

Committee/Meeting: Cabinet	Date: 10 April 2013	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No: CAB 105/123
Report of: Corporate Director Education, Social Care & Wellbeing Originating officer(s) Pat Watson, Head of Building Development		Title: Proposals for BowSchool Wards Affected: Bow East, Bromley by Bow	

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 school and the admission of both boys and girls.

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 BowSchool for the proposed enlargement and change of character to admit boys and girls from September 2014;
- 2.3 Agree that the transitional admission arrangements described in paragraph 6.17.4 should operate for admissions to the school for the four years from September 2014.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 Proposals have been developed to expand BowSchool, admit both boys and girls and transfer to a larger site. Initial consultation on the proposals has been held. Cabinet is asked to consider the proposed changes, the response to the initial consultation and the recommendation that statutory proposals for the expansion and admission of both boys and girls should be published. The

publication of statutory proposals is required in order to implement these changes to the school.

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 schools. The proposals for BowSchool will form part of a programme that will continue in order to meet the need.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 On 5 September 2012 the Mayor in Cabinet received a report Planning to Meet the Growth Requirement for School Places 2012 – 2022. This set out the projected need for school places and actions in place to meet the need. There is a steeply rising need for additional primary and secondary school places.
- 5.2 The proposals for BowSchool to be relocated to a new, larger site at Bow Lock were developed as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme. The additional places will help meet the rising need for secondary school places.
- 5.3 BowSchool at present has places for 125 boys each year. The BSF programme is providing a new site and building for the school to overcome the problems at the current site which could not be addressed within the site available. The relocation allows a larger school to be provided.
- 5.4 The report to Cabinet referred to above included reference to the proposal for BowSchool. A recommendation was agreed that the existing site of BowSchool should be retained for primary education use following the site transfer. Details of this proposal are under development and will be referred to Cabinet in due course.

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 and other changes of character. 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 (four or 6 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. The LA must make a decision within 2 months of the end of the statutory

consultation period; if it fails to do so, the matter is referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

- 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 6.29, taking into account the legal requirements of the consultation and decision-making

THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SCHOOL PLACES

- 6.5 The report referred to above, Planning to Meet the Growth Requirement for School Places 2012 – 2022, included details of the need for additional secondary school places and options considered to meet the need.
- 6.6 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.
- 6.7 The forecasts of school rolls have indicated for some time that the rising primary school roll will be reflected in the secondary cohort. The position for the current year and in the medium term is as follows:

	Places available 2013/14	
Year 7	2,816	
	January 2014 projected roll	January 2017 projected roll
Year 7	2,781	3,096
Total Y7 – Y11	13,153	14,884

IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SITES FOR EXPANSION

- 6.8 As reported to Cabinet in the report referred to above, the Council's strategic planning process has sought to allocate new sites for secondary schools as the existing school estate has limited capacity to provide more places by school expansion. The forecast need for additional school places significantly exceeds the additional capacity proposed for BowSchool. The outcome of the Examination in Public was that the sites allocated for new schools were supported. As these sites come forward for development, the Council will be working with the owners to develop new schools.
- 6.9 In developing the BSF (Building Schools for the Future) programme, the LA sought to address some of the emerging need in the proposals for BowSchool. The new site selected for BowSchool overcomes the deficiencies of the existing site as well as having capacity for a larger school. The new site for BowSchool is close to the existing school so will continue to serve the community of that area.

- 6.10 As a first phase of increasing secondary school capacity, the proposal for BowSchool has been progressed.

BowSchool

- 6.11 The proposals for BowSchool include the following changes:
- to increase the size of the school from 125 places in each year to 270 places in each year (Years 7 to 11)
 - to admit both boys and girls to the school
 - to transfer the school to a new site on Gillender Street, E3, with brand new purpose built accommodation
 - to provide 6th form education
- 6.12 The development of the project for the new school has been going on for some time. The Headteacher and the governing body have been closely involved in the development. Planning consent has been obtained. The building will be ready for the school to occupy for September 2014.

