PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CHRIST CHURCH C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPRESENTATION (FORMAL CONSULTATION) OUTCOMES REPORT

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning, and the School’s Leadership Team with the outcomes from the formal consultation to expand Christ Church C of E Primary School.

1.2 Christ Church C of E Primary School normally admits 1 class, 30 reception pupils per year, although it will take an additional 30 pupils in September 2015 because of exceptional demand.

1.3 The proposal is to permanently expand the school from one form of entry (FE) to two FE, thereby increasing its Published Admissions Number from 30 pupils to 60 from September 2016.

1.4 This report is based on responses received during the representation (formal consultation) period following the publication of statutory proposal where anyone with an interest could object or comment on the proposal to expand the schools.

2. Background

2.1 The proposal to permanently Christ Church C of E Primary School by one form of entry (an additional 30 pupils) is part of the Council’s supply strategy to ensure sufficient pupil places are available within the borough to meet its statutory duty.

2.2 The Schools’ Leadership Team, including the Governing Body have agreed in principle to the proposed expansion. A feasibility study has been undertaken which shows that the proposed expansion project is both feasible and affordable.

2.3 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that: sufficient school places are available within its Borough for every child of school age, to promote high educational standards, to ensure fair access to educational opportunity, and to help fulfil every child’s educational potential. It must also ensure that there are sufficient schools in its Borough and promote diversity and parental choice.

3. Publication / Representation

3.1 In accordance with statutory regulations for making significant changes to schools, a statutory proposal was published, which started a 4 week representation period – 13 May to 10 June 2015 – which invited anyone with an interest to make representations – comment or object to the proposal.
3.2 The statutory proposal was published in the local Croydon Guardian newspaper; on the Council’s website; displayed on the school gates; and in the local library. A copy of the statutory notice was sent to the Member of Parliament and Ward councillors.

4. Summary of representations

Consultation questionnaire
4.1 A total of 18 written responses have been received. The majority of respondents – parents/carers and member of staff - to the questionnaire was ‘strongly in favour/in favour’ of the proposed expansion of Christ Church C of E Primary school.

Public consultation meeting
4.2 A total of 20 people attended the public meeting was held at the school on 20 May. The school’s leadership team and Council representatives: explained the educational rationale for the proposed expansion of the school; sought your views on the proposal; and responded to questions.

4.3 The Council also received representations via email from 3 local residents (1 in favour, 1 not sure; 1 no indication) expressing traffic related concerns about the proposed expansion. The concerns cited in their email were the same as the ones raised at the public meeting and on the questionnaire.

5. Key issues raised during the representation period

5.1 Respondents’ main concern was about the impact of increased traffic on the local area if the proposal is implemented. Other issues raised:

- Loss of Ethos
- Health and Safety of children

5.2 A detailed breakdown of the issues is attached at Appendix A below.

6. Proposed solutions by respondents regarding traffic

6.1 The Council needs to consider the surrounding roads as part of any resolution. This will ensure that the problem doesn’t affect any other adjoining roads.

6.2 Parking permits for residents.

6.3 Reduce rate for teachers to park in Purley car park.

6.4 One way traffic going up Montpelier road with speed bumps to reduce speeding.

6.5 Double yellow lines or permit holders only.
6.6 Residents felt the Council should address the parking concerns before the project begins.

Key point made in support of the proposed expansion

6.7 The excellent standard of education should be shared with more families.

7. **Response by Chair of Governors**

7.1 As Chair of Governors I am very much in favour of the proposal to expand the school fully to a 2 form entry school. This is for a variety of reasons. We are conscious that there are more people living in the south of the borough and that we were not able to accept into a single form children living relatively close to the school. When the opportunity to accept a bulge class arose we accepted it in order to meet this challenge. So by turning to a full two form entry school we will be able to continue to accept more children who would like to come to our school from the area.

7.2 We have now taking a bulge class on three occasions. This has given us an insight into the benefits of expanding the school. As a single form entry school we were also finding the budget was very tight and that we were struggling to have a balanced budget. What we have found by talking the bulge classes is that this has significantly helped the finances of the school.

7.3 There have been several benefits which we have seen since taking three bulge classes. Teachers in the two classes are able to support each other and share the planning. This can be particularly helpful to a NQT in having a partner to assist them. Additionally if one should be off sick it is easier for the other class teacher to explain what needs to be done to a supply teacher. It has also opened up opportunities for team teaching across the year which has had a positive effect on the children.

