue proposal. In addition, the Chair addressed one of the public meetings that were held to set out why he considered that St James should be the first choice of school for expanding in the local area. He set out a four-fold case for St James:

- 1) Two teachers per year group allows an experienced teacher to be harnessed with an NQT, and also allows for greater flexibility in teaching different subject matters;
- 2) Year on year St James receive three applications⁴ for every place, and so some local families are disappointed. Expanding to 2fe would allow a further 30 children a year to have access to a school that is rated as "outstanding" by Ofsted.
- 3) As a 1fe St James struggles yearly to avoid budget deficits, and there are no economies of scale available. Expanding to 2fe would enable the school to cover its fixed overheads much more readily, making budget balancing easier while continuing to achieve strong results.
- 4) The School and Diocesan Board have stated that an undertaking was made in 2003/4 to look at St James' as the next candidate for expansion when places were needed in the area. The School and Diocesan Board believe this undertaking has not been properly honoured.

5.19 We have listened very carefully to the reasons that have been put forward by St James for their school to expand as opposed to Rhodes Avenue. There are two factors that have led us to conclude that, at the present time, St James should not be the school in PA1 that is expanded. Both of these reasons centre on demand and supply. Firstly, we have looked at the latest admission applications that we have for September 2009 entry, and we have also looked at admission data for preceding years. The overall picture for admission applications in PA1 (where both Rhodes Avenue and St James are situated) is an upward trend with first preference applications up from 409 across the planning area in 2006 to 451 for September 2009 entry (an increase of 9%). First preference applications for St James between 2006 and 2008 averaged 37. However, the applications for entry in September 2009 have shown a marked drop – with only 19 families placing St James as their first preference (0.6

applications for every available place). Based on this information, we are not confident that the case for St James as a sustainable 2fe school at the present time is as clear as the case for Rhodes Avenue as a sustainable three-form entry school. Linked to this is a geographical analysis of where the demand for places is that is not being met, and the admissions criteria. Residents have labelled an area to the south, south-east and east of Rhodes Avenue as the 'black hole'. This is an area where it is less likely that parents will secure any of their preferences. St James' is to the south-west of this area, some distance away from the so called 'black hole'. This is also the area that the Council identified when we made our decision to explore the need for additional school places in the area.

5.20 Pressure for school places has been somewhat relieved in this part of the borough in recent years by the expansion of Tetherdown Primary school from 1fe to 2fe, and, to a lesser extent, by the expansion of Coldfall Primary from 2fe to 3fe. However, some pockets still exist where – at least on first offer – places cannot be offered at local schools. At Appendix 6 is a map that shows these pockets by a shaded area. These areas are mainly in Alexandra ward, particularly around Rhodes Avenue primary school. Added to this uncertainty as to whether St James' is the right school to expand is the admissions criteria for the school. St James' is a C of E school and the admissions criteria differ from other local (non-denominational) schools. St James' places 'church commitment' as criterion 4 on its Admissions Criteria for 2009 entry. This means that it is likely that applications for the school will come from a wider geographical area. Based on the evidence admissions applications for St James' for 2009 entry and the local areas generally where there is very short supply of reception places, our current concern would be that the admissions criteria would not allow supply to be directed to those parts of PA1 where it is needed. Rhodes Avenue is geographically placed in a more appropriate position to meet the areas where there is greatest shortfall in the supply of preference places.

5.21 Other Local Schools

In considering the expansion of a school, regard must be had to the potential impact of that expansion on surrounding schools. One of the Principles of School Place Planning that were first outlined in the School Place Planning Report 2005 is that we must have "regard for the impact of any changes on the viability and standards at existing and new schools". The public meetings were attended by several local head teachers, and two of the local schools, St James' and Our Lady of Muswell, have written to us expressing views on the possible expansion. St James' views have been clearly outlined above and they opposed to the expansion for the reasons as set out in 5.20 above. Our Lady of Muswell (OLM) has also expressed opposition to the proposal. Their Governors have commented that they do not believe that the proposal for additional places in Alexandra ward is supported by sufficient evidence of projected demand. It is their view that the recent additional expansions in places are now beginning to impact the system, and are adequate to address the present and foreseeable demand. They have further commented that "the number of applications for Our Lady of Muswell this year (2008 entry) has decreased from previous years" and that they "do not believe that the proposal for additional places in Alexandra ward is supported by sufficient evidence of projected demand. Indeed, it is our view that the recent additional expansions in places are now beginning to impact the system, and are adequate to address the present and foreseeable demand. They conclude by saying that: "It is our view that to proceed to create additional places will, as the Consultation concedes, increase the risk of existing places at other schools not being taken up, with the consequential adverse impact on funding for those schools". Admission applications data for September 2009 admission

show that OLM has had an increase in demand, up from 56 first place preferences in 2008, to 62 first place preferences for 2009. Further, OLM's objections need to be balanced against other evidence, including an actual birth rate that exceeds all projections. The local Barnet school, Hollickwood, have expressed concern at an expansion because of the potential impact on their school rolls. However, Barnet have indicated that birth rates in their borough are rising, and that first preference applications for Hollickwood are also rising (see para. 5.22 below).

