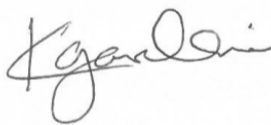


## LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>13 July 2023</b>	
Report Title	<b>Permanent Expansion of Kelmscott Secondary School from 6FE to 8FE</b>	
Cabinet Portfolio	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner, Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People	
Report Author/ Contact details	Rob White, Commissioning Manager for School Places People Directorate <a href="mailto:rob.white@walthamforest.gov.uk">rob.white@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>	
Wards affected	All	
Public Access	OPEN	
Appendices	Appendix A – Consultation Letter Appendix B – Equalities Screener	

### 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education.
- 1.2 To meet this statutory duty an increase in secondary provision is required. A secondary expansion has been agreed and implemented since 2019 which included a capital programme and where appropriate published admission number (PAN) increases.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to:
  - 2.1.1 Approve the permanent increase of the PAN for Kelmscott School from 6 forms of entry (180 pupils) to 8 forms of entry (240 pupils).

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Following a previous increase in primary demand this increase has been working its way through to the secondary phase increasing the demand for secondary places, for which an expansion programme has been implemented since 2019.

- 3.2 The published Department for Education (DfE) guidance on “Making significant changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to maintained schools” states that a permanent amendment to a schools Published Admissions Number (PAN) must go through the statutory process which involves a four-week consultation.
- 3.3 Through the Waltham Forest agreed process of ‘bulge, bulge, expand’ model which looks to reduce the risks associated with expansion by testing the need over a three-year period. Kelmscott School has successfully taken ‘bulge’ classes (an additional 30 pupils) for the last 2 years and for September 2023 has an additional 60 pupils with offers for a school place. The school is keen to make this a permanent change. The pupil place planning team fully supports this request as there is a current need within the system.
- 3.4 Whilst this is a permanent expansion the pupil place planning team will continue to work with Kelmscott School as they do with every other school to ensure PAN changes will be monitored to respond to change in demand. This may also include reducing PAN in future years as the peak within the secondary phase moves through the system.

#### **4. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Consulting on a permanent expansion of a school is a statutory requirement.
- 4.2 Not expanding schools would likely result in a deficit of places in the borough causing Waltham Forest to be in breach of its statutory duty.

#### **5. COUNCIL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)**

- 5.1 The Community Strategy promotes economic, social, and environmental well-being of the local area.
- 5.2 Ensuring that there are sufficient school places is an essential element to this strategy.

#### **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 A consultation was carried out to permanently enlarge the premises from 6 forms of entry to 8 forms of entry (appendix A). The consultation period was from 21 April 2023 to 19 May 2023. School head teachers, chairs of governors, neighbouring local authorities and trade unions were all written to with a copy of this consultation. It was also advertised on the Waltham Forest website.
- 6.2 No responses to the consultation were received.

#### **7. IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 **Finance, Value for Money and Risk**

- 7.1.1 A budget of £10m has been set aside for capital works at Kelmscott School. This includes the cost of expansion and an additional alternative provision unit. This is part of the School Capital Programme which was approved at Cabinet in December 2022.
- 7.1.2 The project will be funded by the Council from its Basic Needs Allocation for schools.
- 7.1.3 Any cost variations will initially be contained by utilising project contingencies or adjustment to the scope of works. Any changes beyond that would necessitate an increase to the project's allocation in the Schools' Capital Programme, however as inflation continues to be high and the rises in energy costs this will have an impact on the costs of raw materials and labour.
- 7.1.4 Value for money will be ensured via the procurement route for the building works. Expanding the school will also create other opportunities for improved value for money in the future, for example via economies of scale in staffing structures and the procurement of goods and services.

## **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996, local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education. Proposals for prescribed alterations to schools must be made in accordance with statutory procedures set out in the Education and Inspections Act 2006, and associated regulations. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 set out the way in which decisions are made about proposals to open, close or enlarge Local Authority maintained (i.e. non-academy) schools, or make other significant changes such as altering the age range. Proposers and decision makers such as the Local Authority must have regard to statutory guidance published by the Secretary of State, the most recent guidance being 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers January 2023'.
- 7.2.2 The proposal and consultation carried out upon it has complied with the statutory requirements.

## **7.3 Equalities and Diversity**

- 7.3.1 An Equality Act screening has been undertaken (Appendix B), which determined that there was no potential for negative impacts on equality groups as a result of the proposed permanent school expansion.

## **7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)**

- 7.4.1 The sustainability comments were previously approved by Cabinet in the School Capital Programme paper in December 2022. Please note that the new building regs Park L 2021 will now apply.

**7.5 Council Infrastructure**

7.5.1 No impact has been identified.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government  
(Access to Information) Act 1985)**

None