

London Borough of Sutton

Primary School Expansion Programme:

Options for the possible expansion of

Primary Schools from September 2011



CONSULTATION PAPER

The Council wants to hear your views on these important proposals. If you would like to receive this document in a different format or different language, please contact 020 8770 5000

March 2010

CONSULTATION ON OPTIONS FOR THE POSSIBLE EXPANSION OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER 2011

As you may be aware, there is a rising demand for primary school places in the Borough which is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. We are therefore planning to increase the number of primary school places to meet this demand. These places should come into operation for September 2011. We believe that through expansion of a number of schools we will be able to ensure that every Sutton child requiring a school place will get one.

We are now consulting with a wide range of interested parties including parents, carers and professionals working in education and related sectors to find out their views on the suggestions for the expansion of primary schools set out in this document.

I am pleased to let you have a copy of our consultation document. We have also included at Appendix 1 a number of Frequently Asked Questions, which I hope are helpful, and at Appendix 2 there is a response form for you to use.

Should you require any further copies of this document, they can be downloaded from the Council's website: www.sutton.gov.uk. The consultation page has a direct link from the home page. Alternatively, please e-mail to primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk with your request.

The last date for responding to the consultation is 30 April 2010.

There will be a series of open public meetings held at each of the schools which are the subject of this consultation. Details are set out on page 4 inside.

Your views are important to us and the Council wishes to hear from as many people as possible during this consultation. I look forward to receiving your response.



Dr Ian Birnbaum
Strategic Director of Children, Young People & Learning Services

1. INTRODUCTION

This consultation document explains the Local Authority's proposals to create additional places in reception year (YR) for September 2011. Your views are important to us, so please take the opportunity to express your opinion on the proposals in this document.

For a number of years during the 1990s and early 2000s the Borough experienced falling pupil rolls and therefore undertook the necessary action to manage that situation by removing capacity in a number of primary schools. However, over the course of the last three to four years there has been a marked upturn in the birth rate and we have had to increase capacity in the last two years to meet the additional demand for places at reception year. This is an issue facing most London Boroughs.

Data on the number of births in the Borough indicates that there will be a continued rise in demand at least up to 2012. The Local Authority has a core duty to ensure there are sufficient places to meet the needs of its children and families and therefore it is obliged to plan for the expansion of its school capacity to meet this demand.

2. TIMETABLE FOR CONSULTATION

DAY/DATE	EVENT/KEY POINT
8 February	Executive – Authorised public consultation on possible expansions of schools
w/c 1 March	Start of public consultation on possible primary school expansions
30 April	End of Consultation on possible Primary School Expansions
7 June	Executive – To consider consultation responses and authorise the publication of Statutory Notices proposing to expand schools where necessary
w/c 14 June	Publication of Statutory Notices for those schools where physical expansion represents a prescribed alteration
w/c 12 July	End of representation (consultation) period on proposals contained in Statutory Notices
w/c 19 July	Final decision (determination) of Statutory Notices
September 2011	Delivery of Key Stage 1 building projects and admission of expanded intake to schools

3. THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

Publication of this document marks the beginning of the consultation process to create additional places for September 2011 in the seven schools identified. This document will be made widely available and circulated to all schools and to other statutory consultees. It will also be available via the Council's website www.sutton.gov.uk

The consultation period will end at 5.00 pm on Friday 30 April 2010. If you wish to express any views or comments on the proposals, please let us have your response by no later than the above time and date. All views and responses will be considered when making further decisions on the proposals.

There will be a number of public consultation meetings arranged to look at expansion of schools in general but, in particular, the proposals as they relate to the school at which the meeting is held. All meetings will, however, be open to all parents and members of the public who are interested in finding out more about the proposals.

Wed 10 March	Cheam Common Infant & Junior Schools	7.00 pm at the Junior School
Wed 17 March	Barrow Hedges Primary School	7.00 pm
Tue 23 March	Devonshire Primary School	7.00 pm
Wed 24 March	Beddington Park Primary School	7.00 pm
Thu 25 March	Hackbridge Primary School	7.00 pm
Mon 29 March	Dorchester Primary School	7.00 pm
Wed 31 March	Muschamp Primary School	2.30 pm

Following the end of this consultation period in April, a report will be submitted to the Council's Executive at its June meeting detailing responses received and any issues raised during the consultation period. The Executive will consider these responses before deciding whether to take the proposals forward through the publication of Statutory Notices.