5.22 Cross Borough Issues

We have spoken to the two neighbouring authorities, Barnet and Enfield, to ask them to tell us about their school place planning in the area immediately adjacent to the boundary with Haringey, and close to Rhodes Avenue Primary School. Neither borough expressed an objection to the proposal, although Barnet did comment that: "we would not have any formal objection to the expansion as there is clearly pressure for places in that area of Haringey. Our only concern would be the impact on Hollickwood school, which is near the Haringey boundary and currently has a number of empty places". They went on to conclude that: "although we are concerned about Hollickwood, we understand the need for Haringey to look at this expansion and would not object to it going ahead" since they have made those comments, both boroughs have been in receipt of two important pieces of information: the September 2009 admission data and the latest birth rates from the GLA. As a result of this we have spoken again to Barnet. They have told us that there has been an upward trend in demand for places at Hollickwood primary – up from 17 first place preferences in 2008 to 25 first place preferences for 2009. Their birth rates have also risen – births in 2006/7 (i.e. children who will enter reception in 2011) have jumped by more than 28%. One can expect that this will result in an increased demand for school places in that year, even allowing for families that might move away from the area in the intervening years.

5.23 Enfield too has confirmed that their birth rates are rising and they are facing very real challenges in the provision of reception places across the borough. They have already experienced a shortfall between demand and supply which has necessitated some temporary classrooms and a programme of school expansion. Within the area close to our boundary they have indicated that the recent North Circular Area Action Plan (NCAAP) could provide up to 2000 new residential units along the North Circular Road (NCR) in the next 5 - 10 years. Enfield are keen to see a large portion of these units in the form of family housing with the resultant impact on demand for school places. Bowes Primary, situated just over the borough boundary, currently provides places for 90 Haringey children. As part of the NCAAP, there is a proposal to move Bowes primary to the other side of the NCR onto the Broomfield (Secondary) School site which would take it further from the borough boundary and make it less likely that Haringey children would gain a place there. Some of these families are likely to look to Bounds Green and Rhodes Avenue for places. Finally, the Ladderwood Estate and surrounding area to the south of Garfield school (in Enfield) is being redeveloped, with the replacement of small flatted units with more family type accommodation. Again, this has potential for an increased demand for school places. Even if Enfield are able to contain this demand within its own schools, the increase pressure will mushroom out across the borough boundary and is likely to affect demand in our schools.

6 Other options considered

6.1 We have given consideration to two other options. The first is to leave Rhodes Avenue at 2fe and to expand St James' C of E Primary School from 1fe to 2fe. However, as discussed in paragraph 5.13 above, we have concerns that an expansion of St James' would not meet the demand for school places in the part of the borough experiencing the greatest pressure. Further, latest admissions applications data gives us concern that demand for St James' as a sustainable 2fe school is not proven. We have looked impartially at the cost of expanding St James' and not expanding Rhodes Avenue and have concluded that there is no economic advantage of expanding one school over the other.

6.2 We also have the option to do nothing – based on data available in 2008, we predicted that if we did not take action, that we would run out of school places in the local area by 2011. More recent data, including birth rates, admission applications and the January PLASC, gives added weight to these fears.

7 Chief Financial Officer Comments

7.1 Through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) the authority receives funding, and is in turn obliged to fund its schools, based on the actual numbers of pupils on roll at the time of the January PLASC count. In a stable environment it is possible for schools to plan class organisation to match as closely as possible pupil numbers regardless of the theoretical admission number(s).

7.2 However, schools often experience financial planning difficulties where there are surplus places in an area (as this maximises parental choice and planning uncertainties). Such difficulties are acutely felt in 1FE schools where the scope to merge classes and cover fixed overheads is particularly affected by downward pupil number fluctuations.

7.3 The School Forum has recommended, and Cabinet has agreed, to changes to the Haringey Formula for Financing Schools in 2009-10 to increase the lump sum allocations to 1FE schools in recognition of some of these difficulties.

7.4 In summary the risks that need to be balanced in this proposal relate to the possible inefficient use of capital resources and the potential effect on surrounding schools if demand was not as predicted, leading to surplus places being created.

8 Head of Legal Services Comment

8.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 requires the authority to secure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education in its area. Consideration of the data set out in the report should be undertaken with this duty in mind. While this is not an issue for the determination of this report, the authority will need to bear in mind the duty to respond to parental representations concerning the provision of schools introduced by Section 3 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England Regulations) 2007 (as amended) state that all interested parties as specified in Schedule 5 Part 2 should be consulted in relation to any expansion. Section 176 of the Education Act 2002 also provides that Local authorities should consult pupils on the expansion that may affect them. In terms of the statutory proposals it must include the prescribed information as specified in Schedule 5 Part 1 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulation 2007 (as amended). A statutory notice including details of the proposals with details of how copies

of the proposals can be found must be published in a local newspaper and also be posted on all entrances of the school and at another place in the area such as a local library or post office. Regard should be had to Schedule 5 Part 2 section 28 the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools (England) Regulation 2007 (as amended) which sets out the process for publication of proposals.

9 Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

9.1 Providing local school places to meet local demand helps to contribute towards the development of sustainable communities.