Implications of the Proposals

- 6.13 **6th form places** – the addition of these places has previously been subject to consultation and statutory proposals and was agreed by Cabinet on 3 August 2011. The 6th form places at Bow will be provided as part of the 6th Form East Collaborative which includes Bow, LangdonPark, Stepney Green and St Pauls' WayTrustSchools. At Bow there will be 160 places available in the 6th form at the new building.
- 6.14 **Transfer of the school site** – the Council undertook a lengthy process to identify the new site for the school. The existing site has a number of deficiencies, including separation by Paton Close. A new site was sought as it was not possible to overcome the problems with the existing site. The new site is close to the current school so will serve the same community and local primary feeder schools. Statutory proposals are not required for this transfer of the school site as it is within 2 miles of the existing site.
- 6.15 **Enlargement of the school** – the school at present has 125 places in each year and it is proposed that this is increased to 270 (9FE). This is a substantial increase in the size of the school and will contribute to the overall additional need forecast.
- 6.16 The new school building is being completed to comply with current standards and so will be fully accessible for people with physical disabilities. This will create more choice in mainstream schools for pupils with physical disabilities.
- 6.17 **Admission of boys and girls**
- 6.17.1 It is proposed that the school will admit both boys and girls from September 2014 when it occupies the new building. Statutory proposals are required to implement this change of character.
- 6.17.2 It is proposed that girls will only be admitted at year 7 until all year groups are mixed, i.e. year groups which were admitted as boys only up to September 2013 will remain boys only until they complete year 11.
- 6.17.3 Where it is proposed that a school changes from single sex to both boys and girls, it is necessary to put in place transitional arrangements to deal with admission arrangements. Under normal admission arrangements and taking account of equalities duties, it is not possible to restrict or cap the number of places in a mixed school for either gender. However,

where the intention is to support the school with the change of character, transitional arrangements are able to assist the promotion of a balanced roll of boys and girls over time. The transitional arrangements are as follows:

- 6.17.4 For four years from September 2014, girls will only be admitted at Year 7 until the year groups have both girls and boys. The Year 7 places will be designated equally with 135 places for girls and 135 places for boys. The places will be filled in this priority order:
- Pupils who apply from each gender will be considered in accordance with banding arrangements and the admissions criteria for community schools up to a maximum of 135 places for boys and 135 places for girls. This may mean that some pupils may be initially refused a place because the target number for that gender has been filled.
 - Any places remaining after national offer day and applications received outside the normal point of entry will be filled in accordance with the admission criteria regardless of gender.
 - After September 2018, the school will operate the normal admission arrangements for community schools in Tower Hamlets.
- 6.17.5 Bow School will operate alongside all the other secondary schools in Tower Hamlets. Because of the way the pattern of provision of schools has developed over time, there is not an even distribution of girls', boys' and mixed places. The gender balance in Tower Hamlets primary schools is almost equal but the secondary roll shows an imbalance due to the availability of single sex and mixed provision, and is also influenced by the movement of children in and out of the borough which is mainly to secure a place at a single sex school, often a faith school.
- 6.17.6 The distribution of secondary admission places is shown below for the existing pattern of provision and as proposed with the change for Bow School:

TABLE 1

	Existing				Proposed			
	Adm no	B	G	Mixed	Adm no	B	G	Mixed
Bethnal Green	180			180	180			180
Bishop Challoner Boys	120	120			120	120		
Bishop Challoner Girls	150		150		150		150	
Bow	125	125			270			270
Central Foundation	240		240		240		240	
George Green's	210			210	210			210
Langdon Park	180			180	180			180
Morpeth	240			240	240			240
Mulberry	210		210		210		210	
Oaklands	120			120	120			120
Raine's Foundation	150			150	150			150
Sir John Cass	180			180	180			180
St Paul's Way	240			240	240			240

Stepney Green	180	180			180	180		
Swanlea	210			210	210			210
	2735	425	600	1710	2880	300	600	1980

6.17.7 Because of there is not an even distribution of boys, girls and mixed places, the rolls of mixed schools do not have an equal gender balance. The rolls of the mixed schools at January 2012 was as follows:

TABLE 2

	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total	% Boys	% Girls
Bethnal Green Academy	246	423	669	63.2%	36.8%
George Green's	517	631	1148	55.0%	45.0%
Langdon Park	420	467	887	52.6%	47.4%
Morpeth	522	656	1178	55.7%	44.3%
Oaklands	261	326	587	55.5%	44.5%
Raine's Foundation	374	434	808	53.7%	46.3%
Sir John Cass	694	951	1645	57.8%	42.2%
St Paul's Way Trust	365	487	852	57.2%	42.8%
Swanlea	323	690	1013	68.1%	31.9%
	3722	5065	8787	57.6%	42.4%