For all of the seven schools involved, expansion will require an increase in the Published Admission Number (PAN) with effect from September 2011. In addition, where the expansion requires a significant enlargement in the physical capacity of the school's buildings through a major building project, a further four week period of public consultation (the representation period) following the publication of Statutory Notices will be required. Views expressed in the representation period will be considered before a final decision is made. This final decision can be taken, at the earliest, in the second half of July.

If a final decision cannot be made at that time, then the proposals will be referred to a third party, the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, which will decide them. There is also some scope for certain interested parties – the governing body of the school to which the proposal relates and the local dioceses – to appeal to the Schools Adjudicator following the determination of the statutory notice if they disagree with the decision.

4. EXPRESSING YOUR VIEWS

You can respond to this consultation in the following ways:

- Complete the attached response form and return it via post to Capital and Planning Section, London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1BR
- Email Sutton Council at: primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk
- Complete the response form on Sutton's website www.sutton.gov.uk. Search on Consultation – Primary School Expansion Programme.
- Fax your response to Sutton Council on 020 8770 6564

5. BACKGROUND

Primary Education in Sutton

There are currently 41 primary schools in Sutton of which 29 are community schools, 3 are foundation schools, 4 are Church of England Voluntary Schools and 5 are Roman Catholic Voluntary Schools. 27 of these schools are all-through primary schools and there are also 7 infant and 7 junior schools maintained by the Borough. The number of pupils attending Sutton's schools in September 2009 was 13,415. This is projected to rise to 14,709 by September 2014. There are currently 1,967 places available for first admissions into reception year.

The need for additional primary places

In September 2008, for the first time in many years, all reception classes in Sutton primary schools were full, and the transfer rate (based on children born in 2003/04) was 90%. However, figures for September 2009 allocations show a falling back of demand to approximately 86% of children born. This fluctuation in demand for places, on top of an increase in birth rate, makes planning for places extremely difficult. However, it is important to note that the current and projected pressure on school places is driven by a combination of increased births and the higher than previous transfer rate.

Until late in 2008, there was little or no indication that there would be a marked increase in levels of demand and therefore there were no plans to expand school provision. Our Primary Capital Strategy was targeted towards improving the suitability and condition of schools in areas of highest deprivation.

The data we now have indicates year on year increases in the number of in-Borough births and initial data in respect of Borough-wide numbers of births up to mid-year 2009 appears to confirm these previous estimates of increases in numbers of children. On current trends, there will be a significant increase in demand for places in reception year (YR) from 2011.

Projections by the Greater London Authority indicate that after a peak in 3 to 4 years time, there will be a decline in the number of births but, if a new stable level is reached, this will still be significantly higher than the level of recent years. Clearly, such projections into the medium term future have to be considered with caution and the emerging situation monitored on a year by year basis with plans amended accordingly.

Recent projections undertaken by the Borough indicate the following broad trend in demand for places at reception year:

YEAR	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Actual or forecast NOR in YR	1967	2016	1990	2125	2238	2217	2178	2162	2135
Shortfall in places (YR)	0	49	44	181	295	273	240	218	191
Additional FE needed	0FE	2FE	1/2FE	6FE	10FE	9FE	8FE	7FE	6/7FE

PAN = Published Admission Number
 FE = Form of Entry (1FE is 30 places)
 NOR = Number pupils on the roll of schools
 YR = Reception Year
 Current number of permanent places in YR = 1967

On the projections above, the increase in demand for YR places in Sutton during the period 2011 to 2016 is forecast to peak at +10FE in 2012 but the overall increase in the longer term could be in the order of + 6/7FE. These projections are based on an 86% transfer rate which is a relatively conservative basis for projection. The projections will be updated regularly as new data becomes available.