10 Consultation

10.1 Alongside the publication of Statutory Notices on the proposed expansion, the Council will carry out a further four week period of consultation with local school, residents and other interested parties running during April 2009. The results of this consultation will be fed back to HASOF in May 2009 as part of the report recommending whether or not the expansion should proceed. If there have been objections to the proposal, the consultation will also be reported to the July 2009 Cabinet who will make the final determination on the expansion.

11 Service Financial Comments

11.1 Current estimates based on early feasibility work are that the cost of expanding Rhodes Avenue, taking account of other works to address suitability and conditions problems (most of which would need to be attended to in any event) would be £8.4m. This project would be funded by government capital grant.

11.2 In common with most London Boroughs, we have submitted information to the DCSF through London Councils to show that further funding will be needed in coming years to meet other primary place needs. Haringey has put forward a case for a further £18m to provide for additional capacity by 2015.

11.3 To allow places at the school to be available by 2011, if expansion were to be subsequently approved by Cabinet, design work, with consequent fees expenditure, will need to continue concurrently with the consultation of statutory notices.

12 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- Appendix 1 - Map of Haringey School Planning Areas (PA1 – P14)
- Appendix 2 - Provision of primary school places
- Appendix 3 - Total Reception Rolls and Demand for Reception places across the Borough
- Appendix 4 - Birth Rates by Planning Area
- Appendix 5 - Number and surplus capacity of children in reception across PA 1.
- Appendix 6 - Furthest Distance Offered (On offer Day) For September 2008
- Appendix 7 - Primary Admission Applications 2006-2009
- Appendix 8 - Results of the consultation

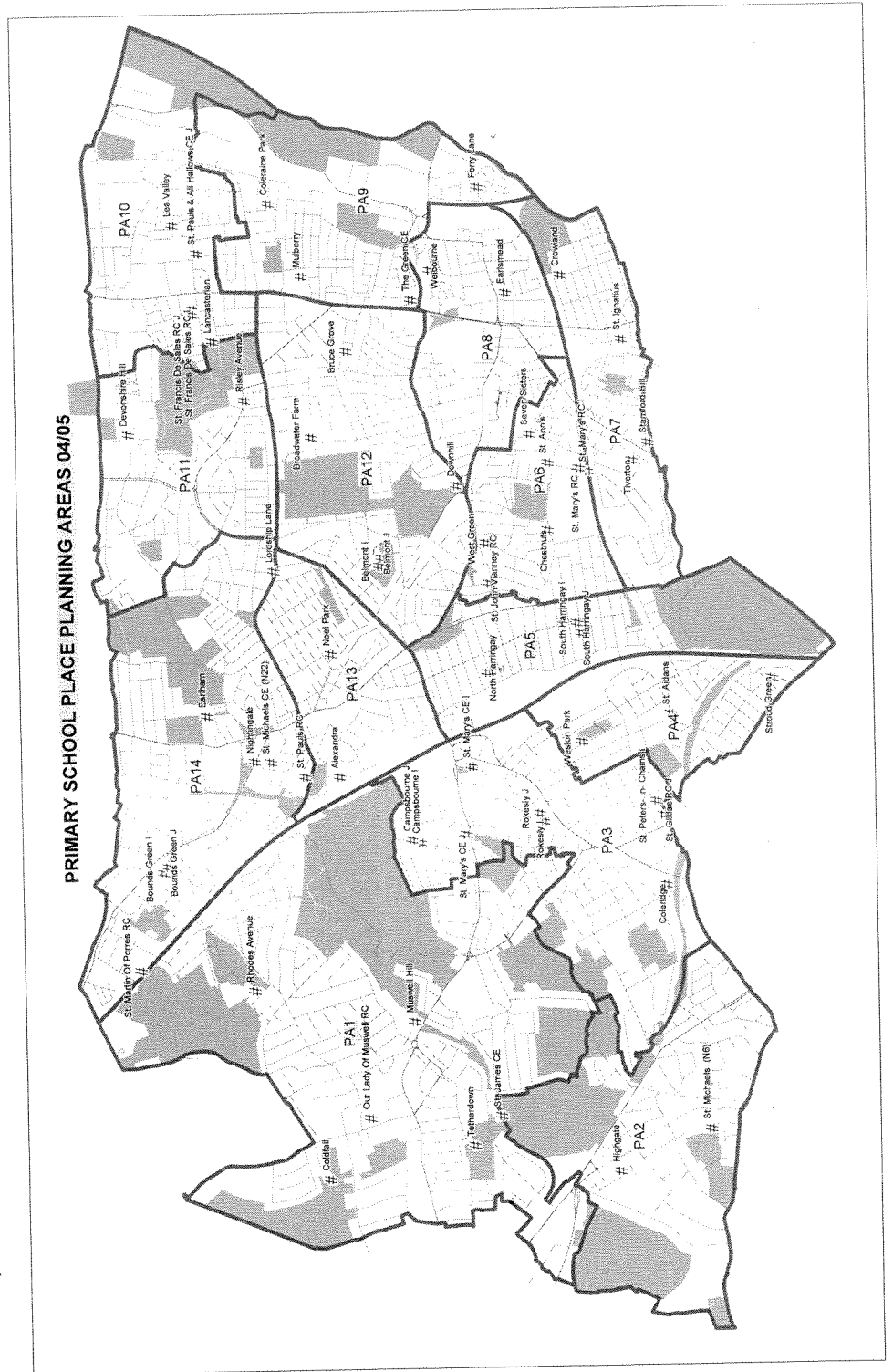
13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 13.1 School Place Planning Reports 2007 and 2008
GLA roll and birth rate projections
Haringey PLASC returns
The Economist – January 2009
The Guardian – February 2009



Appendix 1

PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING AREAS 04/05





Haringey Council

Appendix 2 Provision of primary school places

The GLA projections show an increasing demand for places at reception. This is driven by two related factors: the increasing birth rate and the continuing high level of housing development in and around the Borough. If actual experience follows the projections we can expect that by September 2010 the number of reception aged pupils could exceed the number of school places available at reception. For this reason it would be prudent to plan for additional capacity within our schools.

Intake year	Actual & projected births applicable for that cohort intake	Actual (1996-2007) & Projection (2008-2017) reception aged pupils	PAN figure	% of reception surplus
1996/97	3386	2919	3020	3.34%
1997/98	3397	2849	3020	5.66%
1998/99	3396	2835	3020	6.13%
1999/00	3372	2880	3050	5.57%
2000/01	3474	2943	3071	4.17%
2001/02	3635	2978	3050	2.36%
2002/03	3581	2849	3050	6.59%
2003/04	3652	2820	3080	8.44%
2004/05	3689	2840	3059	7.16%
2005/06	3777	2855	3089	7.61%
2006/07	3759	2899	3119	7.05%
2007/08	3844	2932	3083	4.90%
2008/09	4021	2973	3062	2.91%
2009/10	3943	3004	3041	1.22%
2010/11	4022	3066	3041	-0.82%
2011/12	3983 (projection)	3073	3041	-1.05%
2012/13	3984 (projection)	3075	3041	-1.12%
2013/14	4004 (projection)	3100	3041	-1.94%
2014/15	4031 (projection)	3131	3041	-2.96%
2015/16	4058 (projection)	3159	3041	-3.88%
2016/17	4076 (projection)	3162	3041	-3.98%
2017/18	4082 (projection)	3178	3041	-4.51%

Appendix 3

Total Reception Rolls and Demand for Reception places across the Borough

Reception roll information shows that reception numbers in our schools are rising.

	PLASC Count	Actual	PLASC Count	Projection	PLASC
Number of pupils	Oct-07	Jan-08	Oct-08	Jan-09	Jan-09
	2783	2932	2959	2973	2987
Percentage Increase	5.35% increase		Maximum PAN=3062		0.95% increase

Source: October 07 and 08 counts and January 08 PLASC count

Demand for Reception places across the borough

The numbers of applications for reception are also rising.

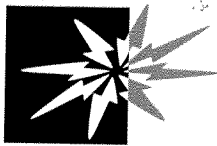
First preference for intake Sept 07	2662	
First preference for intake Sept 08	2775	4.1% increase from 07
First preference for intake Sept 09	2807	1.2% increase from 08



Haringey Council

Appendix 4 Birth rates by Planning Area

Year of birth	Number of births for the equivalent school intake year	PA 1	PA 2	PA 3	PA 4	PA 5	PA 6	PA 7	PA 8	PA 9	PA 10	PA 11	PA 12	PA 13	PA 14	Total
1998/1999	2003/2004	382	142	325	188	207	198	279	225	253	204	181	465	177	434	3660
1999/2000	2004/2005	429	164	317	196	194	222	244	250	257	193	208	414	188	380	3656
2000/2001	2005/2006	440	146	350	183	198	212	242	251	266	252	190	480	197	373	3780
2001/2002	2006/2007	428	142	347	172	191	215	240	246	245	234	234	480	209	353	3736
2002/2003	2007/2008	441	118	370	184	215	233	240	288	249	263	205	471	168	388	3833
2003/2004	2008/2009	487	176	381	188	229	214	268	257	261	279	193	508	208	358	4007
2004/2005	2009/2010	437	141	395	174	215	241	269	252	242	254	234	494	194	401	3943
2005/2006	2010/2011	458	155	368	182	233	221	281	259	257	294	227	468	214	405	4022
2006/2007	2011/2012	491	146	420	181	247	271	297	240	275	280	260	540	201	443	4292
2010/2011 difference		33	-9	52	-1	14	50	16	-19	18	-14	33	72	-13	38	
% increase or decrease		7.2%	-5.8%	14.1%	-0.5%	6.0%	22.6%	5.7%	-7.3%	7.0%	-4.8%	14.5%	15.4%	-6.1%	9.4%	
% difference between average of 2008/09-2010/11 against 2011/12 births		6.6%	-7.2%	10.1%	-0.2%	9.5%	20.3%	8.9%	-6.3%	8.6%	1.6%	19.3%	10.2%	-2.1%	14.2%	



Haringey Council

Appendix 5 Number and surplus capacity of children in reception across PA 1.

The schools across planning area 1 are full with very little surplus capacity.

