Expansion of Poplar Primary School

Published notice and prescribed information

Published notice

EXPANSION OF HILLCROSS, MERTON ABBEY, PELHAM, POPLAR AND SINGLEGATE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that London Borough of Merton intends to make prescribed alterations from 1 September 2014 to:
Hillcross Primary School, community primary school, Ashridge Way, Morden, SM4 4EE;
Merton Abbey Primary School, community primary school, High Path, London, SW19 3HQ;
Pelham Primary School, community primary school, Southey Road, London, SW19 1NU;
Poplar Primary School, community primary school, Poplar Road South, London, SW19 3JZ; and
Singlegate Primary School, community primary school, South Gardens, London, SW19 2NT.

Hillcross Primary School

The London Borough of Merton intends to permanently expand the school from two forms of entry to three forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 450. The current permanent published admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

Merton Abbey Primary School

The London Borough of Merton intends to permanently expand the school from one form of entry to two forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 245. The current permanent published admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.

Pelham Primary School

The London Borough of Merton intends to permanently expand the school from one form of entry to two forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 420. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 227. The current permanent published admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 60.
Poplar Primary School

The London Borough of Merton intends to permanently expand the school from two forms of entry to three forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 442. The current permanent published admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

Singlegate Primary School

The London Borough of Merton intends to permanently expand the school from one form of entry to three forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 210 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 266. The current permanent published admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be obtained from: Contracts and School Organisation, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre Morden SM4 5DX or accessed at http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to or make comments on any of the proposals by sending them to:

Director of Children Schools and Families
London Borough of Merton
Civic Centre,
Morden,
SM4 5DX.

Signed: Yvette Stanley, Director of Children, Schools and Families
Publication Date: 23 May 2013

Explanatory Notes

The council is making separate (unrelated) proposals to expand Hillcross, Merton Abbey, Pelham, Poplar and Singlegate Primary Schools. Representations can be made on each proposal and each proposal will be considered separately for approval by the council.

The expansions of each school would be implemented gradually by an increase in the size of the reception year. To help to meet the increased demand for places, as an exception the schools have made additional pupil places available in the reception year group in previous years and all of the schools will offer the places for the reception year starting in September 2013 up to the proposed admission number stated in this Notice with the exception of Singlegate Primary School and Poplar Primary School which will offer 60 places for the 2013/14 reception year group. The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently for each of the schools from September 2014.
PROPOSALS FOR PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS OTHER THAN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS: Information to be included in or provided in relation to proposals

Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.

In respect of an LEA Proposal: School and local education authority details

1. The name, address and category of the school and a contact address for the local education authority that is publishing the proposals.

School: Poplar Primary School (community), Poplar Road South, London SW19 3JZ
Local Authority: Contracts and School Organisation, Children Schools and Families Department, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, Morden, SM4 5DX

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

2. The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented, and if they are to be implemented in stages, a description of what is planned for each stage, and the number of stages intended and the dates of each stage.

1 September 2014

Objections and comments

3. A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—
   (a) the date by which objections or comments should be sent to the local education authority; and
   (b) the address of the authority to which objections or comments should be sent.

Objections or comments should be sent by 20 June 2013 to Director of Children Schools and Families, London Borough of Merton, Civic Centre, Morden, SM4 5DX or by e-mail to schconsult@merton.gov.uk

Alteration description

4. A description of the proposed alteration and in the case of special school proposals, a description of the current special needs provision.
The London Borough of Merton intends to expand Poplar Primary School from two forms of entry to three forms of entry.

Excluding the nursery class the current capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity will be 630. The current number of pupils registered at the school is 442. The current admission number for the school is 60 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

The expansion of Poplar Primary School would be implemented gradually by an increase in the size of the reception year.

Following the agreement of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, the school provided an extra class of 30 pupils in reception year in September 2012, with the 30 additional places allocated on the basis of an Admissions Priority Area (APA).

The APA was agreed to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the Merton Park area, complementing the expansion of Hillcross Primary School, Morden. A map of the APA is available on this link: http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/changingschool/admissions/poplar_priority_area.htm

The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently to 90 from September 2014 and the extra places would be allocated on the same basis as for September 2012 i.e. with an APA for the 30 extra places only

School capacity

5.—(1) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1 to 4, 8, 9 and 12-14 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1-4, 7, 8, 18, 19 and 21 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, the proposals must also include—

(a) details of the current capacity of the school and where the proposals will alter the capacity of the school, the proposed capacity of the school after the alteration;

Excluding the nursery class the current permanent capacity of the school is 420 and the proposed capacity after the alteration will be 630

(b) details of the current number of pupils admitted to the school in each relevant age group, and where this number is to change, the proposed number of pupils to be admitted in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will have been implemented;

Until September 2012 the school admitted 60 pupils per year group. As an exception the school made 90 pupil places available in reception year in September 2012 but will not do so in 2013. The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently to 90 as part of this proposal from September 2014.

