

EXECUTIVE**On 13 JUNE**Report Title: **New School in Haringey Heartlands**Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**Report of: **Sharon Shoemith – Director, The Children’s Service**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Key****1. Purpose**

1.1 To initiate a proposal to open a new community secondary school in Haringey Heartlands by September 2010.

2. Introduction by Executive Member

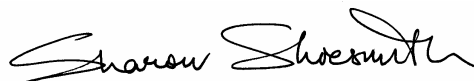
2.1 The proposed new school can play a major part in the regeneration of Haringey Heartlands. Executive should support this proposal, along with tasking officers with the development of a vision for the school to serve the whole community of Haringey.

3. Recommendations

3.1 The Executive support the opening of a new 11-16 school in Haringey Heartlands and to begin the statutory consultation and competition processes.

3.2 To receive a further report in October setting out a Haringey Council proposal.

Report Authorised by:



**Sharon Shoemith
Director
The Children’s Service**

Contact Officer:

**Ian Bailey – Deputy Director
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4. Executive Summary

4.1 Rising numbers of pupils in the 11-16 phase require the Council to provide additional places by 2010. BSF provides the funding opportunity to achieve this goal. The introduction of new regulations require that the Council seeks interest from a range of potential education providers to establish a new school. The paper sets out a rationale to establish an inclusive community school. The timescales involved mean that if consultation begins in June, the competition will operate under the Education (New Secondary School Proposals) Regulations 2006 regulations.

5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

5.1 N/A

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 The Education (New Secondary School Proposals) Regulations 2006

6.2 BSF Strategic Business Case

7. Background

Detailed analysis of pupil numbers, presented in the BSF strategic business case, demonstrate that Haringey has an increasing number of pupils in primary schools and projections show that we will need to open a new school by 2010. Analysis of pupil distribution and of available sites for building lead us to the conclusion that the school needs to be in the centre of Haringey. Negotiations are now well advanced on the acquisition of a site in Wood Green ('Haringey Heartlands'). The selection of this site confers considerable regeneration benefits as set out in paragraph 8.

Current regulations governing the establishment of additional secondary schools require the Local Authority to engage in an open competition process. 'Bids' can be to establish any of the following types of schools:

- a) Community schools
- b) Foundation schools
- c) Voluntary controlled schools
- d) Voluntary aided schools
- e) Academies

Given the diverse nature of Haringey's school population, we would want to propose that the new school should be a non-denominational, inclusive school, which suggests a community school.

Until June 2006 under Section 70 of the Education Act 2002, local authorities are required to invite proposals for a secondary school if the school will be an “additional” school (e.g. required to meet population growth) and the authority intends to establish a community school. A competition would be decided by the Secretary of State.

However, from June 2006 the Education Act 2005 will come into force. Under Section 66 local authorities will be required to hold a competition whenever statutory proposals are required for a new secondary school, including proposals by promoters (unless, exceptionally, the Secretary of State agrees that a competition need not take place). Under the regulations, proposals will now be decided by the School Organisation Committee or, upon appeal, the Schools Adjudicator, not by the Secretary of State.

These regulations set a requirement to publish a preliminary notice inviting bids for the new school. The notice will invite bids from independent promoters within 4 months. The local authority must then publish details of all received bids, along with any local authority proposal. There will then be a six week representation period in which comments or objections can be made, before the bids are forwarded to the School Organisation Committee for a decision.

Timetable

Section 66 of the Education Act 2005 is expected to come into force during June 2006. With this in mind the following timetable has been constructed to comply with the new regulations.

Report to Executive	13 Jun 2006
Consultation (6 weeks) – must hold public meeting	19 Jun 2006 - 28 Jul 2006
Invitation to bid published (4 months)	7 Aug 2006
Bids Deadline	24 Nov 2006
Representation period (six weeks for comments and objections to bids, including Haringey’s bid) Must have public meeting by 22 nd December 2006	13 Dec 2006
Representation period ends	23 Jan 2007
Deadline to forward Bids to SOC to make a decision	29 Jan 2007
Deadline for decision by SOC	23 Mar 2007

This timetable is consistent with development of a school for September 2010 opening.

