Providing more primary school places
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Hounslow has one of the fastest growing birth rates in London.

The building of new houses is bringing many more families into the borough.

This means that demand for places in our primary schools is growing fast.
Introduction:

Hounslow has one of the fastest growing birth rates in London. The building of new houses is bringing many more families into our borough. All of this means that demand for places in our primary schools is growing fast.

Making sure there are enough places in our schools for all children who need them is an important responsibility and is a big part of our promise to provide the best possible education for all.

Since 2008 we have increased the number of places across the borough, adding temporary classes (known as ‘bulge’ classes) and, where appropriate, permanent classes. To meet the continued rising demand we need to further increase the number of places available at our schools in time for the start of term in September 2013 and where possible we aim to do this by creating more permanent classes.

This booklet explains where these extra school places may be created and asks for your views about them. To make sure we provide the best possible education, the views of parents and carers of school age and pre-school age children are of the utmost importance to these plans.

Any changes would take place at the beginning of the new school term in September 2013.
Key Dates

12 September to 21 October 2011
● Consultation
● Please tell us your views!

6 December 2011
● Report on outcomes of consultation
● The council considers all responses before deciding what steps to take

January To February 2012 (4 Weeks)
● Official notices published for each school that would expand
● Comments on the proposals made

17 April 2012
● Report on outcomes of statutory notices
● Council decides whether to implement or withdraw the notices for each school

September 2012
● Admission numbers for September 2013 published for each school affected
Background

In the last decade there has been a significant increase in the number of births in the borough, rising from 3081 to 4433 per year. Historically, the number of children beginning school has been approximately 75% of those born five years earlier. If this carries on we will need 3200 places in Reception classes by 2013.

Deciding where the new classes are needed means knowing those areas where numbers of children are growing the most.

Demands for places from new housing developments vary with the size of each home and the overall level of new homes in Hounslow impacts on schools across the borough.

We are creating additional places every year. For September 2013 we are proposing to create 120 (4FE) permanent places and it is those forms of entry (FE) that form the basis of this consultation.

To meet demand for school places we are currently proposing expansion of schools in the following communities:

- Feltham and Bedfont
- Hounslow and Isleworth

Our intention is to expand the number of school places across the borough based on a number of factors including:

- which areas are likely to see the biggest gaps between provision and need
- demand for places
- how difficult expansion would be

Before making any changes, we want to be sure that:

- there is or soon will be demand from parents for new school places in the area
- the school has space for any required building work and more pupils
- work can be completed without excessive disruption to the existing school
- the school to be expanded can continue to provide high quality education services
Frequently asked questions

● **What would these proposals mean for children currently in the school?**
All children in the school will remain at the school.

● **How do you know your figures are accurate?**
Our pupil projections are developed from birth rate data and trends; approved and expected housing developments; and from migration information. We use data from national government and the Greater London Authority. Historically our forecasts have been accurate. Projections are always only our best estimate of the future, and it is important that we are prepared for a continuing demand for primary school places. Many other London boroughs have reached similar conclusions and are also expanding primary schools.

● **How will economic factors affect your forecasts?**
The children who will start school between 2011 and 2013 have already been born so we know that we must ensure sufficient school places for them. We do not know whether the economic downturn will have an impact on birth rates, and this might affect our building projects to ensure that we can react to future changes in birth rates. The number of new flats and houses that are built in the next few years may be affected, but the long term projection is still for more housing to meet demand. Other government policy, for example, affecting housing benefits may impact upon people’s choice regarding where they live, which for Hounslow may result in an influx from Inner London.

● **An expanding school might need more space to accommodate more children. Who will pay for this and when will the work be finished?**
We have already undertaken initial feasibility studies to ensure that the expansion is possible. Once the decision has been made to expand a particular school, the local authority would work with the school to develop any necessary building project in more detail. This project would ensure that there is sufficient space for the future number of children.
The type of accommodation provided would depend on the needs of the school. We may use temporary accommodation if we are only proposing a short-term expansion, and we may need temporary accommodation until any building project is completed. The Council is given capital funding for schools and this will be a priority in our work; our capital funding is limited however and we have to ensure that our expansion projects are affordable.

- **When would the changes come into effect?**
  The changes would come into effect for the Reception entry in September 2013. We would like to have the changes agreed in time to enable the admissions information for parents that is published in September 2012 to include the new pupil admission numbers.

- **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 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 changed, and therefore offers better value for money;
  - If in the future there is a downturn in population, it is easier to reduce the size of a school than to close it completely
  - Establishing a new school takes considerably longer to implement than expanding an existing school.
How were the schools selected for expansion?

Schools were selected based on a range of criteria to ensure their suitability. These included:

- the location of the school in relation to where birth rates have risen or housing is expected
- the demand for places from parents
- school standards and the progress made by pupils in the school
- the feasibility of expansion on the existing school site
- the expected affordability of any necessary building project
- the potential size of the expanded school was also considered to reflect best practice within the borough.

Are there any Free Schools in the area?

Proposals for Free Schools are dealt with by the Department for Education (DfE) and the local authority will not know whether a Free School is to be established until there is a formal announcement.

