



Haringey Council

The Children and Young People's Service

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – Thursday 23rd May 2013

Agenda Item

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Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views
For decision

Report Title: John Loughborough School

Authors:

Wendy Sagar – Interim Head of Children and Young People's Finance
Contact: 0208 489 3539 Email: wendy.sagar@haringey.gov.uk

Steve Worth – Finance Manager (Schools Budget)
Contact: 0208 489 3708 Email: Stephen.worth@haringey.gov.uk

Purpose: To inform members of contingency plans for assimilating the former pupils of John Loughborough School in the event of closure.

Recommendations:

- 1. That, in the event of John Loughborough closing, the remaining balance of the school's budget share is transferred to the Growth Contingency.**
- 2. That the Forum make an in principle decision to underwrite the financial impact of the bulge classes at Park View from the DSB and that a report setting out the financial implications is presented to the Forum in September.**

1. Background.

- 1.1. John Loughborough School has been in a category of concern for some years. On 16th April 2013 the Cabinet of Haringey Council took the decision to close the school.
- 1.2. The decision was taken only after substantial effort by the Council and by the Seventh-day Adventist South of England Conference to support the school, effect real change and improve pupil attainment. However, in the light of recent Ofsted Reports and poor GCSE results the Cabinet decided that it needed to take substantive action to give the pupils the opportunity to access a good education. The option of becoming an Academy rather than being closed was pursued in parallel with the consultation on closure but no sponsor acceptable to the DfE has been found.
- 1.3. The Council has followed the statutory requirements that govern the closure of a school and has consulted widely and listened to all those involved.
- 1.4. Following the Cabinet decision the Governing Body of John Loughborough has appealed to the Schools Adjudicator. The Adjudicator's review does not halt the process but decisions will be subject to the outcome of the adjudication process.
- 1.5. In its contingency planning the main Council priority has been the pupils of John Loughborough School and the duty Haringey, as the local authority, has to provide a good education for all its children both now and in the future. The most significant concern has been for the pupils in the current Year 10 who are at a critical point of their education as they prepare to sit their GCSE examinations in 2014.
- 1.6. A contingency plan for the current Year 10 has been developed giving them the opportunity to conclude their GCSE studies in a group together [the preferred option being at Park View].
- 1.7. The Council will also make provision for pupils in younger groups to decide whether they wish to continue their education at the same school as their siblings in Year 10 or to choose a different school.

2. Financial Implications.

- 2.1. The school budget share for John Loughborough, summarised in Table 1, was calculated for a full financial year. If the school closes the balance for the remainder of the year will revert to the Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB). In this event the Council proposes that the balance is incorporated in the Growth Contingency as there will be a need to secure education provision for displaced pupils. There may be other costs associated with closure that will be a charge against the unfunded

School Specific Contingency and will also need to be met from any release of the school budget share.

Table 1. John Loughborough- School Budget Share 2013-14

	Full Year	September to March
Pupils funded	261	
	£	£
Pupil-led funding	2,022,935	1,180,045
Lump Sum	170,000	99,167
Total	2,192,935	1,279,212

- 2.2. School Budget Shares are expected to fund individual pupils joining a school within a financial year. If John Loughborough closes its former pupils will be applying for places through the usual admissions process and will be accommodated in schools with spaces. It is not expected that schools taking these pupils will require additional funding, although this could be reconsidered if there were significant numbers going to particular schools. The Council is therefore not, at this time, proposing that any special provision is made for individual pupils changing schools in September; however, the Council would welcome the Forum's view on this.
- 2.3. In the event of closure the Council is seeking to create bulge classes at Park View for those pupils currently in year 10. This is to ensure that they receive the maximum support in their GCSE year. Park View's Governing Body has agreed to look at the issue but has not yet taken a decision.
- 2.4. Preparation for the bulge classes has already begun but puts Park View at financial risk due to the lead in time in appointing staff. Park View runs the danger of having an expanded staffing structure without adequate funding in the following circumstances.
 - 2.4.1. The adjudicator decides against closing John Loughborough.
 - 2.4.2. The adjudicator modifies the date of the closure, either to August 2014 or to an earlier date in the next academic year.
 - 2.4.3. The Governing Body of Park View votes against the school taking bulge classes.
 - 2.4.4. John Loughborough closes but the increase in staff is greater than the number of pupils transferring to Park View warrant.
- 2.5. The Council has a formula for funding bulge classes, agreed on 17th January 2013, but this is not appropriate to the transfer of a senior year group in these circumstances. The Council's view is that securing the future of these children is paramount and is proposing that the Forum

make an in principle decision to underwrite the financial impact on the school from the DSB. The underwriting would come from the funding released by the closure of John Loughborough if that proceeds, or, if necessary, by utilising future year DSB resources.

- 2.6. If this is agreed in principle a report will be presented to the Forum in September giving an update on John Loughborough and setting out the costs incurred by Park View. If John Loughborough has closed or is closing the report will also set out the other costs associated with its closure.