



**London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham**

**CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

**8 JULY 2013**

**CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OF NEW KING'S SCHOOL AND SULLIVAN SCHOOL**

**Report of the Cabinet Member for Education, Councillor Georgie Cooney**

**Open Report**

**Classification - For Decision**  
**Key Decision: Yes**

**Wards Affected:** Sands End, Parsons Green & Walham, Town

**Accountable Executive Director:** Tri-borough Executive Director of Children's Services – Andrew Christie

**Report Author:** Ian Heggs, Tri-Borough Director of Schools Commissioning

**Contact Details:**  
Tel: 020 8753 2880  
E-mail:  
[ian.heggs@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:ian.heggs@lbhf.gov.uk)

AUTHORISED BY: .....

The Cabinet Member has signed this report.

.DATE: ...8 July 2013.

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to begin a consultation on the amalgamation of New King's Primary School with Sullivan Primary School, describes the necessary processes and seeks authority to proceed.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That approval be given by the Cabinet Member for Education to consult on the possible amalgamation of New King's Primary School and Sullivan Primary School.
- 2.2. That the Cabinet Member for Education authorises the Director of Schools Commissioning to begin a consultation exercise with all stakeholders including parents, governors, all staff at both schools, the local MP and Ward Members.

## 3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The Council is legally obliged to follow a consultation process prescribed by statute for the amalgamation of schools.

## 4. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

### 4.1 Primary pupil place planning

Despite the closure of Peterborough Primary school in 2007, there continues to be spare capacity in the primary sector in south Fulham. At New King's and at Sullivan, first and second parental preferences have historically been low, and there continues to be spare capacity in both schools. The current numbers in each year group in each school are set out below:

	PAN*	Reception	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Yr 6
New King's	30	20	28	22	25	20	29	25
Sullivan	45	36	44	38	39	39	27	30
Capacity	75	-19	-3	-15	-11	-16	-19	-20

**\*PAN - Published Admission Number**

Replacing Sullivan (45 places a year) and New King's (30 places a year) with a single two-form entry school providing 60 places a year in total, would be in line with the Council's Schools of Choice agenda, which aims to increase choice for parents by providing more outstanding, high-achieving and oversubscribed schools, as well as rationalising provision where there are surplus places. It is noted that there is also capacity at Langford Primary in this part of the borough. However this school serves the need for primary places to the east of Wandsworth Bridge Road where there are no other primary schools. New King's

and Sullivan are located nearby to each other and the table above shows that there is insufficient demand for two separate primary schools providing 75 places between them. Most pupils attending the schools live nearby to both schools and would easily be able to access the amalgamated school on the New King's site.

#### **4.2 Supporting Capital investment in school buildings**

Both schools require significant investment to maintain and improve the fabric of their buildings. The Council's capital allocation for schools is limited and taxpayers' money would be better spent on a single school building, rather than on two. Amalgamation would ensure that capital investment would be maximised by targeting this at the learning environment of the newly amalgamated school, ensuring local families have access to improved facilities.

Both schools are roughly the same size in terms of floorspace, but the traditional construction of New King's as a prized school building in an excellent location supports the view that a far longer lifespan would be achieved by such investment. The Council would contribute at least £2 million towards a full refurbishment of the New King's school buildings, including the Parayhouse Annex, to create a two-form entry school equipped with the latest teaching facilities.

The school buildings on the Sullivan site are of more modern construction. A condition survey carried out by EC Harris in 2012 has shown that the main requirements for maintenance and repair over a five-year period are as follows:

- **Roofs:** these are flat and leaking in certain areas. The survey recommends a full renewal of the felting and fittings and these are estimated at £470k.
- **Windows:** these are recommended for replacement in year 2 and they are expected to cost £220k
- **Mechanical Services:** the lighting, boilers and pumps will need replacing within the next 5 years at an estimated cost of £300k

These three aspects total £990k. The total survey identified £1.165m of works required in the 5 year period.

These works would require significant investment in a building that is nearing the end of its useful life. Alternatively, rebuilding this school as a new two-form entry school would cost in the region of £6 million.

#### **4.3 Further benefits**

As part of its vision to become an outstanding and oversubscribed school, New King's School has recently approached the Council setting out its proposals to convert to academy status working with Thomas's London Day Schools, a local independent school trust with an excellent reputation. The Council fully supports this aim, but firstly wishes to rationalise provision where there is spare capacity

and invest in the school building in order to provide state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and learning through a major refurbishment programme. If the proposal goes ahead following consultation, then the Council would support New King's with its academy conversion proposal working closely with Thomas's.

Parayhouse, which is an independent special school based in the New King's School Annex, has approached the Council seeking support in their search for new premises. As part of the expansion work at New King's, the annex occupied by Parayhouse will be required and therefore the Council is working with Parayhouse to ensure that they secure new premises for September 2014, should the proposal go ahead.