Ward-level analysis of births in the Borough is available up to 2007/08 only. For the four year period 2004 to 2007 this analysis shows that particular wards continue to experience larger increases in births, for example, Worcester Park, Sutton Central, Sutton South and St Helier. However, because many children travel out of their home wards to neighbouring wards to go to school, a more representative picture can be gained from consideration of the data aggregated by Primary Review Planning Areas, which shows on-going strong growth in the Central Area at over 100 followed by the other Areas (all around 50),

If the actual numbers of births are considered, a block of eight wards, seven of which are from the Central and Northern Areas accounted for 53% of births in 2007/08. These are Sutton Central, Sutton West, Sutton North, Carshalton Central, The Wrythe, Wandle Valley, Wallington North and St Helier. With Worcester Park added, the largest nine wards accounted for 60% of the births in the Borough in 2007/08.

6. THE PROPOSALS

Schools proposed for expansion in 2011

During the last 12 months or so, discussions have occurred with the governors of twelve schools where it was felt there was a potential for expansion by 1 FE (i.e. an increase in PAN of 30) and feasibility studies were commissioned to that end. Developments have been reported to a number of consultative groups, including the Admissions Forum, the Asset Management Planning Group and the Schools Forum.

The Council's Executive, at its meeting in February, authorised consultation on the expansion of the following schools for September 2011:

Barrow Hedges Primary (60 to 90 places at YR per year)
Beddington Park Primary (30 to 60 places at YR per year)
Cheam Common Infant and Cheam Common Junior (90 to 120 places at YR per year)
Devonshire Primary (60 to 90 places at YR per year)
Hackbridge Primary (60 to 90 places at YR per year)
Muschamp Primary (60 to 90 places at YR per year)

In addition, in the light of further discussions with the headteacher and governors of Dorchester Primary School, it has been agreed to include this school within the overall consultation as a possible candidate to meet the increased demand in the north west of the Borough, in particular, Worcester Park.

Dorchester Primary (60 to 90 places at YR per year)

The Council will make the decision as to which schools to take forward for expansion for September 2011 in June 2010.

The Council's Executive report and appendix can be viewed on the Sutton website at <http://tinyurl.com/suttonexec> (report) <http://tinyurl.com/execapp> (appendix).

The schools have been identified on the basis that:

- They can be expanded (in terms of logistically being able to accept more pupils and of there being scope to create additional accommodation on site)
- They are located accessibly to where there is increased pressure on places
- They are sufficiently educationally secure and resilient to have the capacity to manage a significant increase in size without adverse impacts on standards
- There is a clear aspiration on the part of the school to manage the expansion through the two-stage strategy, set out below.
- The expansion should provide good value for money.

Discussions will continue with respective governing bodies with regard to the precise nature of the expansion projects.

For schools not selected for this first phase of expansion, where work so far has indicated that expansion should be feasible, there will be further consideration in the autumn as updated data becomes available. Equally, the possible expansion of faith schools will be considered at that time. The criteria set out above will be applied to any schools to be considered for possible expansion.

The Local Authority believes that it is right to expand schools with good quality permanent accommodation rather than with temporary buildings where it is possible to do so, even though this approach requires considerable capital investment. Permanent expansion enables the provision of new facilities to accommodate an additional form of entry and therefore gives parents a much greater degree of reassurance that their children's needs will be met.

At this stage, we are proposing to expand infant (Key Stage 1) provision only. Although in most cases we will need to commit to junior (Key Stage 2) expansion, we will want to monitor actual demand as new data becomes available.

Accordingly, it will be necessary to phase any expansion project, firstly to meet the demand coming through with the Key Stage 1 year groups up to 2011 and then to address the demand for Key Stage 2 expansion in a second phase from 2014, and possibly beyond. The Council will need to consider how the further needs, to do with the provision of other accommodation or in addressing the suitability (appropriateness and fitness-for-purpose) and the condition (state of repair and need for refurbishment) needs of the school, can be addressed subject to the availability of further resources being made available from the Government.