In line with the above timetable, a report will be submitted to the Council in October 2006 detailing Haringey’s bid to establish a new community secondary school

8. Present Position

Secured BSF investment will provide the funding for the new school. The planned level of expenditure and accommodation schedule for the school are based on DfES BB98 and on the intended specialisms of the school in visual arts and media, and in provision for students with autism and asperger's syndrome

Evaluation of proposed site for the new school

Several sites were evaluated in a study to examine the best location for the new school. Patterns of pupil population were examined, which led the Authority to the conclusion that a new school in the centre of the Borough would be best placed to meet demand in the future.

The chosen site is in Wood Green, in the centre of the Borough, and is in a Regeneration area known as Haringey Heartlands which includes the 'cultural quarter'. Already there are creative industries established near the proposed site and within a short distance is Wood Green itself, where there are significant opportunities for educational links, with for example, Mountview Theatre Academy Also nearby is Alexandra Palace with its historic links to the media.

The site is 2.43 ha and is adjacent to Alexandra Park, which contains sport pitches; therefore the site is suitable for secondary school use. Access from the site to Alexandra Park is through a pedestrian tunnel under the adjacent railway, owned by Thames Water, with whom access will have to be negotiated.

The site is located within the Heartlands Regeneration Area, and is being promoted as high quality mixed-use urban quarter combining residential, employment ,leisure and new public realm which could benefit from a new secondary school providing extended and full service use and therefore the site scores highly in specialism and site suitability criteria.

The Executive agreed to the recommendation to seek acquisition of the former sand sidings owned by BRBR for the purposes of a new secondary school on this site. Purchase negotiations are at an advanced stage.

Relationship of Site with Local School Network

	Students within 1 km	Total Students
Highgate Wood	36	242
White Hart Lane	26	173
Alexandra Park	21	169
Primary Schools within 1km	8	

The table above suggests that locating a school at the Eastern Utility site would not have any significant impact on any of the surrounding secondary schools and would

also make a positive contribution in achieving one of the principal aims of the Heartlands Development Framework by linking together the east and west of the Borough. The site 'catchment' zone includes eight primary schools.

Socio-Economic Impact

The land forms part of the Heartlands development, which is a significant regeneration scheme in the centre of the Borough. It is one of the largest development opportunities in North London and will contribute towards the regeneration of under used sites and attract major investment into the area. The Draft Haringey Heartlands Development Framework (2003) provides a broad policy and regeneration context for the area. One of the objectives for the Eastern Utility lands is 'improved community facilities, such as provisions for primary health care and improved school provision'. There is a range of development proposals including the establishment of the Cultural Quarter, high quality employment units, new public open space and the creation of a mixed use urban quarter. Therefore a new school at this location could contribute towards the identified needs of this area and scores highly in this respect.

The site would also be in close proximity to a significant amount of residential development, increasing the need for new primary and secondary school places.

Deliverability

The site has several designations within the emerging Unitary Development Plan including the following:

- 'Area of Change' – Policy AC1 establishes the aim of comprehensive redevelopment of the Heartlands/Wood Green area and co-ordinated development which meets identified demands for enhanced and additional community facilities
- Defined Employment Area – Policy EMP1a applies to the site as part of a Regeneration Area, where comprehensive development for mixed use is encouraged in accordance with Policy AC1..
- Schedule 1: Site Specific Proposal 4 – comprehensive mixed use development to include employment, retail, housing, restaurant, healthcare and community facilities including education.

New Community Facilities – Policy CW1 supports proposals for new schools where they relate to adjoining and nearby development and meet a local need.

The principle of educational use on the site is therefore supported by the UDP policies .

The School's Vision and its design implications

Work has already started on an individual school vision (ISV), based on the vision developed in *Bright Futures*, the Council's vision and strategy for 11-19 year olds. The vision recognises the location of the school and the opportunities afforded by the resources within the local community and which points towards the learning environments required to deliver the vision. As part of the visioning process, the following points were identified as levers for transformational developments in learning

and teaching: these are not in priority order but follow the structure of the ISV (a required part of the BSF Outline Business Case).