6.17.8 There is some concern that the creation of mixed places at Bow School will have an impact on the ability of all mixed schools to have a reasonably balanced roll. As shown in Table 1, if proposals for Bow School are implemented, there will be 300 places available each year for admission to boys' schools and 600 at girls' schools. This will have an impact on the gender distribution of those applying for places at mixed schools. However, it necessary to take into account the location and distribution of secondary school places and the impact this can have on families, particularly in the Bow area of Tower Hamlets. Table 3 below shows the average distance travelled for children who secured a place at secondary school in the 2012 admission round:

TABLE 3

	Average Distance (m) travelled within Borough	Average Distance (m) travelled by Bow residents	Average Distance (m) travelled by Bow East residents	Average Distance (m) travelled by Bow West residents
Boys	742.8	1742.8	2098.5	1153.2
Girls	788.1	1992.1	2245.2	1729.2
	765.5	1867.4	2171.9	1441.2

6.17.9 On average, girls in Bow travel furthest, with an average distance of almost 2km, to access a preferred secondary school. A girl living in Bow West would travel almost three times distance to school compared to a girl living in another area of Tower Hamlets.

- 6.17.10 The ability of girls to apply for places at Bow School will create a new opportunity to apply for a place nearer home for residents of Bow East and Bow West.
- 6.17.11 The change of Bow to a mixed school will adjust the overall distribution of places available which will have an impact on the ability of all mixed schools to achieve a reasonably balanced roll. However, this needs to be considered firstly against the need for more places overall which the Council will not be able to provide in a way that balances the mixed and single sex places, and secondly the geographical location of the relocated and mixed Bow School which provides opportunity for a school place nearer to home for more children than previously.

Funding Implications

- 6.18 The capital costs of the scheme are in the main funded from the Building Schools for the Future programme. Cabinet on 2 November 2011 agreed the adoption of a capital estimate for the scheme to a sum not exceeding £31.74m.
- 6.19 Additional revenue funding will be provided to the school through the LA's funding formula.

Implementation of the Proposals

- 6.20 The school will be able to occupy the new building from September 2014 and it is proposed that the changes take effect from then, subject to the approval of the statutory proposals. This means that the first increased year group of both boys and girls will be admitted in September 2014.
- 6.21 It is proposed to admit the extra pupils, including girls, to the school at year 7 only for the first 5 years. This will mean that the school has time to gradually adapt to the increase in size and the admission of both boys and girls and introduce any new management arrangements as the roll increases. This will also be subject to the transitional admission arrangements referred to above (6.17).

CONSULTATION

- 6.22 The initial consultation period was from 7 January to 15 February 2013. The proposed building design was on display in the school for parents and children to see. Pupils have been consulted about the proposals. A copy of the consultation paper issued is included as Appendix A. The consultation information was available on the Council's website and the consultation paper was sent to:

- all parents and carers of children now at Bow School
- all staff at Bow School
- all governors of Bow School
- parents and carers of children in years 4 and 5 of local primary schools
- all headteachers and chairs of governors of 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

- 6.23 The proposals for the school have been the subject of considerable consultation to date as the plans were developed and the planning application dealt with. The Headteacher has consulted parents, students and staff and has met parents of primary age children who will be secondary transfer age over the next few years. The proposal therefore is already well known and this specific consultation period did not generate a significant number of responses.
- 6.24 The consultation paper included a form to return and responses were also received via the Council's website. The analysis of those returned is as follows:

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
I agree with the proposal to expand the school to provide more places	17	1	
I agree with the proposal to admit both girls and boys to the school	14	3	1
I agree with the proposed transitional admissions arrangements	13	1	4
I agree with the proposal to transfer the school to a new site	16	1	1

6.25 A parents' meeting was held at the school during the consultation period. This was available to parents of boys now at the school as well as prospective parents on children now in primary schools. Although the turnout was low, the response from parents who attended the meeting was positive. At the parents' meeting there were questions and discussion on a number of issues including:

- How the school will make the change to a larger school with girls
- The safety of travel to the new school site
- The new facilities that will be available at the school

6.26 Some of the respondents using the form and the website made comments. These were:

I am really excited about the new school and what opportunities it will bring for my son. I'm also really pleased about the road crossings that will be put in place as I live on Twelvetrees Crescent and it's a very busy road. Crossing should be there already. (Parent)
The proposed scheme is an essential component in the strategy to expand excellent school provision in Tower Hamlets, faced with a rapidly growing population of school age children. (Head of a secondary school)
The school needs to move with the times and a purpose built school would be ideal. It's the only way. (Bow School governor)
I am concerned about the pupils from Mile End and Bow areas that have to cross the roundabout. (Bow School parent)