This proposal would also release the Sullivan school site for other purposes. The Department for Education (DfE) has approved a proposal for a new Fulham Boys' Free School, but so far has not been able to find a suitable site for them. A feasibility study may show that the present Sullivan School site is the right size and location for the new school. The school would meet the parental demand for boys' Church of England education in this area of the borough, and is consistent with the delivery of the Council's 'Schools of Choice' agenda. Parents of boys attending the amalgamated school would have a further local secondary school to choose from. If the Sullivan site were to be used as the permanent site for the Fulham Boys' Free School from September 2016, then the DfE would seek to secure an interim site for the school, so that it could open as planned for September 2014. The DfE would fund the building of this new secondary school in Hammersmith and Fulham at a cost of approximately £13.5 million.

## **5. OPTIONS**

- 5.1. There are two methods of achieving a new primary school laid down in Government guidance. These are:
- I. publishing proposals to close both schools and open a new school, or
  - II. publishing proposals to close one school and enlarge the other.

There is no legal method of simply amalgamating the schools. Both the above processes involve consultation with all relevant stakeholders followed by the publication of statutory proposals.

- 5.2 Of the options outlined in paragraph 5.1, the second would appear to meet the objectives most appropriately and is less disruptive than the first option. In addition, New King's School has already set out a clear vision for its future, which is supported by the Council. The process of amalgamating the schools involves consultation with all relevant stakeholders, followed by a Cabinet Member decision to proceed or not, in the light of any responses. If the decision is made to proceed, statutory proposals must be published allowing a 6 week period for representations. A further decision is then required whether or not to implement the proposals.

- 5.3 Subject to the Cabinet Member decision on this report, it is proposed to begin the consultation with all relevant stakeholders on 16 July which would then conclude on 8 October (allowing sufficient time to take account of the summer holidays, during which the consultation will continue to run). Consultation meetings for parents and the community will be held at both schools, along with meetings for all school staff. Following the initial consultation there would be a further 6-week period starting in mid-October when statutory notices regarding the proposal would be published.

The outcome of this period for further representations would be reported to the Cabinet Member in December 2013.

## **6. ADMISSIONS AND PHASING OF CAPITAL WORKS**

- 6.1 Subject to the outcome of the full consultation process, the new school would then operate on two sites on an interim basis until the refurbishment work is complete. For September 2014, 75 places would be offered in line with the current published admissions criteria for both schools. Classes would be organised so that no pupil would be in a class larger than 30. All current pupils at both schools will be guaranteed a place at the amalgamated school. For September 2015, admissions criteria would remain the same as they are now, but only 60 places would be offered. Both schools offer a mixture of full-time and part-time nursery places currently and the number and mix of nursery places would remain the same for September 2014, but would reduce to 60 places per year from September 2015. The governing body would decide on the mix of full-time and part-time places for September 2015 onwards.
- 6.2 Under current plans, the existing New King's school would decant onto the Sullivan site for September 2014 while the New King's building is refurbished, which may involve the provision of additional temporary accommodation on the Sullivan site for one year. On completion of the works in July 2015, the new school will move to the refurbished building on the New King's School site.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1. Parents, the community, school staff, the local MP and ward members will be consulted as part of the stakeholder consultation and period for statutory representations.

## **8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out. This is to be a dynamic document which should be actively reviewed before, during and after the consultation phase in order to ensure it is kept up to date and relevant

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Local Authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area, promote high educational standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. These proposals fall within the provisions of The Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008.
- 9.2 By adopting a method of closing one school and enlarging the other to achieve the amalgamation of the two schools, there is no requirement for competition and the legal status of the new school as a community school is preserved together with control over the school's admission arrangements.

## **10. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1. There are no immediate financial implications arising from the proposal to begin a consultation. However, if the proposal were to proceed, then there will be staffing implications for all teaching and non-teaching staff at Sullivan. The amalgamated school will require additional teaching and non-teaching staff and many of the staff at Sullivan will be able to seek redeployment at the enlarged new King's School.
- 10.2. If the proposal were to proceed, then the Council would seek to commit approximately £2million towards the refurbishment of the New King's School building. This can be funded from within the Council's schools capital budget which has been allocated by the Department for Education.

**Ian Heggs**  
**Tri-Borough Director of Schools Commissioning**

**Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – Background papers used in the preparation of this report**

*[Note: Please list only those that are not already in the public domain, i.e. you do not need to include Government publications, previous public reports etc.]*

**Contact officer(s): Ian Heggs (ian.heggs@lbhf.gov.uk)**

**Other Implications**

[The report author should consider, and include paragraphs on the following as appropriate within this separate appendix, unless these considerations are sufficiently important and relevant as to justify being included within the body of the report itself.]

1. Business Plan – this proposal will be included in the School Organisation and Investment Strategy
2. Risk Management – risks will be identified in subsequent reports
3. Health and Wellbeing, including Health and Safety Implications - none
4. Crime and Disorder
5. Staffing - staffing issues will be addressed in a subsequent report
6. Human Rights
7. Impact on the Environment - none
8. Energy measure issues - none
9. Sustainability - none
10. Communications – a consultation strategy will be implemented as part of this scheme