

Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 9 May 2012	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: CAB 114/112
Report of: Corporate Director Children, Schools & Families Originating officer(s) Pat Watson, Head of Building Development		Title: Cayley and Smithy Street Primary Schools – Proposed Expansion Wards Affected: St Dunstan's & Stepney Green; Whitechapel	

Lead Member	Cllr Oliur Rahman
Community Plan Theme	A Prosperous Community
Strategic Priority	Priority 3.1: Support lifelong learning opportunities for all

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report explains the background to the proposals and informs Cabinet of the consultation that has taken place to date. The report recommends that statutory proposals are now published for the enlargement of the schools.

2. DECISIONS REQUIRED

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report;
- 2.2 Agree that statutory proposals should be published for the enlargement of Cayley Primary School to admit 90 pupils in each year from September 2013.
- 2.3 Agree that statutory proposals should be published for the enlargement of Smithy Street Primary School to admit 60 pupils in each year from September 2013.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 Proposals have been developed to expand Cayley Primary School to assist in the LA's programme to provide primary school places to meet growing local need. Initial consultation on the proposals has been held. Cabinet is asked to consider the proposed expansion, the response to the initial consultation and the recommendation that statutory proposals for the expansion should be published. The publication of statutory proposals is required in order to implement this change to the school.

- 3.2 Smithy Street School has been operating with the admission number of 60 in recent years following an agreement to temporarily increase its number from 45. It is now planned to make the increased number permanent and so statutory proposals are required.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 In order to meet the rising need for school places, the Council has implemented a number of school expansion projects and continues to develop further schemes to meet need. Longer term development plans for the borough include proposals for new primary schools. However, further expansion proposals are needed to keep pace with the need, so taking no action would leave the Council at risk of being unable to discharge its statutory functions. The options for expansion have been considered having regard to the factors set out in paragraphs 6.7 to 6.10 of the report.
- 4.2 In respect of Smithy Street School, the formal procedure has to be followed in order to make the temporary increase permanent.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 **Cayley Primary School is in Aston Street, E14.** At present it admits 60 pupils in each year group (2 forms of entry) and has a maximum capacity of 420 pupils, plus two nursery classes. There is a rising need for primary school places in the borough. The greatest pressure for admission to primary schools is being experienced in the central and eastern areas of the borough. The Local Authority has to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the population.
- 5.2 A number of school sites have been investigated for their capacity to expand to accommodate more pupils. Cayley School has been identified as having the potential to expand.
- 5.3 Preliminary consultation has taken place on the proposal to expand the school. The feedback from this consultation supported the proposals. This report gives details of the consultation and the action that is now required to publish proposals formally.
- 5.4 **Smithy Street Primary School is in Smithy Street, E1.** It formerly admitted 45 pupils in each but agreed on a temporary basis to increase this to admit 60 pupils in each year. It is now proposed to make this increase permanent. Preliminary consultation has taken place which supports the proposal. This report gives the background and seeks approval to publication of statutory proposals.

6. BODY OF REPORT

Decision-making on school expansion proposals

- 6.1 There is a statutory framework for implementing certain alterations to schools, including enlargements. The requirements are included in the Education & Inspections Act 2006 with associated regulations. For community schools,

the Local Authority (LA) can propose certain alterations, including enlargements.

- 6.2 The prescribed process requires a two stage consultation process. The initial, pre-statutory consultation should provide information on the proposals and include a wide range of consultees. The outcome of this stage is then considered and, if the LA agrees, statutory proposals are published for a specified period (usually four weeks). After this period, the LA must consider any responses to the second consultation and decide whether or not to implement the proposals, or modify them in the light of the consultation.
- 6.3 There is a right of appeal to the Schools Adjudicator for certain parties against the LA's decision.
- 6.4 The timetable for the process is shown in paragraph 6.33, taking into account the legal requirements of the consultation and decision-making process.

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES

- 6.5 The LA keeps the need for additional school places under regular review to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet need. Annual school roll information is used to project the need for places in future years. The projection methodology takes into account the trend in school rolls, actual birth data and population projections. This information is compared with data on the capacity of existing schools and the extent of unfilled places in schools in order to assess if additional capacity has to be planned for, or if there is excess capacity which can be reduced.
- 6.6 In taking into account the anticipated scale of new residential development and the rising birth rate in the borough It has been clear for some time that new primary school places will be required. The LA has been experiencing pressure on admission to Reception year particularly in the areas in the centre and east of the borough where new residential development has been taking place. Options continue to be developed to meet the steeply rising need for additional places.

