



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

[No.]

CABINET

On 18th December 2007

Report Title: **Reorganisation of Moselle & William C Harvey Special Schools**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **[add reference]**

Report of: **Director of the Children & Young People's Service**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the conclusion to the statutory consultation on the proposed reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey all-through special schools to form one primary and one secondary special school, both to be part of Inclusive Learning Campuses.
- 1.2 This report also updates Cabinet on the progress with the project to site the secondary special school as part of the Inclusive Learning Campus at Woodside High School. A report on the project to create an Inclusive Learning Campus with a primary special school located on the site of Broadwater Farm primary school will be brought to Cabinet in the coming year.

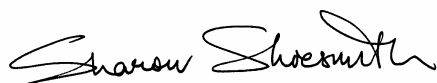
1.0 Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

- 2.1 This is a very ambitious and exciting project to rebuild two special schools as part of an inclusive learning community. The project has had a long period (3 years) of careful negotiations with all stakeholders and their support for the project has been strong. Due to the considerable prior consultation and communications, the statutory stages were inevitably low-key, with only 17 responses to the consultation held from May to July 2007 (with the balance in favour of the proposal) and two formal letters of representation received during the statutory representation period, which ran from 20th September 07 to 31st October 2007. I believe that the newly built schools in an inclusive setting will be hugely beneficial to both the children and young people in the special schools and mainstream schools. I recommend that Cabinet approves this proposed reorganisation as a first step towards the development of Inclusive Learning Campuses.

2.0 Recommendations

3.1 That Cabinet agree the proposed reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey Special Schools.

Report Authorised by: **Sharon Shoesmith**
Director
The Children and Young People's Service



Contact Officer: **Ian Bailey**
Deputy Director - Business Support & Development
020 8489 2450

Corinne David
Head of Place Planning
020 8489 5019

4 Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

- 4.1 The Chief Financial Officer was consulted in the preparation of this report and has provided the following comments.
- 4.2 The proposed reorganisation will have revenue funding implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The increase in planned places will need to be funded from within the DSG and may have an impact on the distribution of funds between schools. A saving in out borough placements may offset the additional funding required for the increase in places.
- 4.3 There may also be one-off transitional costs associated with moving pupils and staff between sites and adaptation costs for the existing proposed primary site. This is not estimated yet, but will need to be contained within existing CYPS budgets.
- 4.4 Funding is available within the BSF programme for the secondary ILC project and a further report will be required to identify capital resources for the primary ILC. Additional capital resources have been made available by government for the primary estate in future years and the process for allocation of those resources will consider this scheme against the needs of other priorities.

5 Head of Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of the report. Following the completion of the representation period on 31 October 2007, the authority may determine the proposals regarding the prescribed alterations to Moselle and William C Harvey Schools, provided that it does so within a period of 2 months from the end of the representation period. In making that determination the authority must have regard to the statutory guidance, which is appended to this report at Annex

6 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

6.1 Report to Cabinet on 24th April 07 entitled “ Reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey Special Schools”

6.2 Report to Cabinet on 17th July 07 entitled “ School Place Planning Annual Report”

6.3 The Council’s policy on Educational Inclusion 2003.

7 Background

- 7.1 Throughout 2004 and 2005 the Director of the Children and Young People’s Service chaired a steering group of special school headteachers, governors, teacher, support staff, union representatives, parents and other stakeholders looking at the future of the two all-age special schools at Broadwater Farm. Informal consultations took place with parents and staff. This proposal takes full account of the Council’s policy on Educational Inclusion (2003)
- 7.2 The rationale for change was four fold:
- both buildings are in poor condition and need substantial attention;
 - the needs of the children and young people in each school are less differentiated than was the case a decade or more ago;
 - across the country most special schools have become primary or secondary thereby providing progression for their children and young people;
 - the planned 6th Form Centre would be inclusive thereby allowing all post 16 students to attend.
- 7.3 The steering group reached an agreement that a single secondary and a single primary special school should be established on the site of a secondary and primary mainstream school. Each special school would have its own head and governing body and work in collaboration with the mainstream school governing body and head. Opportunities for federation could be considered at a later date if both governing bodies agreed. The choice of secondary school was very much determined by staying as close to the original schools as possible (given that many families had settled in those areas) and ensuring that there was enough space on the site – Woodside High was the early and preferred choice. The primary school was an easier choice as so much inclusion work had been established with Broadwater Farm Primary School. In addition the standards and quality of provision at Broadwater Farm have been substantially improved. The Broadwater Farm Children’s Centre also offers opportunities to develop the pre-school special provision in an inclusive setting.
- 7.4 The Inclusive Learning Campuses project sets the future pattern of provision in Haringey for children and young people with the most severe and profound learning difficulties, including severe autistic spectrum disorders.