There will also be future considerations, given that the projections indicate that demand will peak and then decline, about the nature and mix of accommodation (permanent or temporary; general teaching only or a range of accommodation including studio spaces, office accommodation, halls etc) that should be offered to schools involved in the expansion programme.

The proposals outlined in this document will be funded in the main from Government funding initially provided to support the Primary Capital Programme. The amount of funding available was £8.4m which is sufficient to achieve the initial phases of development for Key Stage 1 pupils who will have to be accommodated from September 2011. Subsequent phases of development will depend upon additional capital funding becoming available to the Local Authority. Confirmation of the level of such resources available will be made when the next three year Local Authority funding settlement (for the period 2011 to 2014) is made, probably in late autumn 2010.

Specific Consultees

Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors of primary schools proposed for expansion
Extended Services, Community and other of the primary schools proposed for expansion
Parents/Carers, Staff, Chairs of Governors of all other nursery and primary schools in Sutton
Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of all secondary schools in Sutton
Headteachers of all special schools in Sutton
Headteachers/Teachers in Charge of Pupil Referral Units in Sutton
Children's Centres
Principal of SCOLA
Principal of Orchard Hill College
Principal of Carshalton College of Further Education
All elected members of the London Borough of Sutton
Chairs of all Sutton Local Committees
Directors of Children's Services of neighbouring Local Authorities (Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Kingston and Surrey)
MPs and MEPs
Local Dioceses – Church of England and Roman Catholic
Chair of the Sutton Schools Forum
Chair of the Sutton Admissions Forum
Chair of the Sutton Primary Headteachers Group
Chair of the Sutton Secondary Headteachers Group
All Strategic Directors (London Borough of Sutton)
All Executive Heads of Service (London Borough of Sutton)
Secretaries of relevant Trades Unions and Teachers Professional Associations
Sutton Racial Equality Council
Chair of Early Outcomes and Extended Services Partnership
Chair of Sutton Voluntary Sector Forum (Children and Families)
Chief Executive, Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
Metropolitan Police – Area Commander, Sutton
Early Years and PVI settings
GPs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. How certain are you that your pupil figures are correct up to 2013?

The children who will be entering Sutton schools up to 2013 have already been born, so, provided it is a reasonable assumption to project current patterns of uptake forward for the next 4 to 5 years, we are confident that the figures will turn out to be accurate.

At the level of individual schools, where sometimes because of changes in the success of particular schools, or parents' perceptions of how successful particular schools are, there can be large fluctuations in levels of recruitment.

However, this is relatively unlikely in Sutton because of the very tight match between provision and demand so that, except in extreme instances, there will be no such variations. We therefore are planning for a level of school place capacity at reception year where all, or the vast majority, of Sutton's schools recruit strongly and are therefore more or less full.

2. What about after then?

We monitor the birth and other demographic data along with the pupil numbers on school rolls on a regular and systematic basis. As new data becomes available and if there are changes in factors such as the transfer rate from birth to reception year or the levels of in and out migration, for example, we adjust our projections accordingly. Clearly, the further into the future we project, the less confident we can be about absolute accuracy. In practice it is found that pupil number projections over a five year period are accurate within a few percent and sometimes are within 1%.

3. How can you be certain where exactly it is in the Borough that additional places are needed?

The Office of National Statistics produces birth data according to postcode which enables us to plot the numbers of births by each of the wards within the Borough. Accordingly we are aware of where there are "hotspots" in terms of increases in the numbers of births across the Borough.

In practice, because we find that children will travel to schools outside of their home ward, it is better to manage the planning of school place provision on an area basis. Sutton has been divided into four review areas, each comprising four or five wards – Central, North, West, East – and this level of analysis informs our planning.

4. Why have you selected these schools for expansion?

We identified at the outset of the process, schools which, on the face of it, could contribute to the expansion process and others which were unlikely to be strong or sensible candidates. For example, schools on very restricted, built-up sites or those in areas which were not near to areas of growth were not investigated further. We have also had detailed discussions with Headteachers and Governing Bodies of a small number of schools, who, in the end, concluded that they could not support any proposals for their school's expansion. Accordingly, we have undertaken with our architectural consultants, initial feasibilities at 12 schools to explore whether it would be possible to expand the schools at a reasonable cost and while still being able to offer a range of high quality facilities for the children attending the school.