(c) where it is intended that proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in the first school year in which each stage will have been implemented;

Not applicable

(d) where the number of pupils in any relevant age group is lower than the indicated admission number for that relevant age group a statement to this effect and details of the indicated admission number in question.
(2) Where the alteration is an alteration falling within any of paragraphs 1, 2, 9, 12 and 13 to 4, and 7 and 8 of Schedule 2 or paragraphs 1, 2, 8, 18 and 19 of Schedule 4 to The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 a statement of the number of pupils at the school at the time of the publication of the proposals.

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The expansion falls within paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 4. (increase in capacity and increase in numbers).

The current number of pupils registered at the school is 442 according to the latest official school census information in January 2013. This excludes the nursery class.

Additional Site

6.—(1) A statement as to whether any new or additional site will be required if proposals are implemented and if so the location of the site if the school is to occupy a split site.

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No new or additional site is required to implement the proposal.

Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals.

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The objective of the proposal is to provide additional ‘basic need’ primary school places in the local area to meet rising demand, expanding schools that will facilitate the overall strategy of continuing to raise education standards.

The proposed expansion of Poplar Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2012 twenty one schools, including Poplar, provided additional reception classes to ensure sufficient places are provided. According to GLA population projections for the London Borough of Merton further expansion will be required to meet further need up to 2017.

Consultation

8. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

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(a) a list of persons who were consulted;

The consultation document was sent to all parents with children at Poplar Primary school, all Merton primary schools, Director of Children Services at London Boroughs of Wandsworth, Sutton and Lambeth, Merton Councillors, Trade Union Representatives, LB Merton councillors and the two Merton MPs. The document was also made available on the council’s website.

(b) minutes of all public consultation meetings; Appendix 2

(c) the views of the persons consulted; Appendix 1

(d) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with;

The council’s legal services team has been consulted and confirm that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposals to consult were complied with.

(e) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available. Document is Appendix 3

A hard copy of the document was sent to all the parties listed above, as well as making the document available on the Council’s website. The document was sent to parents via the school pupils. Other parties were posted the document.
Project costs

9. A statement of the estimated total capital cost of the proposals and the breakdown of the costs that are to be met by the governing body, the local education authority, and any other party.

The finance will be provided by the local authority, as part of the Children, Schools and Families capital programme, aided in part by Department for Education capital grant. The council has submitted a bid to DfE’s targeted basic need programme to assist with the finance.

The cost of the project from 2013/14 is contained in Appendix 4.

10. A copy of confirmation from the Secretary of State, local education authority and the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Appendix 4 – contains the relevant extract from the council’s capital programme agreed by the Council on 6 March 2013.

Need or demand for additional places

11. If the proposals involve adding places—

(a) a statement and supporting evidence of the need or demand for the particular places in the area;

There is a significant increase in demand for school places in Merton, with more children reaching school age, fuelled by a birth rate that has risen by 39% in the last eight years and exacerbated by other factors. The most recent GLA population projections based on the 2011 census shows the rise in children aged 4 (school reception year) over the past five years and how, after a plateau/modest drop in 2013, it will rise again until 2017.

“2012 ROUND” GLA POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR LB MERTON (2011 CENSUS BASED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>&quot;SHLAA&quot; model persons 4 years</th>
<th>&quot;Trend-based&quot; model persons 4 years</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"SHLAA" is the GLA population projection model which is linked to development trajectories from the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA).

The “Trend-based” projection doesn’t take dwellings into account but considers births, population (by single year of
The GLA previously only provided the ‘SHLAA” model, but found in recent years that it severely under estimated the growth in child population as it did not take account of the rising child per dwelling ratio. The “trend based” is an alternative model produced by the GLA for the first time; the GLA feel it may be more accurate for councils without significant new build.

The proposed expansion of Poplar Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2012 twenty one schools, including Poplar, provided additional reception classes to ensure sufficient places are provided. After a plateaus/very modest fall in demand for 2012 and 2013 the figures show that further expansion will be required up to the currently projected peak in 2017.

LB Merton sets criteria for selecting schools to expand. This is outlined below stating how Poplar Primary School meets this criteria:

- Educational standards: The school was given a ‘Good’ rating by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2010. The 2012 ‘Raise on Line’ demonstrated pupil achievement was above the national average.

- Parental preference: In 2012, even with an extra class provided in a temporary capacity the school was over subscribed and on its permanent admission number experienced a reducing catchment area.

- Smaller schools expand where feasible: The school is currently 2FE but so are the other schools that could be expanded in the area of demand

- Location: Admissions data outlined above shows it will meet demand within the local area

- Physical constraints of existing school sites: The site is large enough for expansion, although there are constraints to a simple expansion

- Sustainable and will ensure a school continues to be popular and successful: The proposed design will provide a sustainable solution for the school with related accommodation improvements e.g. demolition of poor quality early years accommodation and a new hall

- Value for money and affordability: As outlined and in the planning constraints section the scheme is expensive but within the context of limited alternative options it is considered acceptable.