- 7.5 The reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey special schools is the first of three stages to establish a primary and secondary Inclusive Learning Campus. These three stages are:
1. The reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey Special schools into one primary and one secondary special school. The date of implementation will reflect the opening of the secondary special school to minimise disruption to the children and young people.
 2. Building the secondary special school on the campus of Woodside High School, White Hart Lane, London, N22 5QJ, as part of the Building Schools for the Future initiative. A £26 million scheme to build and refurbish both the mainstream and special schools.
 3. Building the primary special school on the campus of Broadwater Farm Primary school, Moria Close, London, N17 6HZ. Currently this scheme is estimated at around £14 million.
- 7.6 The reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey special schools involves a set of 'prescribed alterations' to establish a primary and secondary special school. The prescribe alterations are:
- a change of age range each school caters for with one becoming a primary special and the other becoming a secondary special school;
 - a change in the admission criteria of children/young people, widening the range of special educational needs each school can cater for. Allowing both schools to admit pupils with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD);
 - a change in the number of pupils each school can cater for, to reflect the primary special school accommodating 100 pupils and the secondary special school accommodating 120 pupils. This is an increase of 34 places.
- 7.7 The number of places available for children and young people in Haringey who have severe and complex learning difficulties will be increased as a result of this proposal. This will reduce our dependency on out of borough places which take children away from their home environment and reduce unnecessary expenditure. Currently there are a total of 241 places available at the following establishments:
- 121 places at Moselle (4 to 16 year old);
 - 65 places at William C Harvey (4 to 16 year old);
 - 55 places at the 6th form centre (16 to 19 year old), formerly these places were in both schools.

Under the current proposals the number of places available will increase to 275, as follows:

- 100 places at the new primary special school, to reflect the growing numbers of young children with complex needs;
- 120 places at the new secondary special school;
- 55 places at the 6th form centre.

7.8 These special school places will be added to by the development of two inclusive provisions attached to two secondary schools; the new secondary school in the Heartlands and Alexandra Park Secondary School, for young people with Autism.

7.9 The Haringey School Admissions and Organisation Forum (HASOF), which represents Haringey governing bodies and the Anglican and Roman Catholic dioceses, scrutinised this report on 15th November 2007. They expressed support for the proposal.

8 Consultation

- 8.1 Following over three years of consultation and communications with stakeholders, the Council initiated the statutory consultation process on the reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey Special Schools on 8th May 2007, as agreed by Cabinet on 24th April 2007. A consultation document (Annex 1) setting out the proposal was sent to all the parents and carers currently with children at the school and to governors and school staff. Copies were also sent to all councillors, MPs, neighbouring authorities, the two diocesan boards, all Haringey Schools' headteachers, Chairs of Governors and all local community and SEN representative groups. Annex 2 lists all groups consulted.
- 8.2 Details of the responses received are summarised in the newsletter attached as Annex 3. Other newsletters issued during the consultation and minutes of public meetings are also included in this Annex.
- 8.3 Following consultation with stakeholders, the Cabinet member for Children and Young People reviewed the consultation feedback and decided that statutory notices could be published. This delegated authority was agreed by Cabinet on 17th July 2007.
- 8.4 The statutory notice (Annex 4) was published on 20th September 2007 in the Haringey Advertiser and fixed to the gates of both schools. Copies of the statutory notice were sent to all groups listed in annex 2, along with copies of the statutory proposal (Annex 5).
- 8.5 In conducting the consultation all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult, as set out in The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007, were complied with.