- 6.27 Some concerns were expressed in meetings by heads of some existing mixed secondary schools about the potential impact of more mixed school places on the ability of all mixed school to achieve a balanced roll (no written comments received).
- 6.28 The governing body of Morpeth School made a response to the consultation. The comments reflect the school's concerns that the change of Bow School to admit boys and girls will affect the capacity for all mixed schools to achieve a balanced roll. The governing body point out that there has always been a gender imbalance in the roll of mixed schools because of the pattern of existing schools. The governing body objects to the proposal for Bow School to designate 135 places for boys and 135 for girls as this is denied to other schools. They also state that the increase in mixed places will result in imbalanced mixed schools.

Response to the consultation comments

- 6.29 The relatively low response rate is noted but this was anticipated in view of the various forms of consultation that have previously taken place. The positive comments are welcomed.
- 6.30 Comments were made about the safety of road crossing to the new site. This matter was a priority in the planning process and a number of significant improvements are planned to address this. The Headteacher is planning to ensure appropriate supervision at the beginning and end of the school day.
- 6.31 The comments from Morpeth School are noted and these matters are covered in paragraphs 6.17.1 – 6.17.11 above. It appears that the governing body may have misinterpreted the proposed operation of the transitional admission arrangements for the first 5 years of admission of boys and girls. Whilst 135 places each for boys and girls will be designated, any places remaining after national offer day will be filled regardless of gender. It is not anticipated that these transitional admission arrangements will achieve a completely balanced roll, but aim to assist progress towards a reasonably balanced roll in the first years of the change of character. It should also be noted that in view of the rising need for school places for the foreseeable future, further new schools will be created. As these are most likely to be mixed schools (in order to avoid further uneven provision of single sex schools), this will further dilute the differences in the existing pattern of provision.

FURTHER ACTION NOW PROPOSED FOR BOW SCHOOL

- 6.32 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. The outcome of the consultation has been reviewed and there is support for the proposals.
- 6.33 The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to agree to publication of statutory proposals for the expansion and change of character of Bow 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 six week period.
- 6.34 If there are no objections to the statutory proposals in the six week period, the decision to implement will be dealt with by the Corporate Director, Education,

Social Care & Wellbeing in accordance with the scheme of delegation. If there are objections to the proposals, the decision will be referred to Cabinet.

6.35 The timetable for the process is set out below:

Cabinet receives a report on the initial consultation and decides on publishing formal statutory proposals	10 April 2013
Statutory proposals published with 6 weeks allowed for comments	22 April – 31 May 2013
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 Education, Social Care & Wellbeing	By 31 July 2013
Additional pupils and girls admitted to year 7; Bow School opens at the new site	September 2014

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

- 7.1 This report concerns the formal process for consulting about and deciding on the expansion and change of character of the school. The capital works for Bow School will be funded from the Building Schools for the Future programme and as reported most recently to Cabinet in January 2013
- 7.2 Future revenue costs of the expanded school will be funded through the schools enrolling more pupils and attracting more formula funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant. The school is likely to require funding from the Pupil Growth Funding in the overall Schools Budget in future years as the school increases its available admissions places. Appropriate funding will need to be earmarked from within the DSG to cover the assessed needs as part of budget setting for all schools in future years.
- 7.3 Bow School is currently part of the Grouped Schools PFI contract, contributing £0.292m from the school's own delegated budget in 2012/13. When the school vacates its current premises the future arrangements for occupying the building have not yet been determined. The financial plan for the Grouped Schools PFI contract has included the most pessimistic scenario (i.e. the PFI costs continue, but there is no new body to pick up the school's contributions). The reality is bound to be better than this scenario (i.e. either PFI costs will reduce because a reduced service is being provided or income will increase because a new occupant has been found).