Understandably, pragmatic judgments have had to be made. For example, ideally we would have wished to provide additional accommodation in the very centre of Sutton, but because of site constraints and considerations relating to value for money, that simply was not possible.

The schools have been identified on the basis of their match with the following criteria:

- They can be expanded (in terms of logistically being able to accept more pupils and of there being scope to create additional accommodation on site)
- They are located accessibly to where there is increased pressure on places
- They are sufficiently educationally secure and resilient to have the capacity to manage a significant increase in size without adverse impacts on standards
- There is a clear aspiration on the part of the school to manage the expansion through the two-stage strategy, set out below.
- The expansion should provide good value for money.

If it proves necessary to embark upon a further phase of school expansion for 2012, these criteria would continue be applied to any schools to be included at that stage.

5. Have you considered building one or more new schools instead of expanding existing schools?

The option of building a brand new school to provide some of the additional places needed has been considered and for a number of reasons the preferred option is to make additional places available at existing schools. The main reasons are:

- It is very hard to find sites for new schools in the Borough without a serious impact on current open spaces and green belt
- It is usually less costly to build an extension to an existing school than a completely new school because many facilities will already exist and will not need to be provided from scratch, as it were, and therefore potentially offers better value for money
- Establishing a new school takes considerably longer to implement than expanding an existing school and there is greater uncertainty for the community during this process.

Clearly, however, this is a matter that will have to be kept under active review and it is possible in the medium to long term that such sites will become available and can meet the Borough's requirements in accommodating the demands of a rising population.

In the meantime, the approach adopted has been to seek to expand existing schools where such a change can be sustained.

6. Where do the schools currently recruit their pupils?

The table below sets out four most frequent localities from which the seven schools within the consultation for expansion draw their pupils (2009 data). Clearly all schools draw from a wider area than simply the ward in which they are situated.

SCHOOL	WARD AND % INTAKE				
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	Other
Barrow Hedges	Carshalton South/ Clockhouse (49.0%)	Sutton South (15.2%)	Carshalton Central (14.5%)	Belmont (8.5%)	(12.8%)
Beddington Park	Beddington North (63.3%)	Croydon LA (12.1%)	Beddington South (6.5%)	Wallington North (4.5%)	(13.6%)
Cheam Common Infant	Worcester Park (47.9%)	Nonsuch (28.7%)	Kingston LA (7.5%)	Surrey LA (3.0%)	(12.9%)
Cheam Common Junior	Worcester Park (39.9%)	Nonsuch (30.7%)	Kingston LA (5.3%)	Stonecot (4.2%)	(19.9%)
Devonshire	Sutton South (38.0%)	Belmont (25.0%)	Sutton West (6.4%)	Sutton Central (5.9%)	(24.7%)
Dorchester	Worcester Park (67.4%)	Stonecot (7.7%)	Nonsuch (7.5%)	Sutton North (5.7%)	(11.7%)
Hackbridge	Wandle Valley (40.3%)	The Wrythe (15.6%)	Wallington North (13.8%)	St Helier (7.4%)	(22.9%)
Muschamp	St Helier (41.1%)	The Wrythe (19.6%)	Wandle Valley (17.8%)	Sutton Central (4.5%)	(17.0%)

7. How might the current economic situation affect the Local Authority's plans?

One of the factors that we think has contributed to the increase in the proportion of children resident in Sutton taking up places in Sutton's schools is likely to be the economic downturn with families who otherwise would have used the private sector or who would have moved out of the Borough to the shires looking to maintained schools for their children's education. It may also be that the high quality of provision in Sutton's schools is attracting parents from immediately

outside the Borough who are finding it more difficult to secure places at schools in their home borough.

There is the possibility, therefore, that an economic recovery leads to a fall in the demand for places in our schools. As indicated previously, we will monitor the situation carefully and regularly and seek to respond quickly to any such changes so that the number of places available is in line with changing demand.

