

Appendix 2

Title: Minutes of the public meetings held at Tiverton Primary School

Public meetings held on **Monday 11 November 2024, 9.30am and 6pm** at Tiverton Primary School

In attendance: Local Authority Officers, representatives from Tiverton Primary School, parent/carers and staff of Tiverton Primary School and other interested stakeholders and members of the public.

Local Authority

Jane Edwards - Assistant Director for Schools and Learning Service

Carlo Kodsi - Head of Admissions and School Organisation

Nick Shasha - Lead School Place Planning Officer

Tiverton Primary School

Amardeep Panesar – Headteacher, Tiverton Primary School

Andrew Bethel – Chair of Governors, Tiverton Primary School

- 1. PRESENTATION** - declining rolls locally and across Haringey and options for the future of the school. See enclosed PowerPoint presentation shown on screen for all in attendance.

2. Q&A

Q: If we are considering Seven Sisters—this is far from some parents - is there any other option available?

A: The only school that has come forward for an amalgamation is Seven Sisters, no one else has come forward. Carlo confirmed that where there are vacancies parent/carers can apply via the in-year admissions process.

Q: Why has Haringey not said to parent/carers that we are closing?

A: We are running a consultation on future options. There is a legal timeline and process of consultation that we have to follow

Q: So, you are definitely closing this school?

A: No, we need to undertake our due diligence, we need to look at all the possible options and scenarios, seek representation and work out all the finances

Q: Can you give assurance to parents/carers living on a shoestring? Will you keep the school open until July 25? Parents are on knife edge.

A: If the decision down the line is closure, then nothing will happen until August/Sept 2025.

Q: Interpreter for a parent: Her son is coming here-he has SEN and an EHCP, will he have to wait a long time again for him to access another school space?

A: A separate focussed meeting for parents with children with SEND/EHCP, an Educational Psychologist and the colleagues from the SEND department has been set up. Your child will be guaranteed a place at the newly formed school if an amalgamation is progressed, but if the school closes, then SEND will support you in finding a place at an alternative school.

Q: I understand but I worry about the delay.

A: The last time you had to wait is because you were new in the borough but now it will not be the same because you and your child are known to us and we will support you with the transition.

Q: Why does Seven Sisters not come and join here?

A: On a desktop exercise, the condition of the building at Seven Sisters is better than here, more investment has been spent on the building, they have a nurture hub for children with SEND that need access to therapeutic intervention.

Q: After Christmas are you going to have another meeting?

A: There won't be another public meeting after Christmas. If we proceed, we will publish a statutory notice with our proposal. We have to present everything from the consultation to Councillors.

Q: In terms of pupil count is there a minimum one you reach before the school closes?

A: No but pupil numbers drive the budget, there has to be a budget, and the school has to operate within its means and not spend money it doesn't have.

Q: Is there anything you would want to say to encourage families to stay until July?

A: The Headteacher is well supported by school improvement colleagues in the Haringey Education Partnership (HEP), staff are working incredibly hard to support your children. ****Applause for headteacher****

Q: What much money needs to be there?

A: We want to hear your views by 18 Dec. By Feb/March 2025, we will know if any schools have come forward and will have a firmer proposal. We are looking over the budget with the head teacher—we are looking at options and a lot of working going into making savings—we will be much clearer by then about any options going forward.

Q: So, the school will be closed in essence?

A: No, it's not a foregone conclusion, one of the options is an amalgamation with another school such as Seven Sisters, for example. If many families respond to the consultation saying they want to remain at the school, then we will have to reflect on this.

Q: My child has an allergy and Seven Sisters is not able to guarantee the safety of her child. It's not a good school.

A: Seven Sisters has good outcomes for pupils, it was recently inspected by Ofsted and whilst the judgement hasn't been published yet, there was no cause for concern.

Other comments and questions captured during the meetings:

- Concerns around housing development forecasts near the school.
- The disruption to children's education around schools closing and how that impacts child. Temporary housing and the impact that has on school rolls
- Apart from Seven Sisters are there any other schools been considered?
- What would happen to the children and where would they go if Tiverton closed? Where can the children be provided a place? What would the admissions be for a new school place.
- What would happen to the staff if the schools were amalgamated?