- Diversity including balance of faith and non-faith provision: Meets the need for non-faith places

(b) where the school adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question and any associated change to the admission arrangements for the school.

NA – the school is a community school

**Expansion of successful and popular schools**

**25A.** (1) Proposals must include a statement of whether the proposer considers that the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools should apply, and where the governing body consider the presumption applies, evidence to support this.

The Local Authority feels that Poplar Primary School would be considered under the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools. The school received a ‘Good’ rating in its last Ofsted. It is over subscribed for its permanent admission number
of 60 and filled its temporary additional classes in 2012.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of the views of the persons consulted;
Appendix 2 - Minutes of all public consultation meetings;
Appendix 3 - Copies of consultation document
Appendix 4 – Council report 6 March 2013 – inclusion of school expansion capital finance
Poplar Primary School Proposed Expansion Consultation Responses

December 2012

Responses: Parents 18
             Residents 16
             Parent & Staff/Governor 3
             Resident & Staff/Governor 2
             Staff or Governor 1
             Parent & Pre-school parent 4
             Other

Note: This consultation was on:
1. Consultation on proposed permanent expansion of the school from 2FE to 3FE
   (60 to 90 pupil places per year)
2. Consultation on shared external area for Mostyn Gardens

The consultation leaflet clarified that the expansion of Poplar Primary School is not
dependent on use of the shared area

Parent

1. Broadly in agreement subject to: improvements to current grass areas to
   enable year-round use (previous expansion has caused flooding & poor
   drainage); no loss of ‘wild area’, allotments or pavilions; and that the shared
   use area with Mostyn Gardens goes ahead.
   Shared area - should be larger with the boundary formed by the natural curve
   of the path and Martin Way gate.

2. Understand the need for additional places but concerned about: effects on
   current pupils including safety of entrance/exits; existing drainage issues that
   make the field unusable; purpose of shared space and responsibility for its
   rubbish clearance; and viability of site access from Martin Way.
   Shared area - vital for school to have the extra space as the new extension
   will reduce their outdoor space. Area should remain as natural as possible
   (no concrete or tarmac), very secure during school hours and checked before
   their use.

3. Welcome the expansion as too few local primary school places.
   Shared area - welcome the shared use of Mostyn Gardens as the new
   extension will reduce the school’s outdoor space. No adverse affects as the
   area is not currently used.
4. Not in favour as current size is well-balanced. Concerned about impact of building work on current pupils and impact of extra children with reduced play space. 
   Shared area - imperative school has use of this under-used area. It will benefit both pupils and park users. Hopefully this will ensure the survival of the school's wild area.

5. Very happy with the proposal. 
   Shared area – support this idea.

6. Shared area - support this proposal. Am also a founder member of the Friends of Mostyn Gardens and feel both pupils and park users will benefit from the regeneration of this under-used area. Suggests using current path as the boundary. However concerned about safety if current layout remains.

7. Support expansion due to the need however must not negatively impact the education of current pupils. Concerned about: lack of usable outdoor space (build up not out); impact on current staff e.g. resources; and impact of building work on existing pupils e.g. physical safety, security etc. 
   Shared area - fully support use of Mostyn Gardens by the school. Suggests school takes over this under-used area completely for safety reasons.

8. Concerned about size of site. Asks if current school site is above minimum recommended space for 3FE if nature conservation area is discounted? 
   Drainage issues with playing field reduces its usage. School should only be expanded if shared area with Mostyn Gardens is guaranteed. Have you considered expanding Merton Park Primary – many children in the APA will have to walk past this school to get to Poplar. Need a managed crossing in Kenley Road to ensure safety of additional pupils walking from the APA.

9. Live only 7 min walk away and without the bulge class our second child would have no chance of a place for 2013. Very happy with school. 
   Shared area - school would benefit hugely from this under-used and overgrown space. Trees would provide shade in the summer and grassed area has better drainage than school playing field. Suggests a natural play area similar to Morden Hall Park. Current shared space already works well.

10. Happy with proposal. School is excellent and more children should benefit. 
    Shared area - school should be able to build a bigger hall and additional classrooms on this area.

11. No particular views but Poplar is a good choice for the extra places as it is already well established. 
    Shared area - an excellent idea as it benefits both the school and local community. Consider an area for ball games for older children.
12. Only doubt is effect on teachers of handling large numbers of pupils in a class. Would like a limited number of pupils so they get more attention from the teachers.
   Shared area - I agree to an extent for the development but concerned about the area being looked after during the public times.

13. No comments on the expansion.
   Shared area - approve of this idea.

14. No comments.

15. Current expansion has proceeded well to date.
   Shared area – fully support this development as area is currently under-used. Suggest increasing area up to the path.

16. Fully appreciate the need for additional places. Project needs to be managed well from within the school to retain its community feel. Main concern is lack of outdoor play space in the winter – field needs a drainage solution or replaced with a different surface. Will the hall size and other facilities (e.g. scooter storage) be increased?
   Shared area – agree with the proposal but believe the boundary should be increased in line with the current shared MUGA.

17. Concerned about: lack of outdoor play space as the field is often unusable due to flooding throughout the year; displacement of classes and loss of library during the build; and construction vehicle access.
   Shared area – agree but believe the area should be increased.

18. Agree with the proposal as more children will benefit from a very good school. Playing field drainage needs to be improved so it can actually be used, especially with more children.
   Shared area – suggests using the entire area to the right of the Martin Way entrance gate. Asks about security

**Resident**

1. Concerned regarding parents’ inconsiderate parking when dropping off and collecting their children, e.g. blocking driveway.
   Shared area – not a problem as long as Mostyn Gardens remains open to local residents at all times.

2. Acknowledge more school places are needed but what are the plans to deal with inconsiderate and increased car parking? Walking buses were promised before the previous extension but this has not relieved the parking problem. Suggest a ‘drop-off’ point, perhaps in the current staff car park.
3. Agree to the expansion.
Shared area - disagree with shared use of Mostyn Gardens as would be
dangerous to the school pupils due to vandalism (this has increased since no
on-site warden). If the school needs more space, appropriate it from the park
at the outset.

4. Concerned about vehicle movements and car parking. Own road (Cranleigh)
already suffers from parent and staff parking and hinders workmen, deliveries
and council staff. Devise a school transport plan to minimise disruption to
neighbours. (Also responded electronically)

5. Shared area - needs careful defining, i.e. landscaping, equipment, fencing,
hours of access and responsibility. (Also responded electronically.)

6. More loss of privacy due to 2-storey extension. Previous frosted glass has
been replaced with clear glass. Continued disruption due to building work –
suggest construction access via Mostyn Gardens. Increased traffic and car
parking issues. Current zig zags prevent me parking outside my own home.

7. Understands the need for expansion. An increase in pupils of 50% requires
50% more space so fully supports shared external area of Mostyn Gardens.
Benefits include: utilising a current ‘wasted’ space; upgraded facilities; sharing
some of the ‘park’ costs with the school; and more space for the pupils. The
current shared use area is very successful.

8. In favour of the expansion and shared use area in Mostyn Gardens. This
area is underused. Current shared area works brilliantly. Suggest it is dog
free, perhaps with picnic areas.

9. No objection to the school expansion but object to construction traffic using
Poplar Road South due to current congestion. Also suggests a ‘drop-off’ area
for parents to alleviate the current inconsiderate parking of parents.
Shared area – no objection as it seems an unused area of the park.

10. Happy to agree with the proposal as it is essential for the education of Merton
children.
Shared area – no loss to the park but gain for children’s education.

11. Agree the expansion is necessary due to the increased population. Mentions
various construction access routes and their advantages and disadvantages.
Shared area – Mostyn Gardens is a garden/park and not a recreation ground.
It does not need any more facilities or play areas. Are already disturbed by
their misuse at night so do not this to increase. Hypercritical that school are
planning a new area for nature conservation but proposing to destruct another
well established one. Area adjacent to Martin Way provides shelter for many
birds.
12. Poplar is a very good school so it makes sense to expand it and it will accept mainly local children.  
Shared area – children need plenty of outdoor space so makes sense to make use of this under-used area. Improvements will benefit the local community outside of school hours.

13. Do not like or support the plan. Do not want local park to become a playground.  
Shared area – no merits whatsoever. Keep it for recreation. Merton is a concrete jungle already.

14. Agree with the proposal.  
Shared area – excellent way of bringing neglected and under-used part of the park into beneficial use.

15. Shared area – support the proposal. The area is under-used. The school is an integral and positive part of the community too so their use of the space is not a loss to the community. The current shared area arrangement works well.

16. Asks about the details and design of the area including hours of usage, any loss of mature trees etc. Requests a protection (covenant) is put in place. Shared area - do not see any merits in this – a park is as important as a school. Build or expand somewhere less important.

17. Site is too small for further expansion and adjoining residents will be overlooked by the two storey extension. No provision for offstreet parking for thoughtless parents parking illegally and blocking roads. Shared area – don’t know the merits, that’s the problem.

18. Do not approve of a shared area. Want to continue using the park. Will make the park less attractive. Shared area – no comment.

19. No objection to the expansion if the places are needed. Only concern is the volume of parents parking in surrounding roads (especially Cranleigh Road). Would welcome a strategy from the school on how this can be solved. Shared area – safe, outdoor space is important for children. Agree with proposal.

20. Important to provide both school places and green quite places. However this will be an encroachment onto a green space to the detriment of local residents. Would request shared area proposal is rejected. Shared area – Loss of open space very important. Should use brown sites rather than recreational grounds.
21. Concerned about construction traffic and access. Suggest site access via Martin Way.

**Parent & Staff or Governor**

1. More places are required. Expanding Poplar will benefit the community. The leadership is more than capable and experienced in dealing with building works plus maintaining the caring/homely ethos of the school. Shared area – Area is currently under-used. Both pupils and the local community will benefit from the proposal.

2. Understand the need for the expansion. It is important that the new extension is attached to the school and a large space provided for play and PE/assemblies. Construction access to be via Martin Way for safety and traffic reasons. Shared area – extra space would be essential for the increased numbers. Would benefit both pupils and the community.

3. Fully support the expansion. It will address the increasing demand for school places for residents of Merton Park ward. Shared area – support this proposal as it will benefit both pupils and the local community. It is currently under-used and attracts unwanted behaviour by local youths and drug addicts.

**Resident & Staff or Governor**

1. Shared area – Currently under-used and unattractive. Support the development as it will enhance the area and improve opportunity for play and learning for the pupils.

2. Should go ahead. Shared area – it would be a valuable area for both the school and the community.

**Staff or Governor**

1. School will need a larger hall to accommodate all school assemblies and events.
Shared area – will improve the area and benefit the pupils.

2. Support expansion due to local need. Must ensure standard of education or lives of residents is not adversely affected. Phasing of work important in order to retain all facilities. Construction access to be via Martin Way. Building design – ensure privacy of neighbouring houses.

3. Happy for expansion as long as a larger hall is provided and the new build is good quality and well planned.

**Parent & pre-school parent**

1. Aware of the need for additional places and would prefer a new school to be built rather than expansions. However, if that is not an option I support the expansion of Poplar as long as the additional play space is provided. Essential construction works are not detrimental to the children and that they are ‘fit for purpose. Concerned about: lack of usable outdoor play space (build up rather than out); impact on current staff (including parking issues); and impact on the children.

   Shared area – fully support the proposal and suggest school is given sole use of the area.

2. No objection to the expansion as long as it is thoughtfully managed and school ethos is maintained. Main concerns are lack of usable play space (major drainage problem with the playing field) and traffic and accessibility (suggests school drop-off zones, satellite drop-off zones, lift clubs, car clubs (for staff), dedicated school bus, alternative free parking for teachers (Kenley Road car park) and incentives for parents/staff not to drive. Asks when temporary classroom will be removed.

   Shared area – strongly support the proposal. Area is under-used and neglected. Will benefit everyone.

3. Same as above.

4. Not a good idea to have shared playground. The park is lovely as it is.

   Shared area – no merits.

**Other**
1. Merton Park Ward Independent Residents
   Accept the need for expansion and are fully supportive of proposal for an APA (Admissions Priority Area) that will favour Merton Park ward and will go some way to redress the reach of the catchment area towards those homes currently excluded from either school but within walking distance.
   Shared area – Done with sensitivity, converting and refurbishing this little-used and dilapidated area of the Gardens would benefit pupils and residents alike.

2. Morden Primary School Governors
   Morden Primary Governors – Dismayed Poplar has been considered for 3FE over Morden becoming 2FE – contrary to previous statements made by the council. Morden has a good Ofsted rating and is oversubscribed. It meets all the criteria applied to Poplar plus it has the following advantages: it on a major bus route; has support from staff; existing plans for 2FE; potentially only a 10 min walk from Poplar; and has none of its traffic congestion.

3. Expansion is the only option as no suitable funding or location for a new school.
Parents - School Expansion Consultation

held at Poplar Primary School

On 22 November 2012 at 6.30 pm

Panel

Jan Martin (Chair), LB Merton (Head of Education)
Tom Procter, LB Merton (Service Manager, Contracts & School Organisation)
Katharine Davies (Headteacher)
Andrew Foster (Chair of Governors)
Martin Whelton (Cabinet Member for Education)

Jan Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting for the proposals to expand Poplar Primary School.

TP presented the criteria for the selection of Poplar Primary School as a priority school to expand, the legal process for an expansion and the proposed building plans.

All presentations are available on the LB Merton website at http://www.merton.gov.uk/council/getinvolved/schoolsconsultations.htm

The proposals to develop a part of Mostyn Gardens under a shared use arrangement were also presented. TP stated that any such arrangement for shared use would mean that the school would have exclusive use during school hours. During non school hours, the parks area would revert back to community use. The school site with existing shared games court will provide the minimum recommended space for the expanded school, so additional site space is not a requirement. It was therefore noted that the proposals to expand Poplar Primary School were not dependant on the shared use of Mostyn Gardens.

Katharine Davies (KD) stated that developing a section of Mostyn Gardens would benefit the school and local community. Expansion to 3 form entry presents a really good opportunity for the school to invest in staff and resources. This will undoubtedly bring better learning opportunities for the children that attend Poplar Primary.

