

**Free School Site Allocation Scrutiny Challenge Session Action Plan**

<p><b>Recommendation 1:</b> Children’s Services and Corporate Research Unit services keep under review additional household composition and other data that may support the output from the Greater London Authority School Roll Projections model.</p>		
<p><b>Comments from Service:</b></p>		
<p><b>Actions</b></p>	<p><b>Responsible Officer</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline</b></p>
<p>Create a new post of School Organisation &amp; Place Planning Manager to increase service capacity to monitor trends in demographics, school rolls, and school admissions.</p>	<p>Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services &amp; School Sufficiency)</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>Keep under review the required inputs into the projection model (e.g. housing development data)</p>	<p>Lisa Stidle (School Organisation &amp; Place Planning Manager)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Keep under review projection methodologies through membership of the GLA’s School Roll Projection Liaison Group and its Quality Assurance Group</p>	<p>Lisa Stidle (School Organisation &amp; Place Planning Manager)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Children’s Services to input into the design and analysis of the New Residents Survey being undertaken by the Performance &amp; Intelligence team. The survey will collect up to date information on the household composition of families living in new developments.</p>	<p>Juanita Haynes (Performance &amp; Intelligence Manager)</p> <p>Lisa Stidle (School Organisation &amp; Place Planning Manager)</p>	<p>April 2019</p>

**Recommendation 2:** Children’s Services service to review the inclusion in the specification to be used in a free school presumption process of a requirement to support the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership.

**Comments from Service:**

Actions	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Include a commitment to support the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership in the LA’s outline specification for a new school.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Complete
Include the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership in all consultations on school specifications.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 3:** Children’s Services to engage a wide range of parents and other stakeholders in initial consultation on the school specification to ensure that proposed schools reflect the education and ethos parents prefer.

**Comments from Service:**

Actions	Responsible Officer	Deadline
LA to publish notice and information of a free school presumption (FSP) on the council website and engage through a formal consultation with parents and other key stakeholders including potential providers, other local schools, academies, the wider community, diocesan bodies and any others affected by the proposals.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing
Keep under review the effectiveness of FSP consultations to promote continuous improvement.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 4:** Children’s Services to ensure a transparent and open free school presumption process where bids from providers are evaluated by the Council by:

- inviting the Regional Schools Commissioner to take part in the selection assessment of potential providers of new free schools
- holding a local engagement session during the bid submission period and another during evaluation for potential providers to meet parents and others; and
- hold a public forum as part of the evaluation process prior to submitting the Council’s evaluation of bids to the Secretary of State.

**Comments from Service:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
LA to evaluate the FSP bids according to its specification and in consultation with the Regional Schools Commissioner.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing
LA to hold a local event for both the community and potential providers as part of the FSP process.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing
Keep under review the effectiveness of local events to promote continuous improvement.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 5:** Children’s Services to publish the Council’s free school presumption process including indicative timescales where available for site allocations identified through the Local Plan and include the indicative consultation plan. To be updated as proposals develop. Include information on the Council’s website about proposed development of new free schools by the Council, promoted and accessible for all interested parties including parents, and potential providers.

**Comments from Service:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
LA will publish the agreed new school specification along with details of the presumption process for sites where a provision opening date had been agreed.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 6:** Children’s Service and Planning division to assist in the unblocking of delays in gaining access to identified development sites by reviewing existing planning permissions (including associated phasing and delivery plans and s106 agreements). Work with landowners to agree programmes for start dates of development of land identified for education provision where a need has been identified.

**Comments from Service:**

The LA’s emerging Local Plan identifies 9 primary and 5 secondary school site allocations, however, it should be noted that the over-allocation of school sites is one of the ‘main matters’ for the plan’s ongoing Examination in Public. It is possible that not all of the sites below can be taken forward.

Primary Schools

- Ailsa Street
- Crossharbour Town Centre
- Limeharbour
- Marsh Wall East
- Marsh Wall West (secured through planning permission)
- Millharbour South
- Millharbour (secured through planning permission)
- Reuters
- Wood Wharf (secured through planning permission)

Secondary Schools

- Billingsgate Market
- Bow Common Gas Works
- Leven Road Gas Works
- London Dock (secured through planning permission)
- Westferry Printworks (secured through planning permission)

Actions	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Children's Services and Planning Department to meet regularly to keep under review the progress of sites for new schools	Calvin Coughlan (Building Development Manager)  Paul Buckenham (Development Manager)	Ongoing
Children's Services to be included in pre-application discussions with developers of sites for new schools	Calvin Coughlan (Building Development Manager)  Paul Buckenham (Development Manager)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 7:** Children's Services to consider the merits of earlier appointment of school providers so they can be involved in the school design process.

**Comments from Service:**

Actions	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Pupil Place Planning Group to consider the timescale for commencing FSP processes alongside the arrangements for commissioning school projects, where these are to be delivered by the Council.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

**Recommendation 8:** Children's Services and Planning division to explore ways to better promote effective joint working between Members, Officers and other interested parties, through the committee system.

**Comments from Service:**

Actions	Responsible Officer	Deadline
LA to keep stakeholders and council members informed of progress through various channels, including the council website, committee reports, and the Members Bulletin.	Terry Bryan (Head of Pupil Services & School Sufficiency)	Ongoing