8. If the proposals are agreed, how will that affect pupils already in the schools where these changes are planned?

Whenever there is a change to the organisation of the Local Authority's schools, every effort is made to ensure that the quality of education and the welfare, safety and security of pupils continues to be given the highest priority. All pupils already in a school will remain on the school roll. We have an excellent track record in respect of managing major building projects at primary schools and we aim to keep disruption to a minimum both for those teaching and learning as well as for anybody who lives close to the school.

9. Why are no faith schools being considered for inclusion in the Expansion Programme?

When it became apparent last year that the increased demand for primary school places would have to become a major priority, an exercise was carried out to assess the feasibility of expansion in relation to each and every one of the primary schools in the Borough. The major factors considered included the capacity of the schools to manage a large increase in size while maintaining high standards of educational provision and overall care for children, the nature of the site and buildings and the location within the Borough of the school. Discussions were then entered into with schools which were felt to be, at least on the face of it, likely candidates for successful expansion.

As far as faith schools were concerned, it was concluded after this process that expansion(s) were not immediately feasible. Accordingly, when detailed feasibilities from our architectural consultants were commissioned, no faith schools were included. If the formal feasibility studies already commissioned do not produce positive indications at sufficient schools, then clearly the Local Authority would have to consider other possibilities including faith schools.

If it is possible and practicable to do so, the Local Authority should seek to ensure that the balance of places is maintained. However, as has been explained above, if it is not possible to bring forward faith schools for expansion under the Primary Expansion Programme, the Local Authority is nonetheless obliged to meet its duty to provide sufficient school places irrespective of the new balance between faith and non-faith school places that could result.

10. How will the overall expansion programme be funded?

Most of the money required by a Local Authority to expand its schools should be provided by Central Government. Because the increase in demand for primary school places in Sutton has been much greater than had been expected and considerable amounts of funding had already been committed to other priorities, the Council has been obliged to divert funding of £8.4m originally intended for the Primary Capital Programme (PCP) (a major strategic programme aimed at achieving significant upgrading of primary schools, particularly those serving more disadvantaged communities, through the rebuilding and remodelling of poor quality, unsuitable accommodation in order to create primary schools that are equipped for 21st century teaching and learning) into school expansions.

In effect, all of the uncommitted capital resources still available to the Council will now have to fund the first phase of the proposed programme but, in addition we estimate that a further £10m to £15m could be required to meet subsequent demand at Key Stage 2 and to address associated “infrastructural” issues (additional halls, group rooms, staff accommodation, specialist spaces etc).

Unfortunately, we were not successful in our recent bid to Central Government for additional “Basic Need Safety Valve” funding to meet our current unanticipated demand for places. We anticipate, however, that in the local government funding settlement for the three year period 2011 to 2014 which will be announced towards the end of 2010, additional capital funding allocations will be forthcoming through the “Basic Need”, “Modernisation” and “PCP” funding streams to enable the completion of the expansion programme and also to enable a start to be made in addressing the priorities identified under the Primary Capital Programme.

11. What happens to those schools that were identified as priorities in the Primary Capital Programme, Strategy for Change if all the funding has to be put into school expansion?

The schools identified continue to be a high priority for us but the core responsibility of providing sufficient places has to come first. At such time as the necessary resources become available to the Local Authority, it will return to the matter and seek to address the issues that led to these schools being identified as a high priority for capital investment.

12. If a school agrees to expand what guarantee that the whole of the necessary accommodation – including “infrastructure” – will be provided. What if a school is left with, say, just 3 additional classrooms but it is then decided in two or three years time not to provide anything more?

Regrettably, it is simply not within anyone’s gift at present to offer such a guarantee. Full expansion of up to 7 primary schools by one form of entry, as indicated above, will be very expensive indeed and the capital funding required is far more than the Local Authority currently has at its disposal. From 2011, however, we expect to receive further capital funding from

Central Government for the three year period 2011 to 2014. Some of this is likely to be for “Basic Need” because there are more resident children wishing to attend school in Sutton but insufficient places. There are also likely to be further instalments of what is known as “Modernisation” funding – which largely is to address upgrading the school estate but can also be used for the provision of extra places and of “Primary Capital Programme” funding, again which can be used for providing extra places.