	Places available 2011/12
Reception	3236

	January 2012 actual roll	January 2015 projected roll
Reception	3217	3540
Total R-Y6	21,563	22,813

IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SITES FOR EXPANSION

- 6.7 The Local Development Framework and Core Strategy indicated that some new primary schools are likely to be required, even after allowing for some schools which are not now completely full and that some schools could be expanded on their existing sites. In managing the best use of its assets and the available finance, the LA has first considered which of the existing school sites could be expanded. Proposals have been or are being implemented to

expand a number of primary schools and further options will continue to be investigated.

- 6.8 In identifying potential sites for expansion, the following factors have been considered:
- the physical capacity of the existing site and buildings to be expanded;
 - the location of the school – is it in an area where the need is rising;
 - the practical implications of the scheme – can it be implemented with an acceptable level of disruption to the school;
- 6.9 In addition to the above factors, in taking the decision to proceed with the proposals at any site, the LA will consider the strength of the individual school, its popularity and success, and its capacity to adapt to the increase in size.
- 6.10 Having regard to all these factors, expansion at Cayley School is considered a suitable option as set out below.

Cayley School

- 6.11 The potential for Cayley School to expand was identified and some initial work to assess the proposal was carried out. The governing body discussed the initial proposal and agreed to work with the LA to develop the proposal further and to consider the implications for the school and the neighbourhood.
- 6.12 The plans for the school involve building an extension which will provide new classrooms, extra toilets, a larger hall and an additional nursery class. The new extension will be two stories and a lift will be installed to allow access for people with disabilities. There will be enhanced staff facilities. Because of the need to carefully plan the works to manage the impact on the running of the school, the works will be phased and planned in agreement with the Headteacher.
- 6.13 The building scheme seeks to ensure that principles of sustainability are central to the design and this is reflected in the proposed use of materials. The whole scheme and construction method will fall within the requirements of BREEAM with the intention of seeking a minimum rating of good.
- 6.14 The governing body has agreed to the scheme designed. The governing body has responded positively to the proposal in recognising the benefits that the increased size will offer to the school. The scheme will provide improved facilities for pupils and staff and the enhanced budget and staffing levels will allow greater curriculum flexibility and range of offer, and enhanced career prospects for staff in the larger school.
- 6.15 The increased roll will take effect over 7 years as additional children are admitted. This will allow the school to introduce management changes over time to accommodate the increase, eg. changes to lunchtime arrangements. The school also plans to develop the external play areas so that better use can be made of the available space and support the increase in numbers.

Financial Implications

- 6.16 The project will be funded from the allocation of Basic Need funding from the Department for Education (DfE). This funding is specifically for the provision

of additional school places. A capital estimate for this scheme of £5.8m was adopted by Cabinet on 8 June 2011.

- 6.17 Additional revenue funding will be provided to the school through the LA's funding formula.

Implementation of the Expansion

- 6.18 It is proposed that the increase should take effect from the school year 2013/14 subject to the approval of the statutory proposals. This means that the first increased year group of 90 will be admitted in September 2013.
- 6.19 It is proposed to admit the extra pupils to the school at reception year only until all year groups are full to three forms of entry. This will mean that the school has time to gradually adapt to the increase in size and introduce any new management arrangements as the pupil numbers increase.

CONSULTATION

- 6.20 The initial consultation period was from 5 March to 30 March 2012. The proposed building design was on display in the school for parents and children to see. Pupils were consulted about the proposals. A copy of the consultation paper issued is included as Appendix A. The consultation paper was sent to:
- all parents and carers of children now at Cayley School
 - all staff at Cayley School
 - all governors of Cayley School
 - all headteachers and chairs of governors of primary schools in Tower Hamlets
 - all councillors in Tower Hamlets
 - local MPs
 - the London Boroughs of Newham and Hackney
 - the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Westminster Diocese Education Service
 - local trades unions
- 6.21 Consultation meetings were held to discuss the proposals with parents.
- 6.22 The overall response to the proposed expansion of the school was positive. The consultation paper included a form to return and the analysis of those returned is as follows:

For	Against	Not sure
50	2	2

- 6.23 Two parents' meetings were held at the school. The response from parents who attended these meetings was positive and they welcomed the proposal to invest in the school and generally saw this as something positive for their children. At the parents' meetings there were questions and discussion on a number of issues which were responded to by the LA officers and the headteacher in the meetings:

- impact on the playground
- how will the school be affected by the works on site

The consultation that has been conducted complies with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 and the Secretary of State's guidance on consultation.

