

F26

LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON
URGENCY PROCEDURE



To: The Worshipful the Mayor
Cllr Sean Brennan
Cllr Tony Brett Young (for information)

Date: 24 February 2010
Please ask for: Sue Sheppard
Ext: 5116

Concurrence is sought to the proposed action detailed below in accordance with the Urgency Procedure provisions in Standing Order 49 in Section 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Yours sincerely


Chief Executive

SUBJECT: CYPLS – Primary School Expansion Programme
COMMITTEE(S) INVOLVED: Executive

PREVIOUS MINUTE NO. Executive 9 February 2010: Minute 122
DEPARTMENT REFERENCE: CYPLS

KEY DECISION or EXECUTIVE DECISION: Key Decision

REASON FOR INVOKING THE URGENCY PROCEDURE:

At the meeting of the Executive on 9 February 2010, authorisation was given to consult on the possible expansion of 6 primary schools for September 2011. Subsequently through further discussions with the Governors of Dorchester Primary, it has now been formally confirmed that they are prepared to consider a first phase of expansion without requiring undertakings from the Local Authority to commit additional capital investment in future. The matter is urgent because the consultation paper must go out on Monday, 1 March 2010, as the first Local Committee is on Tuesday, 2 March 2010, and further consultation meetings follow on rapidly. The consultation process needs to conclude by the end of March.

CONCURRENCE IS SOUGHT TO THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

To include within the forthcoming round of consultation in March and April on the possible expansion of primary schools, a seventh school, Dorchester Primary, as a further option to meet increased demand for places in Worcester Park and the immediately surrounding areas.

Signed 

Date 24/2/10

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS:

There has been a considerable increase in demand for places in primary schools in the Borough including the Worcester Park area, which the Authority has a core duty to meet. In developing proposals to accommodate extra children, Dorchester Primary, which is located in Worcester Park itself, was considered as a possible option for expansion. Much of its existing accommodation is of poor quality. In discussions to do with possible expansion of the school, the Head and Governors have consistently sought undertakings on the part of the Authority to address their (significant) condition issues through replacement of existing accommodation and have linked this strongly to any expansion to meet increased demand. To have given such undertakings would have been prohibitively expensive, given the resources currently available. This led the Authority to set Dorchester to one side and to conclude that other options would have to be looked at. The Governors have now confirmed in writing that they are prepared to moderate their criteria for inclusion in the Primary Expansion Programme and that they would be content to participate in a project for the expansion of Key Stage 1 only without the requirement for a guarantee for the replacement or the expansion of Key Stage 2. The estimated cost for the KS1 scheme is £1.41m.

Cheam Common Infant/Junior schools had already been identified for inclusion in the consultation. The inclusion of Dorchester would be with a view to expanding one of the schools for 2011 and possibly the other in 2012 depending on what more up to date data indicates.

FINANCIAL ACTION (where appropriate):

This will provide another option for school expansion to meet the predicted increase in demand for school places. The cost of the works can still be met within the overall provision for the works at key stage 1 through the Primary Capital of £8.378m.

As explained in the original report there will be a shortfall on the funding received from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) each year that additional classes are provided in year, as the funding is based on January pupil numbers. These additional costs will need to be contained within the DSG.

Signed 

Strategic Director - Resources

I concur/do not concur
(Chair)

Date

I concur/~~do not concur~~ 
(Mayor)

Date 25.2.10

Date originating Department informed: 25/2/10

Action to be reported to Committee on: 15/3/10

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Signed 

Strategic Director - Resources

I concur/~~do not concur~~


(Chair)

Date 25.02.2010

I concur/do not concur

(Mayor)

Date

Date originating Department informed:

Action to be reported to Committee on: