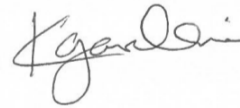


## London Borough of Waltham Forest

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Report Title	Expansion of Burnside Secondary onto Additional Site
Meeting / Date	Cabinet, 3 December 2024
Cabinet portfolio	Councillor Kizzy Gardiner, Portfolio Lead Member for Children and Young People
Report author/ Contact details	Cheryl Eyre, Interim Director of Education Children's Services <a href="mailto:Cheryl.eyre@walthamforest.gov.uk">Cheryl.eyre@walthamforest.gov.uk</a>
Wards affected	All
Public access	Open
Appendices	A – Statutory Notice / Consultation B – Equalities Screener



### 1. Summary

- 1.1 An Inclusive Schools and Alternative Provision Strategy was agreed by Cabinet in [January 2020](#). The strategy sought to commission high quality Alternative Provision and enhanced inclusion support for all children who need it in Waltham Forest, with the strategic outcomes of: keeping all children safe, maximising children's educational & vocational outcomes, strengthening children's emotional wellbeing and relationships, and reducing offending rates of children educated outside mainstream settings.
- 1.2 In [November 2020](#) Cabinet approved the allocation of 23-25 North Birkbeck Road for a new High Needs Centre, co-located with a Family Resilience Centre. As part of the implementation of this strategy the North Birkbeck Road Centre was commissioned and the building was completed in June 2024. This provides an educational space for young people to deliver a core curriculum of English and Maths in addition to Art, Music/Music Technology, work-related skills in construction and catering alongside counselling and therapeutic spaces. A discrete Council office and service space for the Youth and Family Resilience Service who provide support services to children and young people open to Youth Justice.
- 1.3 The North Birkbeck Road Centre is a school site which requires a school to both deliver an educational offer to local children and also manage the site on behalf of the school and the Youth and Family Resilience Service. After an open process with local secondary and

Alternative Provision schools in Waltham Forest Burnside Secondary, part of the Hawkswood Group, expressed interest in being the lead school for the site.

- 1.4 A public consultation was held for 4 weeks between Monday 9th September 2024 to Sunday 6th October 2024 on the proposal to expand Burnside School. No responses were received.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval for the proposed expansion of Burnside Secondary to enable them to formally adopt the site under their current school DfE URN.

## 2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposed expansion of Burnside Secondary PRU.

## 3. **Proposals**

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools, Statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers, January 2023 that the London Borough of Waltham Forest is proposing to expand Burnside Secondary, Burnside Avenue, London, E4 8YJ by 20 additional places through the use of a satellite site located in 23-25 North Birkbeck Road, E11 4JF with effect from 1 September 2025. This site will include the co-location of a Family Resilience Centre.
- 3.2 It is intended that educational places are delivered from the site from September 2025.

## 4. **Options & Alternatives Considered**

- 4.1 An expression of interest was sought from secondary head teachers. The only school that expressed an interest was Burnside Secondary.
- 4.2 Not approving the expansion of Burnside Secondary could result in Waltham Forest having insufficient places for pupils being at risk of, or who have been, permanently excluded from mainstream provision.

## 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 school place sufficiency is a statutory requirement for all local authorities. This will play a big part in ensuring every family and every child are given every opportunity.

## **6. Consultation**

- 6.1 A consultation was carried out for 4 weeks between Monday 9th September 2024 to Sunday 6th October 2024. The consultation (appendix A) was emailed to all school head teachers and chairs of governors as well as colleagues in neighbouring local authorities. The consultation was also published on the Waltham Forest website.

## **7. Implications**

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

- 7.1.1 North Birkbeck Road will be a satellite site of Burnside School and therefore the running of the building and service costs will sit within the school budget.
- 7.1.2 Places at the school are commissioned by schools and the Local Authority as part of the 3 year agreement taken through Schools Forum. The commissioning 2025-28 period is due to be voted on by schools at the December 2024 Schools Forum.
- 7.1.3 Waltham Forest Property Service is developing a service level agreement (SLA) with the school for a discreet space for the Youth and Family Resilience service's Youth Justice provision comprising a reception, suite of offices and meeting rooms. Costs of the SLA will be incurred by Property Services and will be funded from the existing property budget. As with the previous accommodation at Rowan House the Youth and Family Resilience service will not be charged for the proposed accommodation at the new site.
- 7.1.4 The youth justice service move from Rowan House will create some opportunity for cost reductions, especially in relation to property maintenance and other premises running costs due to the current state of the property. This will also create a vacant property to be included in the wider property portfolio review. In the Cabinet paper "Approval of Delivery Partner for Waltham Forest Town Hall Campus and Willow House" dated 5 December 2019 Rowan House was identified as a feeder site for the Town Hall Campus programme. The future use of Rowan House is under consideration.

### **7.2 Legal**

- 7.2.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient school places are available within their area for every child of school age - 5-16 years old - whose parents wish them to have one (Education Act 1996 Section 14(1)).
- 7.2.2 Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 places a statutory duty on the council to assess the need for alternative education provision for children who cannot attend school.

7.2.3 A legally binding agreement between the Council and Burnside School is being negotiated for the shared use of North Birkbeck Road Centre and the appropriate allocation of costs.

**7.3 Equalities and Diversity**

7.3.1 An Equalities Analysis screening template has been completed and there are no negative or adverse impact identified.

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

7.4.1 The school will be asked to encourage staff, pupils and families to travel as sustainably as possible, either through active travel (cycling and walking), public transport or using electric vehicles if necessary.

**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