9 Guidance

9.1 Regulation 8 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools)(England) Regulations 2007 provides that the Local Authority and schools adjudicator are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State when they take a decision on proposals. The guidance is attached as Annex 6. This report summarises representation received during the statutory period and sets out a response on behalf of Haringey Council as proposer. It should be read in conjunction with the statutory proposal document in Annex 5.

10 Representation

10.1 Two written representations were received during the statutory period that ran from 20th September to 31st October 2007. These were from both parents of one current pupil registered at Moselle. Copies of both representation are attached in annex 7.

10.2 Summary of comments and issues raised from the two representations received.

- “Concerns of the location of the secondary special school on the site of Woodside High School”
- “Moselle and William C Harvey are very successful schools why is Haringey proposing to change the way these schools are currently working”
- “The two special schools will lose their focus as far as the range of needs they deal with”
- “The continuity provided by offering primary and secondary education in one school will be lost and the separate schools will have to work much harder to make this happen”
- “The consultation is flawed because the LA has chosen to include the BWF campus”
- “The LA has chosen to pursue this proposal despite the fact that a majority of the respondents during the informal consultation were not in favour”

10.3 The following paragraphs contain the authority’s comments, as proposer, on the objections raised.

The location of the secondary special school on the site of Woodside High School

10.4 Woodside High was chosen as the location for the secondary special school, as it has sufficient capacity for the new build and is well placed in the centre of the

borough for children and young people with profound and complex needs, who may be travelling from many parts of Haringey. The new location is also close to the original schools, providing minimal disruption to families who have settled in those areas. The new special school which will be part of the secondary campus will have dedicated classes and facilities for children & young people with complex needs. There will also be safe and secure play areas and open spaces. Section 11 further details what consultation has taken place on the design of the secondary special school.

Moselle and William C. Harvey are very successful schools. Why is Haringey proposing to change the way these schools are currently working?

- 10.5 We have every expectation that as successful schools they will be able to benefit from the further opportunities that collocation will give. Both school also needed new buildings. The children and young people at Moselle and William C Harvey have complex needs which require specialist facilities, teaching and support. Many, however, can also benefit from the teaching and facilities of the mainstream school. Organising an inclusive curriculum continuum throughout the special and mainstream schools will provide the children and young people with the widest educational opportunities available.

The two special schools will lose their focus as far as the range of needs they deal with.

- 10.6 Children & young people with complex needs will continue to be taught individually and in small groups with specialist staff, according to their individual plans. The curriculum will be planned and delivered according to individual needs of each child & young person, with progress being continuously monitored. Both schools will be able to further improve their focus on a single phase and to work together to again strengthen what is on offer.

The continuity provided by offering primary and secondary education in one school will be lost and the separate schools will have to work much harder to make this happen.

- 10.7 A plan to manage the transfer of children from the primary to secondary setting, will be drawn up to take full account of the needs of children and young people. Paramount in all planning will be the requirement to manage the changes with minimum disruption to the children. The governors of the primary and secondary special schools could develop a joint committee under the collaboration regulations (Education Act 2000) in order to support the transition of the children & young people.
- 10.8 The success of the current schools is based on the quality of teaching and learning at the schools and the good relationships between staff, parents and pupils. This quality will be retained together with the good relationships with parents. All school staff at Moselle and William C Harvey special school will be offered the opportunity

to transfer to either the primary or secondary special schools with safeguarded terms and conditions.

The consultation is flawed because the LA has chosen to include the BWF "campus"

- 10.9 The consultation focus was on the reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey to form one primary and one secondary special school. This is the first of three stages to establish a primary and secondary Inclusive Learning Campus. It was necessary to include the other 2 stages to communicate the council's overall vision and grounds for the reorganisation. This consultation complies fully with the relevant statutory guidance.

The LA has chosen to pursue this proposal despite the fact that a majority of the respondents during the informal consultation were not in favour.

- 10.10 Seventeen responses were received to the consultation which ran from 8th May to 20th July 2007. The following, provides a break down of responses for each question posed in the consultation document circulated to all the stakeholders listed in annex 2.