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

- 8.1. One of the Council's duties in respect of education is to secure that sufficient schools are available for primary and secondary education in Tower Hamlets. This obligation arises under section 14 of the Education Act 1996. The schools must be sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide all pupils with the opportunity of appropriate education.
- 8.2. In deciding what provision to make in respect of primary and secondary schools, the Council is required to consider the need to secure diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice. This sits alongside the Council's general equality duty, which requires it to 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. Equalities issues are addressed in the body of the report. .
- 8.3. 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 30pupils; and (b) 25% or 200 pupils (whichever is the lesser) is a prescribedalteration.The proposals described in this report fall within that definition so the procedure in the Prescribed Alterations Regulations must be followed.
- 8.4. 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. As part of the initial consultation, prescribed information must be provided to 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.
- 8.5. 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 (e.g. local library, community centre). It is essential that the published notice complies with the statutory requirements as set out in the Regulations.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1. 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).
- 9.2. The provision of school places and the LA's admission arrangements aim to promote fair access to schools particularly in terms of the distance from home and to allow siblings to attend the same school. The proposed transitional admission arrangements for Bow School enable some support to the school to assist achieving a balanced roll as far as possible as the school undertakes the process of the change of character.
- 9.3. The new building will be fully accessible which will enhance the range of provision available in mainstream schools for children with physical disabilities. The school will be inclusive for students with special education needs.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1. The design of the building and materials proposed to be used for Bow 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.
- 10.2. The design complies with Building Regulations, Part L which has strict guidelines in respect of carbon emission levels and energy efficiency. A significant reduction in carbon emissions will be achieved. Lighting and energy management controls will enable the most efficient use of energy for the building as a whole.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The project at Bow School has a high capital value and close monitoring of the project through the preparatory stages was in place and continues 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.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no specific implications arising.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

13.1 The Council undertook a detailed options analysis of its assets before deciding that the use of the new site for an expanded Bow School provided the best use of assets.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Bow School Consultation Document

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Brief description of “background papers”	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
Response from Morpeth School Governing Body	Pat Watson 020 7364 4328 Town Hall, Mulberry Place, E14 2BG

PROPOSALS FOR BOW SCHOOL CONSULTATION 7 JANUARY – 15 FEBRUARY 2013

Tower Hamlets Council and the governing body of Bow School are planning major changes to the school.

The changes we are planning from September 2014 are:

- to increase the size of the school from 125 places in each year to 270 places in each year (Years 7 to 11)
- to admit both boys and girls to the school
- to transfer the school to a new site on Gillender Street, E3, with brand new purpose built accommodation
- to provide 6th form education

This is an exciting and challenging proposal for Bow School and for the local community as we develop the school for the benefit of the future of young people in Tower Hamlets.

We want to consult as many people as possible and hear your views. During the consultation period, there will be opportunities at Bow School to discuss the proposals and see pictures and plans of the proposals for the new site. There will be meetings at some primary schools in the area for parents, particularly of children now in Years 4 and 5. You can see plans and pictures of the new building on Bow School's website (www.bow-school.org.uk) via this link:

[Bow School of Maths and Computing - New School Site - Important Information](#)

Come to Bow School on Tuesday 29th January between 4.30pm – 6.30pm to see and hear about the plans. We welcome all parents of students now at Bow School and parents of children who will be applying for a secondary school in the future.

Let us have your views by:

- completing and returning the form at the end of this paper
- attending one of the meetings
- visiting the consultation page of the Tower Hamlets Council website
http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgsi/851-900/867_consultation/bow_school_consultation.aspx

Why are we doing this?

Increasing the size of the school

In Tower Hamlets there is a steadily rising school roll and we forecast that it will continue to rise for several years to come. We have increased the size of some primary schools to ensure we have enough places and will continue to develop plans for more primary school places. We forecast that by 2014, all the existing secondary school places will be taken up and so we need to plan for more places in time for the children who will need them. We forecast that Tower Hamlets will need 13,000 more school places in the period 2012 to 2022, with 5,500 of those for 11-16 year olds. The plans for Bow School to increase from 125 to 270 places in each year will play a significant part in meeting the first stages of this rising need.

Changing the school from boys' only school to girls and boys

In Tower Hamlets we have some mixed secondary schools and some which are either for boys or for girls. We have to plan for additional places in a way that will meet the needs of the community in the best way we can. By the school admitting boys and girls, there will be greater flexibility and choice for parents across the borough.

Moving the school to a new site

The existing site of Bow School has a number of disadvantages:

- it is separated by Paton Close. The road cannot be closed because it is the access to the DLR track
- its size is restricted which means that we cannot provide all the facilities for the school on the site, and we cannot expand the school to provide more places that the borough needs
- the Council has the opportunity to make significant investment in improvements to the school in the Building Schools for the Future programme (BSF), but the existing site does not have the capacity to give the best outcome

The Council and local secondary schools have worked together to plan the best way to invest the BSF funds. In order to get the best for Bow School, we investigated the options for moving to a new site which would allow the creation of brand new facilities with sufficient space for a larger school. The Council has selected the Bow Lock site, which it already owns, because it is large enough for the new development and is close to the existing site so the school will continue to serve the same local community. The new site is in the area of the borough where there is a high level of new housing development so it will also serve the population of these areas.