Name of School	Reception numbers by year		
	2007	2008	2009
Coldfall	86	89	90
Our Lady of Muswell RC	60	59	56
Rhodes Avenue	60	60	60
St. James CE	30	30	30
Muswell Hill	60	60	60
Tetherdown	60	60	60
Total	356	358	356

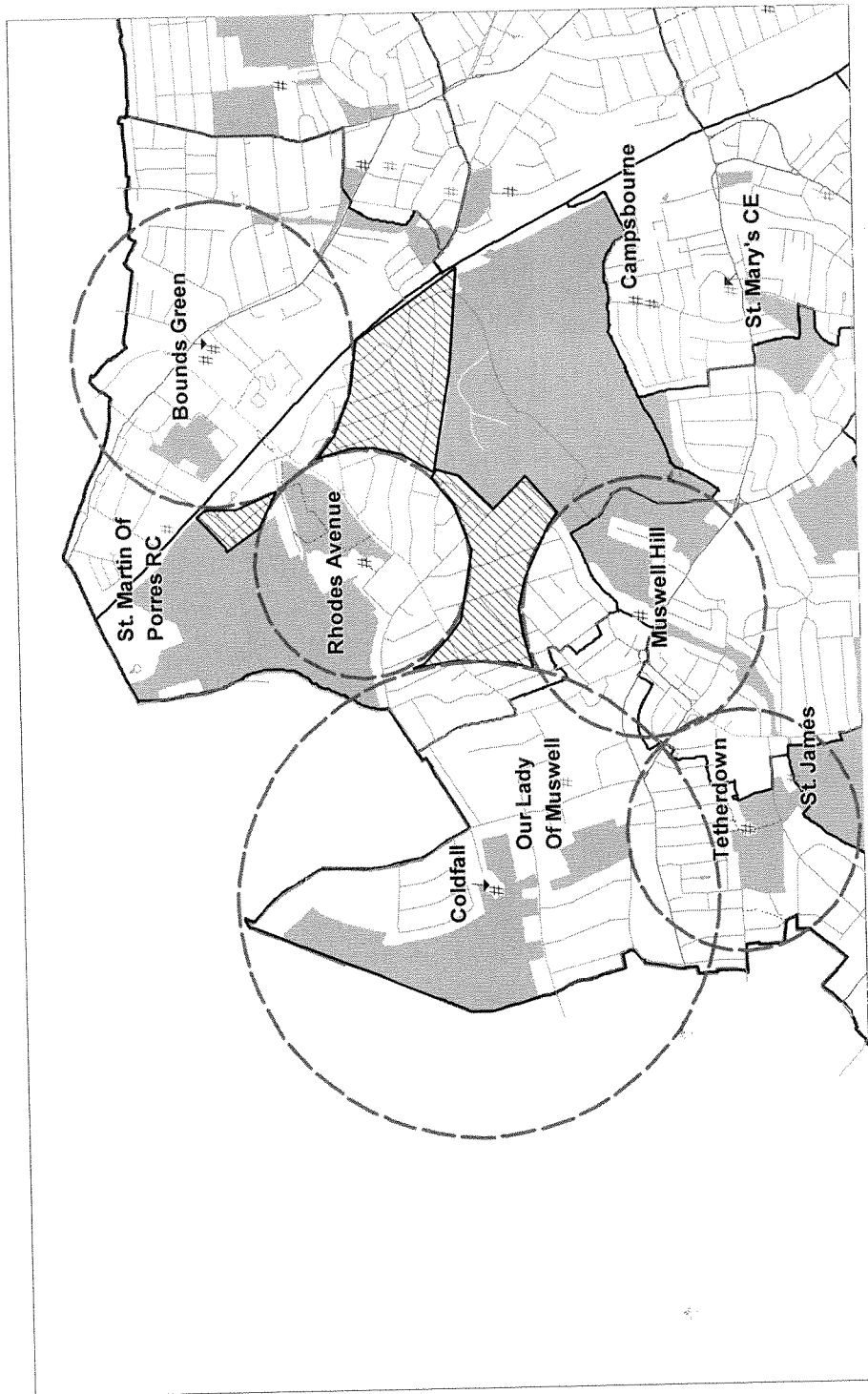
Name of School	Surplus Capacity		
	2007 Surplus	2008 surplus	2009 surplus
Coldfall JMI	4%	1%	0%
Our Lady of Muswell RC	0%	2%	7%
Rhodes Avenue	0%	0%	0%
St. James CE	0%	0%	0%
Muswell Hill	0%	0%	0%
Tetherdown	0%	0%	0%
Total	1.1%	0.6%	1.1%



Haringey Council

Appendix 6

Furthest Distance Offered (On offer Day) For September 2008 – shaded area shows pockets where Families were not offered any of their preferences