We want to hear parents’ and residents’ views on the proposals. There are several ways you can let us know what you think:

- Visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/consultations) to read more and to respond online
- e-mail your views to [childrens.ppu@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:childrens.ppu@hounslow.gov.uk)
- complete and return the accompanying questionnaire

You can also find out more about plans for your local schools by attending one of the meetings being held in the area. Details of these are on the following pages.

However you decide to respond, your views are important to us.

All responses are confidential and anonymous (unless you choose to disclose your identity).
What happens next?

Once we have gathered the views of parents and residents, elected councilors will consider the responses and make a decision about whether and how to expand a school or schools.

Once decisions are made, official notices will be published setting out plans for those schools that will be expanded.

Once these notices are published, there is a four-week period for residents to comment. After this the Council will make a final decision about whether the expansions will go ahead or not.
Feltham and Bedfont Area

In recent years, there have been more Reception places available than children in the Feltham and Bedfont area. However, as a result of an increase in the number of children born in the area coupled with significant housing developments, this situation has changed. Our projections for the Feltham and Bedfont area are that two additional classes will be needed for September 2013.

The Council’s proposal in the Feltham and Bedfont area is to expand Fairholme Primary and Bedfont Primary Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Current Admission Number to Reception</th>
<th>Admission Number to Reception for September 2013 if the school is expanded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedfont Primary School</td>
<td>60 pupils (2 classes per year group)</td>
<td>90 pupils (3 classes per year group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairholme Primary School</td>
<td>60 pupils (2 classes per year group)</td>
<td>90 pupils (3 classes per year group)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The rationale for these options are:

**Bedfont Primary**

- Demand for places is generally in line with the number of places available

- The school is judged by Ofsted to be ‘a satisfactory school’ which is ‘at an exciting stage of its development as it unites and moves forward’ [following amalgamation of the Infant and Junior schools in January 2010].

- The school was previously a 3-form entry school, i.e. three classes per year group. Therefore it has existing capacity and expansion would present no significant challenges
**Fairholme Primary**

- Demand for places is generally in line with the number of places available.
- The school is judged by Ofsted to be ‘a good and improving school’.
- The school has some existing capacity and expansion on the site is feasible.
- The cost of providing the extra classroom accommodation is affordable.

If you would like to find out more, the following meetings have been arranged at the schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedfont Primary School</td>
<td>Hatton Road Bedfont TW14 9QZ</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 Oct 2011, 9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairholme Primary School</td>
<td>Peacock Avenue Bedfont TW14 8ET</td>
<td>Thursday 6 Oct 2011, 3.10pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Hounslow and Isleworth Area**

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in housing developments in the area, and there are plans for additional housing development in the future. This is coupled with an increase in the number of children born in the area. Therefore, our projections are that two additional classes will be needed for September 2013. The Council’s proposal in this area is to expand Beavers Community Primary and Ivybridge Primary Schools.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Current Admission Number to Reception</th>
<th>Admission Number to Reception for September 2013 if the school is expanded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beavers Community Primary School</td>
<td>60 pupils (2 classes per year group)</td>
<td>90 pupils (3 classes per year group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivybridge Primary School</td>
<td>30 pupils (1 class per year group)</td>
<td>60 pupils (2 classes per year group)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The rationale for these options are:

**Beavers Community Primary School**
- Demand for places is generally in line with the number of places available
- The school is judged by Ofsted to be ‘providing a satisfactory education for its pupils, [and] there are a number of significant strengths and some things are truly outstanding’
- Expansion on the existing school site is feasible
- The cost of providing the extra classroom accommodation is affordable.

**Ivybridge Primary School**
- Demand for places is generally in line with the number of places available
- The school is judged by Ofsted to be ‘a good school where pupils achieve well and get a good start to their education’
- Expansion on the existing school site is feasible
- The cost of providing the extra classroom accommodation is affordable.
- The school’s location gives flexibility in demand for places in both Hounslow and Isleworth

If you would like to find out more, the following meetings have been arranged at the schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beavers Community Primary School</td>
<td>Arundel Road, Hounslow, TW4 6HR</td>
<td>Wednesday 12 October 2011</td>
<td>2.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivybridge Primary School</td>
<td>Summerwood Road, Isleworth, TW7 7QB</td>
<td>Tuesday 11 October 2011</td>
<td>2.15pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questionnaire on the proposal to increase school places

We are asking parents and residents to give their views about the way we want to increase school places across Hounslow for September 2013.

We need to have your views by 21 October 2011. Responses can be posted or emailed, or made via our website (see back page)

Please let us know the proposals for which area and school you are responding

Area:
School:

1. How do you feel about the proposal to expand School with effect from September 2013?

Please tick appropriate box

☐ Strongly in favour ☐ Strongly opposed
☐ In favour ☐ No view
☐ Opposed

2. Why do you have these views?
Are there other options you think the Council should consider?
In what capacity are you filling in this questionnaire?

☐ Pupil (School: ..........................................................)

☐ Parent / Carer (School: ..................................................)

☐ Staff member (School: ..................................................)

☐ Governor (School: ..........................................................)

☐ Local resident

Other (please state).......................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................................................
..........................................................................................................................................................

Your Postcode: ..............................................................................................................................

Send your completed questionnaire to:
School Organisation Officer
Children’s Services and Lifelong Learning
London Borough of Hounslow
Civic Centre
Lampton Road
Hounslow
TW3 4DN.