Smithy Street Primary School

- 6.24 Smithy Street School formerly admitted 45 pupils in each year group (1.5FE). A temporary arrangement was made in 2007 to admit 60 in Reception year and this was continued in subsequent years. In order for this to be made permanent, statutory proposals are required. The governing body has requested that the increased size of the school should be confirmed.
- 6.25 The school has benefitted from an improvement scheme carried out as part of the Primary Capital Programme. Alterations and improvements undertaken as part of this project provided sufficient accommodation for the school to operate as a full 2 form of entry school, as now proposed.

CONSULTATION

- 6.26 The initial consultation period was from 16 January to 10 February 2012. A copy of the consultation paper issued is included as Appendix B. The consultation paper was sent to:
- all parents and carers of children now at Smithy Street School
 - all staff at Smithy Street School
 - all governors of Smithy Street School
 - all headteachers and chairs of governors of primary schools in Tower Hamlets
 - all councillors in Tower Hamlets
 - local MPs
 - the London Boroughs of Newham and Hackney
 - the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Westminster Diocese Education Service
 - local trades unions
- 6.27 A consultation meeting was held to discuss the proposals with parents.
- 6.28 The response to the consultation has been limited, reflecting the position that the proposal will have little practical impact on the school and parents as it is proposed to make formal the current position in practice. However, there has been a favourable response and the view at the parents meeting was positive.
- 6.29 The consultation paper included a form to return and the analysis of those returned is as follows:

For	Against	Not sure
27	8	1

The consultation that has been conducted complies with the requirements of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 and the Secretary of State's guidance on consultation.

FURTHER ACTION NOW PROPOSED FOR CAYLEY AND SMITHY STREET SCHOOLS

- 6.30 The outcome of the consultation in both cases has been reviewed and there is support for the proposals.
- 6.31 The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to agree to publication of statutory proposals for the expansion of Cayley Primary School and for Smithy Street School. The statutory proposals will be published in East End Life and made available at the school. Any comments or representations on the proposals should be submitted to the Council by the end of the four week period.
- 6.32 If there are no objections to the statutory proposals in the four week period, the decision to implement will be dealt with by the Corporate Director, Children, Schools & Families in accordance with the scheme of delegation. If there are objections to the proposals, the decision will be referred to Cabinet.
- 6.33 The timetable for the process for each school is set out below:

Cabinet receives a report on the consultation and decides on publishing formal statutory proposals	9 May 2012
Statutory proposals published with 4 weeks allowed for comments	11 June to 6 July 2012
The decision will be taken to implement the proposals either by the Council's Cabinet if there are objections; or, if there are no objections, by the Corporate Director of Children, Schools & Families	By 27 July 2012
Building works commence at Cayley School	Summer 2012
Additional pupils admitted to Reception year	September 2013

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 This report concerns the formal process for consulting about and deciding on the expansion of the two schools. The capital works for Smithy Street have been undertaken and only retention payments are left to be paid from the £1.88m capital allocation. The capital works for Cayley School are due to cost £5.8m in total, with most of the work taking place during 2012/13 financial

year. The £5.8m is reflected in the CSF capital programme, as approved at Cabinet on 4th April 2012.

- 7.2 Future revenue costs of the expanded schools will be funded through the schools enrolling more pupils and attracting more formula funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant.

8. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1. Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 provides that where a local authority proposes to make prescribed alterations to a maintained school, it must publish its proposals. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (“the Prescribed Alterations Regulations”) specify what alterations made by local authorities are prescribed alterations and specify the procedure to be followed when publishing and determining such proposals. The enlargement of a school’s premises so as to increase the school’s capacity by: (a) more than 30 pupils; and (b) 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser) is a prescribed alteration. Making a temporary enlargement permanent is also a prescribed alteration. The proposals described in this report fall within that definition so the procedure in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations must be followed.
- 8.2. The Prescribed Alterations Regulations require the Council to follow a two stage process involving consultation prior to publication of a proposal, followed (assuming the Council wishes to proceed) by publication of the proposal. The consultation must include prescribed persons. The Council is required to have regard to the Secretary of State’s guidance as to consultation on proposals. The guidance recommends that the consultation allows adequate time, provides sufficient information for those being consulted to form a considered view and makes clear how the views can be made known. Proposers must be able to demonstrate how they have taken into account the views expressed during the consultation in reaching any subsequent decision as to the publication of proposals. The report states that consultation complies with the requirements of the Regulations and guidance and so the Council is in a position to determine whether to publish a proposal.
- 8.3. The Prescribed Alterations Regulations prescribe what information must be specified in a proposal and how it should be publicised. The proposal should be published within a reasonable timeframe following consultation so that it is informed by up to date feedback. A statutory notice containing specified information and stating how complete copies of the proposals can be obtained must be published in a local newspaper, and also posted at the main entrance to the school (and all the entrances if there are more than one) and at some other conspicuous place in the area served by the school (eg. local library, community centre). It is essential that the published notice complies with the statutory requirements as set out in the Regulations.
- 8.4. In carrying out its functions to make prescribed alterations to the Cayley and Smithy Street primary schools, the Council must have due regard to the need

to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Some form of equality analysis will be required and officers will have to decide how extensive this should be.

8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The expansion of schools is necessary to ensure the Council meets its legal obligation to secure sufficient schools for Tower Hamlets, but will also promote equality of opportunity for children and young people (including within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010).

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 9.1 The design of the building and materials proposed to be used for Cayley School have taken account of sustainability and energy efficiency. Products to be chosen will offer significant energy saving values; insulation products that have an approved environmental profile; and timber from certified sustainable sources.
- 9.2 The design must comply with Building Regulations, Part L which has strict guidelines in respect of carbon emission levels and energy efficiency. To conserve biodiversity it is also proposed to include a grassed sedum roof which it is hoped will encourage bird life and become a natural habitat for insects.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The project at Cayley School has a high capital value and close monitoring of the project through the preparatory stages is in place and will continue through implementation stages with appropriate, experienced project management resources. If the proposals do not proceed, there will be a risk to be managed that some children will be without a school place local to their home.

11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no specific implications arising.

12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 12.1 The Council is using its assets efficiently by seeking to extend and expand existing school sites to meet the needs of the rising school age population before acquiring land to build a new school

13. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Cayley School Consultation Document
Appendix B - Smithy Street Consultation Document

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)
List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
none	N/A

LB TOWER HAMLETS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO EXPAND CAYLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

In Tower Hamlets there is a rising school age population. The Council has to ensure there are sufficient school places so that all resident children can attend school locally. The Council considers that Cayley Primary School can be successfully developed to improve facilities and accommodate additional places and this paper is published for consultation on this proposal.

The proposal is for Cayley School to increase from 60 pupils in each year to 90 pupils in each year. The first additional children will be admitted from September 2013.

Consultation Process

This paper is being sent to:

- all parents and carers of children now at Cayley School
- all staff at Cayley School
- all governors of Cayley School
- all headteachers and chairs of governors of primary schools in Tower Hamlets
- all councillors in Tower Hamlets
- local MPs
- the London Boroughs of Newham and Hackney
- the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Westminster Diocese Education Service
- local trades unions

This consultation period runs from 5 March to 30 March 2012. A form is included at the end of this paper for the return of your views. Two meetings for parents will be held at the school to hear about the proposals and let us know your views. The meetings will be held on:

8 March at 9.00 am
13 March at 2.45 pm

Why are more school places needed?

In Tower Hamlets there has been considerable development to provide new homes and this is anticipated to continue for some years to come. It is projected that nearly 3,000 new homes will be built on average each year until 2025. The birth rate is rising and it is clear that the population trend will continue to rise. The Council needs to plan for the services that the population will need, including schools.

The Council has already carried out schemes to increase the size of some primary schools to ensure that there are enough places for all the children who need a place. Between 2011 and 2021 the total number of children at primary schools will increase by approximately 6,000 pupils, a rise of 30%. The Council therefore has to continue to make plans for providing extra places.