Questions/Comments/Observations

1. If the shared external area got rejected, how would it affect the expansion of the school?

   Answer – proposal for Mostyn Gardens is not dependant on the expansion. The school already has sufficient capacity in terms of
external play space, but the area would be an excellent enhancement for the school.

2. How much play space is going to be lost as a result of the building – where will children play during construction?

   Answer – the site will have to be hoarded so there is complete separation from the contractor and the school. An element of playground will be lost. However, there are plans to provide a temporary hard standing area on the school's existing playing field. The school will need to manage the number of children outside during playtime by introducing staggered play times.

3. The playing field tends to get very boggy and is prone to flooding even in the summer months. If the Local Authority is expanding the school, then there should be plans to ensure that the external areas are in good condition as there will eventually be over 600 children at the school.

   Answer – we will look at drainage and problems with flooding as part of site investigation works.

4. Are there any restrictions on age and usage of the proposed shared area?

   Answer – children aged 3-11 will be using the area during school hours. Any design will reflect this age group. No design of the shared use has taken place to date. During the day i.e. school hours, the parks area will only be used by the school as per the same arrangement at Wimbledon Park Primary School. During non school hours, the area becomes the area would be open for full public access as the rest of the park.

5. Management of the shared use – is it the school’s responsibility or open spaces?

   Answer – the detail would be open to discussion – one way forward used in other schools is for the school would maintain any play equipment that is installed and the council’s Greenspaces team would maintain the grounds.

6. Friends of Mostyn Gardens – we support the principle of the shared area and would like to see the detailed plans for this area. Why haven’t the Local Authority considered developing the whole area at the back of the school site? It is quite clear that the area is not maintained, it’s overgrown and it is hardly ever used.

   Answer – we were conscious that we shouldn’t reserve too much of the park for school’s use but can certainly review this if the community
7. When will the new building be in place?

Answer – Depending on when we submit planning and obtain approval the build programme it is likely to be nearly a year before we start construction. We expect to have completed construction by the end of 2014.

8. If we displace the nursery, where will the children go? Where will these ‘bulge’ classes go?

Answer – the school will give up some spaces to enable rooms to be decanted and to facilitate the phased expansion of the school. This is to avoid further temporary buildings being brought onto the site.
Residents - School Expansion Consultation

held at Poplar Primary School

On 22 November 2012 at 8.00 pm

Panel

Jan Martin (Chair), LB Merton (Head of Education)
Tom Procter, LB Merton (Service Manager, Contracts & School Organisation)
Katharine Davies (Headteacher)
Andrew Foster (Chair of Governors)
Martin Whelton (Cabinet Member for Education)

JM welcomed everyone to the meeting for the proposals to expand Poplar Primary School.

KD discussed the positive aspects of expanding the school for the local community.

TP presented the criteria for the selection of Poplar Primary School as a priority school to expand, the legal process for an expansion and the proposed building plans.

Questions/Comments/ Observations

1. Resident concerned with the view into their property that a double storey extension could have from her property. The resident also raised concern at having parking restrictions outside her property.

   Answer – a traffic and transport survey will be commissioned that will assess parking. The building will be designed to ensure privacy is maintained.

2. What is the waiting list of the school – what is the level of oversubscription?

   Answer – the school has taken the 30 extra places this year which the expansion would make permanent - there is still currently a waiting list for reception which is currently at 9 -10 places.

3. Resident who lives near the park from Martin Way has lived in the area for over 45 years. He accepts that there will be noise when living in close proximity to a school. He stated that Mostyn Gardens is a quiet and tranquil area that has wildlife. He raised concern with this area changing its use and the level of noise that will be generated if the school has use of this area during school hours. There is already a children’s play area near the school. The reason adults like Mostyn Gardens is because the parks area offers peace and quiet.
4. Will access from Martin Way be dangerous? There is a traffic island near the parks entrance and it already presents a menace on Martin Way with traffic congestion.

Answer – a construction access review will be commissioned which will look at how construction vehicles will enter and egress from the site. There are currently two options for consideration – access from Martin Way or access from Poplar Road South.

5. Will the shared use area be tarmac?

Answer – the shared use area will remain as a natural area for children to play in. There are no plans to create a substantial hard standing play area.

6. Residents raised concern with the potential of vandalism in the shared use area. How will the local authority maintain a safe environment for children?

Answer – a shared use agreement will be in place with Open Spaces and the school defining roles and responsibilities. The area will be appropriately fenced and will be secure.

7. Why is Poplar Primary being expanded from 420 to 630 when Morden Primary is a big site only offering 210 places? Why not expand Morden Primary?

Answer – Morden Primary may well form part of expansion proposals in subsequent years. Morden Primary does have the site to expand but a key factor is parental preference. Poplar school is currently over subscribed for its 60 places so there is demand in the local area around Merton Park for expansion which is not currently apparent in south Morden/St. Helier.