- Multi-functional classroom spaces suitable for a range of subjects, equipped to a high standard
- Faculty zones with spaces for display and for flexible teaching and learning
- Learning spaces able to accommodate a wider range of teaching group sizes
- Extensive visual arts and media production facilities
- ICT-rich Learning Resource Centre
- Larger, multi-purpose practical rooms to widen the range of vocational programmes
- Good sports facilities
- Large spaces for assemblies and public examinations
- Spaces for informal student interaction including common rooms
- Good access to all areas of the curriculum for people with disabilities and/or sensory impairments
- Good circulation, air quality and acoustics
- Better staff work spaces for preparation, meetings, and informal interaction
- Excellent ICT provision enabling ICT use across the curriculum through subject-specific applications; a centralised electronic learning resource centre; an intranet and extranet to enable remote working for students and staff and anytime, anywhere access to the information they need (both curricular and administrative).

Consultation and support

The school's vision is the outcome of a two year process in which regular reviews by the Local Authority of all schools, notably including the provision in Autumn 2003 of a review of options for school development and the development of *Bright Futures* the Haringey Strategy for 11-19 year olds in 2004/5. In the most recent phase of school visioning, Haringey Council commissioned education advisers from the PfS framework to support the Local Authority in working with all of its secondary and special schools through a three-stage process of defining the vision, conducting a vision translation workshops involving the headteacher, governors and senior staff, and an options appraisal workshop and an options appraisal workshop. This has provided a strong understanding of what we want to achieve as an educational community. It is this foundation that has led to the vision for the new school.

9. Consultation

9.1 All stakeholders as part of the consultation process for Bright Futures and Building Schools for the Future, including:

- All secondary and special schools
- The College of North East London Borough of Haringey
- The Learning and Skills Council
- Partnerships for Schools and DfES
- Children and Young People's Strategic Forum

10. Long Term Strategy

The proposal forms part of the Council's long term strategy to improve outcomes for young people defined in its strategy for 11-19 year olds, *Bright Futures*, one element of which is to renew the secondary estate. This is further detailed in the Strategic and Outline Business cases for Building Schools for the Future.

11. Summary and Conclusions

11.1 The new school will meet a need for places and contribute substantially to regeneration in the Haringey Heartlands.

12. Recommendations

12.1 The Executive to support the opening of a new 11-16 community secondary school in Haringey Heartlands and to begin the statutory consultation and competition processes.

12.2 To receive a further report in October setting out a proposal for a Haringey Council proposal

13. Comments of the Director of Finance

13.1 This is part of the BSF programme currently underway within the Children's Service capital programme, for which a strategic business case was presented to the Executive on 26 July 2005.

13.2 The financial implications of the land acquisition for this project is as contained in a report submitted for discussion at Executive meeting on 21 March 2006. (Please refer to Executive Report entitled 'Acquisition of Former Rail Land for a New Secondary School on Haringey Heartlands').

13.3 The Director of Finance has no objection to beginning the statutory consultation and competition processes subject to the financing arrangements agreed referred to above.

14. Comments of the Head of Legal Services

14.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report. The Authority is under a duty to secure that sufficient secondary schools are available for its area under the provisions of Section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996. The arrangements for the establishment of a new secondary school in this timescale will be governed by the provisions of Section 66 of and Schedule 10 to the Education Act 2005. Draft Regulations (The Education (New Secondary School Proposals) Regulations 2006), which deal with the detailed procedure for this process have recently been the subject of consultation by the DfES. The consultation period ended on 8 May 2006 and may result in changes to the Regulations and thus the statutory process, once the final version of the Regulations is published. The specific process and timescale envisaged in this report for the new school located in Haringey Heartlands should be reviewed once the final version of the Regulations is available. In the interim the recommendations set out in the report meet the requirements of the new statutory framework. The timescale envisaged in the report complies with that set out in the draft 2006 Regulations. Regulation 6 of the draft 2006 Regulations sets out the prescribed list of bodies and persons who the local authority must consult before publishing a notice inviting proposals for the new school.

15. Equalities Implications

15.1 The authority is attempting to build a sustainable long-term solution for the Haringey overall project. Part of this solution must entail providing enough pupil places to accommodate children within the area. This means that children will be able to attend their local school.

16. Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

16.1 [List any Appendices and their titles]