7.4 Having a larger year size makes it easier to form sports teams to be able to compete against other schools. It has also helped to reduce some of the trips out as the cost of a coach can be shared over a greater number of pupils.

7.5 We are hoping that by expanding the school we will be able to improve some of the facilities within the school such as small group rooms, changing rooms, medical room and a flexible hall space.

7.6 We do realise that there are challenges for the school in changing to a two form entry school. One being ensuring the smooth running of the school while the building works are going on, playing spaces and car parking. There is also a need to address the traffic issues in Montpelier Road to benefit the local residents. We are confident that any challenges can be overcome and that Christ Church School will benefit by going through this expansion for all the reasons given above.
8. **Response to issues by Council Officers**

**Traffic related issues**
8.1 It is recognised that traffic, congestion and parking issues are a cause for concern, especially for local residents. If the expansion projects are approved, the Council will be commissioning a traffic impact assessment to ascertain how the local area would cope with all modes of movements by people and vehicles, taking account of accessibility and safety issues. The Schools’ Travel Plan will continue to encourage walking to school.

**Loss of ethos and family feel**
8.2 The Chair of Governors for Christ Church School explained that the school would continue to offer children an excellent education in a loving Christian environment, where every child is nurtured to do their best. The Governing Body believe that becoming two form entry school will enrich both the teaching and ethos of our school.

9. **General points**
If the proposal is approved, the Council and the school would work with the local community and parents/carers to explore ways to minimise any negative impact resulting from the expansion.

9.1 The Council will also work directly with school to further develop their School Travel Plan document, with an aim of discouraging car usage and encouraging pupils, parents and staff to use more environmentally friendly modes of travel to school. In addition, the school will highlight any road safety issues in relation to roads within the vicinity of the school, and capture these in their Travel Plan so that the Council can investigate and develop measures safety measures.

9.2 The representations will be shared with the Council’s Highways Improvement Team.

10. **Next steps**

8.1 Following the representation period, the Cabinet or Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning will decide whether the proposal should be implemented. This will be based on responses received which will be balanced against the needs for pupil places.

8.2 In line with the DfE School Organisation guidance, decisions must be made within a period of two months, by 10 August 2015, of the end of the representation period or they must be referred to the Schools Adjudicator.

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1 School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and Education Act 2011
Appendix A

Christ Church C of E Primary questionnaire analysis.

1) Please tell us who are you?

Altogether there were 18 completed questionnaires returned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who are you</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent or carer of a child/children at Christ Church C of E Primary school</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent or carer of child/children at another school. Which one?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent or carer of a child/children not yet of school age</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A member of staff at Christ Church C of E Primary school</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A member of staff at another school.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A local resident</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Of the 3 parents or carer of a child/children at another school:
  - All three of them are members of staff at Christ Church C of E Primary School.
    - And one of these is also a teacher at another school.

- Of the 2 parent or carer of a child/children at Christ Church C of E Primary school:
  - 1 is also a member of staff at Christ Church C of E Primary School.

- Of the 3 parent/carer of a child/children not yet school age:
  - All three of them were also local residents
    - And one of these is also member of staff at Christ Church C of E Primary school.

2) What is your view of the proposal to expand Christ Church C of E Primary School to create places for 30 additional pupils each year until the school has 2 forms throughout?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>View?</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly in favour</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In favour</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in favour</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly against</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No comment</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Of the 6 strongly in favour:
  ➢ 3 are members of staff
  ➢ 2 are parent or carer of a child/children not yet of school age
  ➢ 1 is a parent/carer of child/children at another school.
• Of the 6 in favour:
  ➢ 3 are members of staff at Christ Church C of E Primary school
  ➢ 1 is a parent or carer of child/children at Christ Church C of E Primary School.
  ➢ 1 is a parent/carer of a child at another school
  ➢ 1 is a local resident
• Of the 2 not sure:
  ➢ 1 is a parent or carer of a child/children not yet of school age
  ➢ 1 is a parent or carer of a child/children at another school.
• The 1 not in favour:
  ➢ Is a local resident
• Of the 3 strongly against:
  ➢ 1 was a parent or carer of a child/children at Christ Church C of E Primary
  ➢ 1 was a local resident
  ➢ 1 selected other

3) Please use the space below to add any other comments/views on the proposed expansion of Christ Church C of E Primary School?
• The main topics that came from the comments on the questionnaires are:
  ➢ Parking/traffic issues
  ➢ Loss of Ethos
  ➢ The excellent standard of education should be shared with more families.

END