8. Friends of Mostyn Gardens – the area is currently under used and is full of overgrown shrubs. Unfortunately due to budget cuts the Council does very little to maintain this area. There is a dis-used toilet block. Surely if the area is developed for school and community use, it will enhance what is currently there.

9. There is an eco-system – why would we want to disturb the wildlife. The trees need to be cared for properly and maintained.

10. Resident concerned with the level of parking outside her home on Poplar Road South during school drop off and pick up times. On many occasions, taxis and utility companies have not been able to park outside her home. Surely if the school is doubling in size, the issue of parking will become worse.

Answer – the vast majority of pupils attending the school will be local
and will therefore walk to the school. The school also actively encourage more sustainable travel methods as part of the school travel plan.

11. Peter Southgate (ward councillor) stated there is an absolute need for expansion with the increase in birth rates in this area. He stated that it was important to maintain Mostyn Gardens as a natural grassed area and that it was not appropriate to have tarmac in this area due to wildlife and the existing surroundings. It would also deter teenagers from congregating in the area. He urged the public to respond to the consultation particularly on the use of Mostyn Gardens. He was in favour of dual use.

12. Who would be responsible for keeping the school area clean and tidy?

Answer – there would be a legal agreement between Open Spaces and the School. Roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined. The shared use space will be a dog free zone.

13. There is a pathway around Mostyn Gardens which is not maintained very well. There are several mature trees and the area is not really usable. Would children be using the shared use first thing in the morning? Concern was expressed at what could be left in an open parks area from the night before.

Answer – the school’s site manager would be responsible for checking the area every morning before children have access.

14. If access is going to be across the parks – how many trees will need to be removed for construction access?

Answer – an independent arboricultural assessment will be commissioned that will assess the impact on the parks area.
POPULAR PRIMARY SCHOOL AND MOSTYN GARDENS

1. Consultation on proposed permanent expansion of the school from 2FE to 3FE (60 to 90 pupil places per year)

2. Consultation on shared external area for Mostyn Gardens

Responses to be returned by Friday 14 December 2012

Consultation meetings at the school on Thursday 22 November 2012:
Parents 6.30pm
Local residents 8.00pm

www.merton.gov.uk
What is proposed?

Expansion of Poplar Primary School

The London Borough of Merton has a legal obligation to provide school places for all children needing education. The demand for places in the borough is increasing substantially and wherever possible we wish to meet that need through expanding our best schools and the ones which parents most wish to access.

Poplar Primary School is currently a two-form entry (2FE) school, admitting up to 60 pupils in two classes per year, providing education for 420 pupils across the School excluding the nursery.

Following the agreement of the Office of the Schools Adjudicator, the school has taken an extra class in reception year in September 2012, with the 30 additional places allocated on the basis of an Admissions Priority Area (APA). A two classroom temporary unit has been installed, enabling this arrangement to continue for September 2013.

The APA was agreed to ensure that there are sufficient primary school places in the Merton Park area, complementing the expansion of Hillcross Primary School, Morden. A map of the APA is available on this link: [http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/changingschool/admissions/poplar_priority_area.htm](http://www.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/changingschool/admissions/poplar_priority_area.htm)

The Council wishes to permanently expand the school from September 2014 to be a three-form entry (3FE) school, admitting up to 90 pupils per year in three classes. This will mean it would eventually have up to 630 pupils on roll excluding the nursery, but the expansion of the places would be gradual until reaching all year groups in 2018/19.

It is proposed that under the permanent expansion the extra 30 places will be allocated on the same basis as for September 2012 i.e. with an APA for the extra places only.

A drawing of the area showing the location of the proposed additional buildings will be available for discussion at the public consultation meeting on 22 November 2012 and will then be on the LB Merton website [http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm](http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm)

Proposed shared external area for Mostyn Gardens

The school site with existing shared games court will provide for above the minimum recommended space for the expanded school, so additional site space is not a requirement.

However, some of the school site contains an area of importance for nature conservation. While it is an attractive feature for the school it has some restriction for learning and play. The school is adjacent to Mostyn Gardens, which includes a corner adjacent to Martin Way that receives little use, and an additional secure
space will provide a benefit to the school children.

The council is therefore interested in residents’ views of whether it would be beneficial to develop this area as a stimulating children’s play space. It would be available for the exclusive use of the school during school hours but would remain part of the park for all other hours that the park is open. It would offer the opportunity for investment to improve the facilities for children and families in the community attending the school during the day, and for all members of the community out of school hours. A similar arrangement is being successfully developed at Wimbledon Park Primary School/Durnsford Recreation Ground.

A drawing of the area indicating the location of the shared area is available on [http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm](http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm) and will be on display on a recreation ground noticeboard.

It should be noted that the expansion of Poplar Primary School is not dependent on use of the shared area.

**Why is the Council proposing the expansion of the school?**

There is a significant increase in demand for school places in Merton, with more children reaching school age, fuelled by a 39% increase in the number of births in the last eight years. Our population forecasts indicate that demand will continue to rise for at least the next five years and this rise will then be sustained.