How will the admission arrangements work for girls and for boys?

In the first years of girls' places at Bow, we will take action to promote the number of girls at the school. For four years from September 2014, girls will only be admitted at Year 7 until the year groups have both girls and boys. The Year 7 places will be designated equally with 135 places for girls and 135 places for boys. The places will be filled in this priority order:

- Pupils who apply from each gender will be considered in accordance with banding arrangements and the admissions criteria for community schools up to a maximum of 135 places for boys and 135 places for girls. This may mean that some pupils may be initially refused a place because the target number for that gender has been filled.
- Any places remaining after national offer day and applications received outside the normal point of entry will be filled in accordance with the admission criteria regardless of gender.
- After September 2018, the school will operate the normal admission arrangements for community schools in Tower Hamlets.

How will the changes affect the school and students already on roll?

- all the building works will take place at a separate location before Bow School moves in so that avoids the disruption of building works going on around the school
- boys now on roll will benefit from the new facilities at the new site
- the increased number of 270 will be admitted at Year 7 only so the larger roll will build up over time and the school will be able to adapt gradually to the larger number and make arrangements for break and lunchtime if necessary as the extra students come to the school
- because girls will only be admitted at Year 7 and to the 6th form until all year groups operate at the new number, the total number of girls will build up over time. The school will ensure that the initial groups of girls have their own tutor groups/form groups to help the school integrate
- the school will be a part of the Sixth Form East affiliation from September 2013, but will not admit its own students to the 6th form until September 2014 when it moves to the new building. There will eventually be 160 places in the 6th form

Travel to the new school

The site for the new Bow School is well connected. The Bromley-by-Bow tube station, on the District and Hammersmith and City lines is a short walk away and Devon's Road DLR station is also close along Devas Street. A number of bus routes run close to the site, or along the A12/ Gillender Street or Twelvetrees Crescent. Vehicles can approach the site along the A12 and Gillender Street or along Twelvetrees Crescent. A variety of pedestrian routes lead to the site; beside the A12, along Twelvetrees Crescent, across the proposed pedestrian crossing on Twelvetrees Crescent, through the Coventry Cross subway or along the Lea Valley walk which runs through Bow Locks. Cyclists can also use these routes.

Safe access to the school for pupils and staff crossing the A12 has been considered throughout the design process. These works listed below are being done to improve the access and safety:

- Epsom Street and Bromley by Bow Subway improvements including the commissioning of a local artist to develop a brief for improvements, working with Bow School students.
- Improved street lighting
- Installation of CCTV along A12 and Twelvetrees Crescent including in subways.

- Footpath improvement and installing guardrails
- Installation of 2 pedestrian crossings across Twelvetrees Crescent and the Twelvetrees loop underpass
- Realignment of Twelvetrees Crescent to ensure traffic is slowed when entering loop road
- New traffic signals.

Consultation and what happens next

We are consulting widely on these proposals to make sure we hear as many views as possible. The timetable for consultation and taking decisions following this stage of consultation is:

Initial consultation	7 January – 15 February 2013
The Council's Cabinet receives a report on the consultation and decides on publishing formal statutory proposals	April 2013
Statutory proposals published with 6 weeks allowed for comments	22 April to 31 May 2013
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 31 July 2013
School transfers to its new site	Summer 2014
Girls and the additional pupils admitted to Year 7	September 2014

Let us know your views by:

Completing the form on the next page

Visiting the consultation page of the Tower Hamlets Council website

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lqsl/851-900/867_consultation/bow_school_consultation.aspx

Coming to meet us at Bow School on Tuesday 29th January between 4.30pm – 6.30pm. We welcome all parents of students now at Bow School and parents of children who will be applying for a secondary school in the future.

Coming to a meeting at your primary school – each local school will let you know the details

BOW SCHOOL

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOW SCHOOL

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
I agree with the proposal to expand the school to provide more places	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I agree with the proposal to admit both girls and boys to the school	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I agree with the proposed transitional admissions arrangements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I agree with the proposal to transfer the school to a new site	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other comments

NAME	
PARENT, GOVERNOR, OTHER (please state)	
DATE	

Please return this page by 15 February 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