The main areas where the need for school places is rising are in the central and eastern areas of the borough, including the Isle of Dogs. These areas will benefit from a large amount of the new residential development. In time, the projections of the increase in the school roll will require new primary schools to be built. However, because providing a new school is a very substantial investment, the Council has first considered if any of the existing schools could be expanded to take more children. Where this is possible, this is a good use of the Council's assets before the purchase of more land and building a new school is undertaken.

Cayley School

Cayley School is in an area of the borough where the school age population is rising. The Council has considered the existing school site and buildings and, working with the headteacher and governing body, we have shown that it is possible to provide new accommodation and improvements to the existing school which will allow the size of the school to be increased. The Council considers this to be an exciting development opportunity for the school.

Cayley has been recognised as an outstanding school by OfSTED and the Council believes that the strong ethos and management of the school will enable the Headteacher and staff to effectively include the increased roll whilst maintaining the standards for all children and the character of the school which parents value. The admissions criteria for the school will not change and so the children at the school will continue to be those who live in the local area.

Expanding the school will bring additional resources to the school, so that the range of opportunities for children will be enhanced. In addition there will be more teaching and support staff and increased professional development opportunities for existing staff which will help to recruit and retain good quality teaching and non-teaching staff.

The building plans for the school

The initial building plans for the school to accommodate the increased roll have been drawn up in close cooperation with the Headteacher and governors. These will be further developed and will also involve staff and pupils. The building plans are on display in the school during the consultation period.

Although the majority of the works will provide the accommodation required for the additional school places, the plans will also improve some of the school's existing accommodation and when completed, this will mean that the temporary classrooms in the playground will no longer be needed.

The plans include providing new classrooms, resource areas, additional toilets, parents' room, a new, larger staff room with a work preparation area and a larger assembly/dining hall. A lift will also be installed to allow access for people with disabilities. Because of the need to carefully plan the works to manage the impact on the running of the school, the works will be phased over an extended period of time.

Although the school's existing play area is not generous, these works will enable the removal of the existing temporary teaching accommodation and free up some additional playground. The additional footprint of the new build areas has also been kept to a minimum.

Size of the increase in roll

The school now has 60 places in each year group with two nursery classes. Under the new proposals, there will be 90 places in each year and three nursery classes. The total school roll over time will eventually be 630, plus the nursery classes. There will be no change to the admissions arrangements to the school. The school has in the past opened two extra classes, and these children will, as previously planned, remain at the school until completing Year 6.

How will the increase take effect

The extra children will be admitted to the school in Reception year only from September 2013, so that the full increase will arise after 7 years. Additional children will not be admitted above the total of 60 for a year group where 60 was the original year group number. (However, there may be admissions where there are vacancies in any year group). So that the disruption to the school during the building works to provide the new teaching accommodation is kept to the minimum, the works will be done in phases but the additional accommodation for all the extra children will be in place before the school fills up to its new total roll. The school has in the past opened two extra classes, and these children will, as previously planned, remain at the school until completing Year 6.

Effect on children now at the school

The increase in roll will happen over a 7 year period which will allow the school to gradually absorb the changes. The children now on roll of the school will be in the school during the building works to create the new space. Very careful planning is continuing by the Authority and the Headteacher to ensure that the disruption to school life is kept to the minimum possible. The construction work will be planned with the highest priority given to the safety of everyone at the school.

Other expansion proposals in the area

The Council is considering other options for schools where it may be possible to expand. Consultation on proposals will take place as they are developed. The eastern part of the borough is one of the areas where the highest levels of new housing are anticipated and it is likely that a new primary school will eventually be built.

Timing

This consultation runs from 5 March to 30 March 2012. The timetable for consultation and taking decisions following this stage of consultation is:

Initial consultation	5 March to 30 March 2012
The Council's Cabinet receives a report on the consultation and decides on publishing formal statutory proposals	9 May 2012
Statutory proposals published with 4 weeks allowed for comments	11 June to 6 July 2012
The decision will be taken to implement the proposals either by the Council's Cabinet if there are objections; or, if there are no objections, by the Corporate Director of Children, Schools & Families	By 27 July 2012
Building works commence	Summer 2012
Additional pupils admitted to Reception year	September 2013

Next steps

During this current consultation period, the Council wants to hear from as many people as possible. Please let us know your views by completing and returning the form on the next page.