Therefore the Local Authority is planning to expand the required number of schools on a phased basis. First additional accommodation will be offered for younger pupils at Key Stage 1 and, subsequently, in the period leading up to 2014, accommodation will be offered as necessary for the increased demand for places at Key Stage 2. In addition where there are schools which need additional specialist accommodation – such as halls, offices, specialist teaching spaces etc – the Local Authority will endeavour, within the resources it has at its disposal, to meet those needs.

Clearly, if it becomes evident that additional demand for places is not going to be sustained, the position at each school will have to be reviewed. It may not be possible therefore to continue with the full expansion of a school into Key Stage 2. However the additional accommodation provided will be of a high quality and designed to be flexible so that good alternative uses can be found for it if it is not needed primarily as class bases.

13. Can the Local Authority insist that a school should expand?

Yes, the Local Authority has a core responsibility to secure sufficient school places for the needs of its population. It has a function as the strategic commissioner of school places and that function would include identifying the need for additional place provision in the schools that it maintains. This applies to all categories of school – community, voluntary (largely faith), foundation and for schools in the mainstream and special sectors.

The normal way of expanding a school would be by increasing the number of pupils to be admitted by changing what is known as the Published Admission Number. It is also usually necessary to expand the buildings of the school physically. Both of these processes have to follow procedures laid down by regulation and it is possible for interested parties such as governors and parents to contribute to the processes and at the end of these processes it is possible, once a formal decision has been taken by the Local Authority to expand the school, to appeal to an independent third party – the Schools Adjudicator.

14. What if the LA decides not to expand a particular school? What happens then and can the Governors and the parents appeal?

No, not in any formal way, but it is often possible through discussion with local Councillors to have proposals or decisions examined under the scrutiny procedures and for the Executive to be asked to reconsider the matter.

15. What about the timing of all of this for the schools that you will be expanding for September 2011? How are parents of children going into reception going to make their choices?

If the proposals are agreed, any changes to the admission arrangements for schools will be notified to parents in good time and before the final date for submission of preferences for places in reception year.

16. What happens if the school is expanded but in three or four year's time, we find out the additional capacity is not needed?

The situation will be monitored very carefully indeed. We do not expect the situation to arise, but in the unlikely event of such a thing happening, there will be a process of further consultation with a view to reducing the number of children admitted in order to better match the level of demand. Any additional accommodation provided for the school will continue to be available to the school but an alternative use, for example, as a specialist area, will have to be identified.

Response Form: Primary School Expansion Programme

Do you support the proposal to expand the following schools?			
	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Barrow Hedges Primary			
Beddington Park Primary			
Cheam Common Infant and Junior			
Devonshire Primary			
Dorchester Primary			
Hackbridge Primary			
Muschamp Primary			

Please use the space provided below to add any comments or views on the proposed primary school expansions

For monitoring purposes, please could you provide the following details

Capacity in which responding:

Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>
Headteacher	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member of School Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

School or organisation you represent, if any:

I am: Male Female

My ethnic origin is:

White (British or Irish)	<input type="checkbox"/>	White British	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black (Caribbean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	White (other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Black (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Black (African)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Indian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pakastani	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed (White & Black Caribbean)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asian (Other)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed (White & Asian)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed (White & Black African)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please state)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

My post code is:

Please complete the attached response form and return it:

- By post to Capital and Planning Section, London Borough of Sutton, FREEPOST CN2117, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, SM1 1BR
- By e-mail to Sutton Council at: primaryexpansion@sutton.gov.uk
- By completing the response form on-line on Sutton's website www.sutton.gov.uk. Search on Consultation – Primary School Expansion Programme.
- By fax to Sutton Council on 020 8770 6564

The last date for responding to the consultation is Friday 30 April 2010

Thank you for taking the time to complete the response

If you, or someone you know, need a translation of any part of this document please tick the box for the language required and complete the form below. Telephone 020 8770 5000 for more information.

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