- 10.11 Question 1: Do you agree with the plan to bring together a mainstream and a special school on one site?

Agreed or strongly agreed	9
Disagreed or strongly disagreed	6
Not sure	2

- 10.12 Question 2: Do you agree with the plan to reorganise the two current special schools to form one primary and one secondary special school?

Agreed or strongly agreed	6
Disagreed or strongly disagreed	6
Not sure	5

- 10.13 Question 3: How do you feel about locating the primary special school in the site of Broadwater Farm Primary school?

Agreed or strongly agreed	9
Disagreed or strongly disagreed	4
Not sure	4

- 10.14 Question 4: How do you feel about locating the secondary special school on the site of Woodside High School?

Agreed or strongly agreed	4
Disagreed or strongly disagreed	8
Not sure	5

- 10.15 Four public meetings were held and officers attended parent meetings at all four schools and at Markfield centre. All the information collected from the consultation was presented to Cabinet member for Children and Young People who reviewed the feedback and decided that statutory notices could be published.
- 10.16 Since the publication of this proposal in May, the BSF team have undertaken extensive work and consultation with stakeholders, including parents, staff and governors on the design and build of the special secondary school on the Woodside High site. Progress on this work is detailed in section 11 below.

11 Progress on building the primary and secondary special schools

Progress on the Secondary Inclusive Learning Campus

- 11.1 Throughout the design process for the proposed secondary Inclusive Learning Campus (ILC), governors and staff of Moselle, William C Harvey and Woodside High schools have been actively engaged in consultation on the designs, with governors 'signing off' their agreement at each RIBA design stage. The campus as a whole will benefit from extensive building refurbishment and remodelling, with two areas of new build, namely the main teaching block for the mainstream school, and the dedicated special school building. All accommodation provision on the campus is being designed to be accessible to students on roll at the special school, with ground-level sheltered walkways connecting buildings, appropriately-designed corridor space, and lift access. Social, recreational and eating facilities for pupils on roll at the special school allow both integration with their mainstream counterparts, and discrete, sheltered provision where required.
- 11.2 In May 2007, the project signed off RIBA Stage B plans. This involved agreeing the mix of new build, remodelling and refurbishment on the campus, the general alignment of the buildings, checking that the accommodation space met the projected curriculum requirements, and ICT infrastructure requirements. In September, the project signed off RIBA Stage C, agreeing the numbers and types of rooms, outdoor spaces, and adjacencies, clarifying appropriate levels of ICT infrastructure required across the site.
- 11.3 In December, it is anticipated that RIBA Stage D will be completed. This will involve detailed design plans and elevations, finalising requirements for the detailed design of indoor and outdoor spaces, developing a planning application, and appointing a building contractor. Further parent and pupil involvement will take place at this stage, with an opportunity for them to make an input on the detailed plans for designing outdoor spaces on the campus.

- 11.4 The project has benefited from the strong engagement of staff and headteachers of all three schools. Governors will continue to be briefed on progress on a regular basis, prior to requests to them to 'sign off' future design stages. The involvement of pupils will also continue throughout the process.

Primary Inclusive Learning Campus

- 11.5 The primary special school will continue to operate from the Moselle and William C Harvey buildings located on Adams road, until the new facilities have been built on the site of Broadwater Farm primary school. At the time of writing capital allocations for 2008/09 to 2010/11 have recently been announced. A further report will be brought to the Council's Cabinet on the funding options for the primary special school, in the coming year.
- 11.6 We will ensure that, through the design process for the primary ILC, governors, staff and parents of Moselle, William C Harvey and Broadwater Farm schools will be actively engaged in consultation on the designs, with governors 'signing off' their agreement at each RIBA design stage. All premise proposals will be displayed at the schools and consultation undertaken with stake holders including parents, prior to the submission of a formal planning application.

Use of Appendices / Tables / Photographs

Annex 1 – Consultation document on the reorganisation of Moselle and William C Harvey special schools.

Annex 2 – List of all consulted groups.

Annex 3 – Newsletters and public meeting minutes.

Annex 4 – Statutory Notice

Annex 5 – Statutory Proposal

Annex 6 – Statutory Guidance

Annex 7 – Representation Letters