Appendix 7

Primary admissions applications 2006-2009

Planning Area	Network	School Name	Admission information					Difference between 09 and 08 first preference applications	Difference between average of 06-08 and 09 first preference applications
			Number of 1st place preferences (admissions data)						
			2009	2008	2007	2006			
1	West	Coldfall JMI	100	86	83	55	14	25	
1	West	Our Lady of Muswell RC	62	56	70	63	6	-1	
1	West	Rhodes Avenue JMI	98	93	102	93	5	2	
1	West	St. James CE JMI	19	38	39	34	-19	-18	
1	West	Muswell Hill Primary	65	81	61	69	-16	-5	
1	West	Tetherdown JMI	107	90	103	95	17	11	
PA 1 Total			451	444	458	409	7	14	
2	West	Highgate JMI	31	42	39	46	-11	-11	
2	West	St. Michael's CE JMI N6	75	82	70	81	-7	-3	
PA 2 Total			106	124	109	127	-18	-14	
3	West	Campsbourne Infant/Junior	32	37	37	40	-5	-6	
3	West	Coleridge JMI	152	149	138	132	3	12	
3	West	Rokesly Infant	87	96	79	89	-9	-1	
3	West	Rokesly Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3	West	St. Gilda's RC Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3	West	St. Mary's CE Infant/(junior)	59	67	61	67	-8	-6	
3	West	St. Mary's CE Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
3	West	St. Peter-in-Chains RC Infant	54	44	43	57	10	6	
PA 3 Total			384	393	358	385	-9	5	
14	North	Bounds Green Infants	60	67	35	53	-7	8	
14	North	Bounds Green Junior	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
14	North	Earlham JMI	35	34	21	48	1	1	
14	North	Lordship Lane Primary	68	84	70	88	-16	-13	
14	North	Nightingale JMI	36	50	47	59	-14	-16	
14	North	St. Martin of Porres RC JMI	42	51	41	54	-9	-7	
14	North	St. Michael's CE JMI N22	17	18	24	24	-1	-5	
14	North	St. Paul's RC JMI	25	22	23	23	3	2	
PA 14 Total			283	326	261	349	-43	-29	

This page is an appendix to the 21 July Cabinet report



Haringey Council

Appendix 8

Responses to Rhodes Avenue Consultation (running from 10th October to the 28th November)

119 individuals or families responded to the Rhodes Avenue consultation, and 8 'others' i.e. Governing Bodies, Barnet LA, the local Police and the Diocese), making a grand total of 126 responses.

The responses from individuals/families (120) were:

Opposed to	52 (43.3%)
In favour of	61 (50.8%)
Impartial	4 (4.1 %)
Inconclusive (did not complete the relevant part of the questionnaire)	2
Total responses	119*

*Rhodes Governing Body appeared twice so removed one.

Of the 120 responses, the figures can be summarised as;

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ⁵	Other*	Unknown
Online questionnaire	64	13	51	n/a
Consultation booklet questionnaire	25	13	12	n/a
Written representations (emails/letters)	30(2 before consultation start, 3 after consultation closing date.	n/a	n/a	30
Objections	52 (of which 21 were written reps)	17	14	21
Supporters	61 (of which 10 were written reps)	6	43	12
Impartial	4 (of which 1 written were reps)	2	1	1

⁵ We could only determine if it was a Rhodes Avenue parent if they filled in an on-line questionnaire, or a hard copy questionnaire. Where we received a response in the form of a letter it was often impossible to determine if this was from a Rhodes Avenue parent or from another interested party. This means that we probably received more than 24 responses from parents/carers at the school, but we cannot ascertain exactly how many because letters don't always indicate this information.

Type of response	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents ⁵	Other*	Unknown
Missing (i.e. didn't tick the box on the questionnaire indicating their opinion)	2	1	1	0
Total	119	26	59	34

*local residents, parent of a child not yet at school age, member of staff at another school, police, governor at another school, teacher at another school, previous Governor at Rhodes, parents at St James' and Coldfall

OBJECTIONS

Overall, 52 individuals/families expressed opposition to the proposal. The main points made were:

- Disruption during construction works (including health and safety implications, and impact on local residents.
- Increase in traffic and congestion.
- Impact on quality of the children's education.
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged by the enlargement.
- Credit crunch and current sufficiency of school places means we should not expand.
- Negative impact on Bounds Green Coldfall and surrounding schools.
- Bounds Green has capacity to be 3 forms of entry so expand there.
- Creating more places in a good school will lead to more people moving to the area for school places.
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them go ahead.

IN FAVOUR

Overall, 61 individuals/families expressed support for the proposal, and the following main points were made:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes
- That there is a need for school places in the area
- That a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places will have a positive impact on the "black hole" that exists where it is hard to secure a local school of choice

IMPARTIAL

4 respondents were impartial about the proposal, and made the following observations:

- Does the projected growth in numbers actually exist?
- Would any required building works actually be completed given the current economic situation?

RESPONSES OTHER THAN FROM INDIVIDUALS/FAMILIES

8 representations were received from Governing Bodies of local schools, the Diocese of London Board for Schools, Barnet Council, a Barnet Primary School and the Police. 4 were opposed, 2 were impartial and 1 was in (overall) support of the expansion.

Representations from the **Governing Bodies** of the following schools were submitted:

- Our Lady's of Muswell Hill.
- Coldfall primary school.
- St James C of E.