The proposed expansion of Poplar Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2012 LB Merton schools have provided for an increase of 21 additional reception classes to ensure sufficient places are provided. A report to the Council’s cabinet in February 2012 outlined the extent of the increased demand and the overall strategy to provide the additional places. The report can be accessed on the LB Merton website through the following link: [http://www.merton.gov.uk/democratic_services/w-agendas/w-fpreports/1124.pdf](http://www.merton.gov.uk/democratic_services/w-agendas/w-fpreports/1124.pdf)

Poplar Primary is a popular and successful school. In its last Ofsted report in 2010 the school was judged to be good with some aspects of its work outstanding. The school has filled its temporary 90 reception places in September 2012, with a waiting list. With demand for places forecast to further increase over the next few years the expansion of the school is considered essential for the council to provide sufficient local school places.

**What is the purpose of this consultation?**

The purpose of the school expansion consultation is to allow anyone, and especially parents with an interest, to raise questions or concerns regarding the proposal so that the council can decide whether to publish a formal statutory proposal to expand the school to provide 630 permanent places.

It also forms a consultation with local residents prior to the council submitting a formal planning application in early 2013 for the building works.
The purpose of the consultation on the shared parks area is for the council to consider whether it will develop proposals for the park area shared with Poplar Primary School.

**Consultation meeting**

A consultation meeting has been organised, to be held at Poplar Primary School, Poplar Road South, London, SW19 3JZ, on **Thursday 22 November**

at 6.30pm for parents to attend to raise any questions, concerns or ideas for the development of Poplar Primary School and primary education in LB Merton generally

at 8pm for local residents to attend to raise any planning application related matters

Representatives from the council and school will be at both meetings.

**What is the next stage?**

Following this consultation the Authority will decide whether to submit a formal statutory proposal for the significant enlargement of the school. During the statutory proposal process there would then be a further four-week period for anyone to raise an objection before the decision maker (normally the Council) makes a formal decision on the proposal.

Should it decide to proceed with the proposal, the council will submit a planning application, and this consultation will also inform the application.

Based on the result of the consultation the council will also consider whether it will develop proposals for the park area shared with Poplar Primary School. It should be noted that the expansion of Poplar Primary School is not dependent on use of the shared area and the shared area will not form part of the council’s planning application for the expansion of the school. Funding for its development will also need to be identified.
Please provide comments below or on a separate sheet by Friday 14 December 2012

Post to: Contracts and School Organisation, Children, Schools and Families Department, London Borough of Merton, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

Or: Completed responses can be given by hand to the main office at Poplar Primary School, Poplar Road South, London, SW19 3JZ and these will be forwarded to the Council.

Alternatively, an electronic version of the response sheet will be available on http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm
Responses can be e-mailed to: schconsult@merton.gov.uk

1. Comments on the proposed expansion Poplar Primary School to provide 630 places
   (You may continue on a separate sheet)
2. Comments on merits of a shared external area for Mostyn Gardens
(You may continue on a separate sheet)

Are you:

A parent with a pupil currently at Poplar Primary School ___
A parent with pre-school children ___
A member of Poplar Primary staff or governor ___
A local resident (not in one of the above three categories) ___
Other e.g. representing an institution please state ___

Signed ........................................ Date ............... 

Responses to be returned by: Friday 14 December 2012
Committee: Council
Date: 6 March 2013

Agenda item: 5
Wards: All
Subject: Business Plan 2013-17

Lead officer: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services
Lead member: Councillor Mark Allison, Cabinet Member for Finance

Key Decision Reference Number: This report is written and any decisions taken are within the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules as laid out in Part 4-C of the Constitution.

Contact officer: Paul Dale

Recommendations:

1. That the Council agrees the Business Plan 2013-17 including:-
   - the General Fund Budget;
   - the Council Tax Strategy for 2013/14 equating to a Band D Council Tax of £1,102.55, which means that Merton qualifies for Council Tax Freeze Grant;
   - the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for 2013-2017;
   - the Capital Investment Programme (as detailed in Annex 1 to the Capital Strategy);
   - the Capital Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan)
   - the Treasury Management Strategy (Section 1: Part A of the Business Plan), including the detailed recommendations in that Section, incorporating the Prudential Indicators

   as set out in this report, and agrees the formal resolutions as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

1. Purpose of report and Executive Summary

1.1 At its meeting on 18 February 2013, Cabinet considered two reports which concerned the detailed structure and scrutiny of the Council's Business Plan for 2013-17, including the Budget and Council Tax for 2013/14, the MTFS for 2013-17 and the Capital Strategy and Investment Programme for 2013-17.
## DETAILED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013-17

### ANNEX 3

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* OSC = Overview and Scrutiny Commission, CYP = Children and Young People, HCOP = Healthier Communities and Older People SC = Sustainable Communities,