There will be parents' meetings at the school on 8 March at 9.00 am and on 13 March at 2.45 pm – we hope as many parents as possible will be able to come to one of the meetings to hear about the proposals and let the Council know your views.

CAYLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF CAYLEY SCHOOL

	Please tick as appropriate
I agree with the proposal to expand the school	<input type="radio"/>
I do not agree with the proposal to expand the school	<input type="radio"/>
I am not sure	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments

NAME	
PARENT, GOVERNOR, OTHER (please state)	
DATE	

Please return this page by 30 March 2012 to:

The school office; or

Pat Watson, Head of Building Development, Children's Services, Town Hall,
Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG, or

e-mail to: pat.watson@towerhamlets.gov.uk

LB TOWER HAMLETS

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO EXPAND SMITHY STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction

In Tower Hamlets there is a rising school age population. The Council has to ensure there are sufficient school places so that all resident children can attend school locally. The Council has previously arranged for a temporary increase in the places available at Smithy Street Primary School and now proposes to confirm this as permanent. This paper is published for consultation on this proposal.

Consultation Process

This paper is being sent to:

- all parents and carers of children now at Smithy Street School
- all staff at Smithy Street School
- all governors of Smithy Street School
- all headteachers and chairs of governors of primary schools in Tower Hamlets
- all councillors in Tower Hamlets
- local MPs
- the London Boroughs of Newham and Hackney
- the London Diocesan Board for Schools and the Westminster Diocese Education Service
- local trades unions

This consultation period runs from 16 January to 10 February 2012. A form is included at the end of this paper for the return of your views. A meeting for parents will be held at the school to hear about the proposal and let us know your views. The meeting will be held on:

27 January at 9.00 am

Why are more school places needed?

In Tower Hamlets there has recently been considerable development to provide new homes and this is anticipated to continue for some time. The London Mayor's Plan proposed that 42,000 new homes would be built in Tower Hamlets over a period of about 15 years. Approximately 3,000 new

homes will be built each year in the next few years. Although many of these homes will be occupied by people who already live in Tower Hamlets, it is clear that the population trend is rising and that the Council needs to plan for the services that the population will need, including schools.

Smithy Street School

Smithy Street School is in an area of the borough where the school age population is rising. In previous years the school operated with 45 places in each year group. It was agreed to increase this to 60 places in each year group on a temporary basis to help meet the need for school places in the area.

The Council now proposes that 60 should be the planned number of places on a permanent basis. There is sufficient accommodation in the school for the additional number of children. The maximum roll of the school will therefore increase from 315 to 420, plus the nursery classes.

The school has effectively managed with the extra children who have been admitted in recent years. The Council considers that Smithy Street School will successfully operate with the revised maximum number of children on roll.

In order to confirm the 60 places each year, the Council is required to consult parents and others. This consultation is the start of that process.

The school's budget is based on the number of pupils on roll. The budget will be increased to reflect the increase in the number of pupils admitted to the school. If there is agreement to 60 places per year, this will give the school certainty of the level of funding and so help the financial planning for the management of the school.

Effect on children now at the school

There will be little impact on the children now on roll at the school. There is no change proposed to the admissions criteria for the school.

Timing

This consultation runs from 16 January to 10 February 2012. The timetable for consultation and taking decisions following this stage of consultation is:

Initial consultation	16 January to 10 February 2012
The Council's Cabinet receives a report on the consultation and decides on publishing formal statutory proposals	4 April 2012
Statutory proposals published with 4 weeks allowed for comments	23 April to 18 May 2012
The decision will be taken to implement the proposals either by the Council's Cabinet if there are objections; or, if there are no objections, by the Corporate Director of Children, Schools & Families	By 13 July 2012

Next steps

During this current consultation period, the Council wants to hear from as many people as possible. Please let us know your views by completing and returning the form on the next page.

SMITHY STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SMITHY STREET SCHOOL

	Please tick as appropriate
I agree with the proposal to expand the school	<input type="radio"/>
I do not agree with the proposal to expand the school	<input type="radio"/>
I am not sure	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments

NAME	
PARENT, GOVERNOR, OTHER (please state)	
DATE	

Please return this page by 10 February 2012 to:

The school administration office; or

Pat Watson, Head of Building Development, Children's Services, Town Hall,
Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, E14 2BG, or

e-mail to: pat.watson@towerhamlets.gov.uk