The main objections from these Governing Bodies were:

- Tetherdown, Coldfall and Coleridge have all recently been expanded. Expanding Rhodes Avenue could negatively impact these schools.
- The consultation lacks information on the impact of expansions that have already taken place
- A harsher economic environment will have an impact on the housing market reducing demand for school places.
- There are no new housing developments planned.
- Bounds Green has the capacity to become 3 forms of entry and expanding Rhodes will have a negative impact on this school.
- Educational - (greater flexibility within the school for specialisation etc).
- Social - (allowing another 30 children to have access to a school of high standards).
- Financial - (economies of scale).
- Moral - (there is a reason for the authority now to consider St James as a very real alternative to the Rhodes Avenue proposal)

An objection from the **Diocese of London Board for Schools** was submitted. The main objections and concerns of this objection were:

- Local Authorities long standing discussions and commitment regarding the expansion of St James.
- Quality of education - (St James C of E is a popular and successful school and meets the criteria for expansion as set out by the DSCF).
- Popularity of school - (St James C of E is oversubscribed).
- Desirability of a Two Form Entry School - (economies of scale and the feeling that it is better for the Local Authority to expand a one form of entry school than a 2 form of entry school).
- Requirement to keep a balance - (the Local Authority is required to keep in mind the balance of denominational provision, as recent expansions have been taken place amongst the community schools)

A representation from **Rhodes Avenue Primary School Governing Body** was received requesting more information. They have reserved the right to express a firm opinion following further information, including the outcome of the feasibility study

Barnet Council also responded commenting that "Overall, we would not have any formal objection to the expansion as there is clearly pressure for places in that area of Haringey. Our

only concern would be the impact on Hollickwood School, which is near the Haringey boundary and currently has a number of empty places. Further capacity at Rhodes Avenue would probably only exacerbate this”.

A representation in (overall) support of the proposal from the local **Police** was submitted. The police said:

“This proposal is good as it meets the needs of the local community; however consideration needs to be given to how the extra pupils will arrive at the school as there are already issues with parking when at the start and end of the school day”.

A representation from a local Barnet School was received – Hollickwood Primary school. They have objected to the proposed expansion on the basis that their school rolls are not full and, because of their proximity to Rhodes Avenue School, any expansion will have a negative impact on their rolls, reducing them still further.

Appendix 3 – Published Statutory Notice

Expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School from 2 form entry to 3 form entry

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that London Borough of Haringey intends to make a prescribed alteration to Rhodes Avenue Community Primary School, Rhodes Avenue London N22 7UT from 01 September 2011.

Rhodes Avenue School is proposing to change its admission number from 60 to 90 pupils per year and enlarge the school.

The proposal is that the first intake of 90 pupils would start with the reception classes of September 2011. By 2017 the school would cater for 630 children.

The current capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 420. The current admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

Building work will be required to accommodate the additional pupils, and the building work will all be carried out within the curtilage of the existing school site.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Carlene Liverpool, The Children and Young People's Service, 48 Station Road Wood Green London N22 7TY or telephone 020 8489 3607 or from: www.haringey.gov.uk/rhodesconsultation

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Carlene Liverpool The Children and Young People's Service 48 Station Road Wood Green London N22 7TY .

Signed:

Peter Lewis

Director, The Children and Young People's Service

Publication Date: 24 April 2009

Appendix 4 – Complete Proposal

PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in or provided in relation to proposals

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local education authority who are publishing the proposals.

Rhodes Avenue Primary School
Rhodes Avenue
London
N22 7UT
Rhodes Avenue is a community primary school.

Carlene Liverpool
The Children and Young People's Service
48 Station Road
Wood Green
London
N22 7TY

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

The proposal is that the first 3-form reception entry would start in September 2011 and that 90 reception places would be offered in subsequent years. The school would eventually cater for 630 children by 2017.

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
(a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
(b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals (24th April 2009), any person

may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to;

Carlene Liverpool

The Children and Young People's Service

48 Station Road

Wood Green

N22 7TY

Email: carlene.liverpool@haringey.gov.uk

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.

The proposal is that Rhodes Avenue would expand from 2 to 3 forms of entry. The first 3-form reception entry would start in September 2011 and that 90 places would be offered in subsequent years. The school would eventually cater for 630 children by 2017. Building work would be undertaken within the existing site curtilage to accommodate the additional pupils.

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, the proposals must also include—

- (a) details of the current capacity of the school and where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Rhodes Avenue's current capacity is 420 pupils from Reception to Year 6, sixty pupils in each year group. After the expansion, the total capacity will increase to 630 pupils from Reception to Year 6, ninety pupils in each year group.

- (b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

The school currently admits 60 pupils into each year group. In 2011 the Reception intake will increase from 60 to 90 pupils. In subsequent years the Reception intake will be 90 pupils, and by 2017 the school capacity will be 630 pupils:

- (c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

2011 – 450 pupils
2012 – 480 pupils
2013 – 510 pupils
2014 – 540 pupils
2015 – 570 pupils
2016 – 600 pupils
2017 – 630 pupils

(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 to 4, and 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

Currently there are 420 pupils registered at Rhodes Avenue. There are 60 pupils in each year group.

Objectives

6. The objectives of the proposals.

The objective of the expansion of Rhodes Avenue Primary School from 2 to 3 forms of entry is to create additional school places for the local community around the school which is in an area of high demand.

Consultation

7. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted;
- (d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with; and
- (e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available.

In conducting the consultation all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with. The consultation documentation, or leaflet detailed in appendix 4 were distributed to all the persons listed in appendix 1. Copies of the consultation flier were also distributed to Alexandra Library and the flyer and the consultation document were made available on Haringey's website on the following page:

www.haringey.gov.uk/rhodesconsultation

Please see Appendix 1 for the list of all persons consulted during this consultation.

Please see Appendix 2 for copies of the minutes of all public consultation meetings.
Please see Appendix 3 for a summary of all of the responses received during the consultation.
Please see Appendix 4 for all the consultation documentation distributed during the consultation period.

Project costs

8. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

A total of £8 million has been set aside for this building project using Primary Capital Programme, Modernisation and Basic Needs funding streams.

9. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable.

Need or demand for additional places

10. If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

Please see Appendix 5 for all the evidence regarding the demand for additional places (24th March 2009 Cabinet Report).

Expansion of successful and popular schools

25A. (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies evidence to support this.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) applies to expansion proposals in respect of primary and secondary schools, (except for grammar schools), i.e. falling within:

(a) (for proposals published by the governing body) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 2 and paragraphs 12 and 13 of Part 2 to Schedule 2; ;

(b) (for proposals published by the LA) paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 to Schedule 4.

of the Prescribed Alteration regulations.

(3) Whilst not required by regulations to provide this information for any LA proposals to expand a voluntary or foundation school, it is desirable to provide this below.

The following appendices are attached which set out the evidence that Rhodes Avenue is a successful and popular school:

Appendix 6 – Key Stage 2 results for from 2003 to 2008

Appendix 7 - Admissions data (first place preferences and total preferences) from 2005 to 2009

Appendix 8 - Ofsted Report dated 6th March 2007 which judged the school as outstanding.

Appendix 5

Responses to Rhodes Avenue Consultation (running from 24th April to the 22nd May)

Overall, 125 people responded to the Rhodes Avenue consultation. 47 (38%) respondents completed the on-line questionnaire, 2(2%) submitted the hard copy versions contained on the Haringey council web site and 76 (61%) written representations were received (72 of which were via an email to us). Overall, 28 (22%) were in favour of the expansion and 75 (60%) were opposed. 3 (2%) were impartial, 18 (14%) parents raised concerns predominantly about the design proposals and 1 parent did not give a firm view. These figures can be summarised as;

Type of response ⁶	Number of responses	Number of Rhodes Avenue Parents	Other*
Online questionnaire	47		
Hardcopy version of online questionnaire	2		
Written representations (emails/letters)	76(2after consultation closing date.		
Objections	75 (49 written reps)	59	16
Supporters	28 (8 written reps)	7	21
Impartial	3 (0 written reps)	3	
Missing (no firm view)	1	1	
Raised concerns	18	15	3
Total	125	85	40

*local residents, parent of a child not yet at school age, governor at another school

Objections

⁶ We are aware that some of the respondents have submitted responses both on line and through email, so that two responses have been submitted from the same person. Also, some households have submitted more than one response as both the mother and father within the family have submitted a separate response.

Overall, 75 respondents expressed opposition to the proposal. Representations from the governing bodies of the following schools were submitted:

- Coldfall primary school.
- Highgate primary school

The main objections from these governing bodies were:

- Adverse impact on local schools
- Need has not been demonstrated taking into account recent PAN changes in neighbouring schools
- Efficient use of capital. For example, there are schools that could be expanded without using the amount of money the Rhodes expansion will require and public money could be used more effectively on neighbouring schools

Of the objections received from local residents, parents/carers and other interested parties, the main objections and concerns were:

- Proposed design plans are poor and will lead to reduction in outdoor playing space for juniors
- Disruption during construction works (including health and safety implications, and impact on local residents.
- No formal plans have been drawn which identify where children will be taught during building works
- Births are rising at a faster rate in other parts of the borough, including Bounds Green
- Concerned that no clear case has been provided as to why Rhodes Avenue should expand
- Feel school is being held to ransom, i.e. expand and get school improvements or do not expand and do not receive school improvements
- Increase in traffic and congestion.
- Impact on quality of the children's education.
- The school's unique sense of community will be damaged by the enlargement.
- Credit crunch and financial implications means we should not expand.
- Negative impact on Bounds Green Coldfall and surrounding schools.
- Bounds Green has capacity to be 3 forms of entry so expand there.
- St James C of E would like to expand so let them go ahead.

In favour

Overall, 28 respondents expressed support for the proposal.

Of the representations in support from local residents, parents/carers and other interested parties, the following main points were made:

- The importance of allowing children school places close to their homes

This page is an **appendix** to the 21 July Cabinet report

- That there is a need for school places in the area
- That a larger school would allow more children to benefit from an excellent school
- The extra places will have a positive impact on the “black hole” that exists where it is hard to secure a local school of choice

Impartial

3 respondents were impartial about the proposal.

The following points were made in the impartial observations:

- There is a need for more primary school places however, not much consideration has been given to minimising the negative impact on the education of Rhodes Avenue students
- Understands the need for more primary school provision however, no alternative design plans were given and this is a concern.