Expansion of Singlegate 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: Singlegate Primary School (community), South Gardens, London, SW19 2NT |
| 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 Singlegate Primary 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 admission number for the school is 30 and the proposed admission number will be 90.

The expansion of Singlegate Primary School would be implemented gradually by an increase in the size of the reception year. As an exception the school has made 60 pupil places available in reception year in September 2011 to 2013 to help to meet the increased demand for places in the area. The Council is proposing to increase the admission number permanently to 90 from September 2014 with the use of the adjacent building purchased by the council in August 2012.
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 210 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 2011 the school admitted 30 pupils per year group. As an exception the school has made 60 pupil places available in reception year in September 2011 to 2013 to help to meet the increased demand for places in the area. 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.

Not applicable

(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 ands 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.

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 266 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.
The former school building adjacent to Singlegate Primary School at South Gardens was purchased in August 2012 to enable the expansion of the school. The sites will join to become one school site for Singlegate Primary School with the adjacent building adapted and an earlier phase of works on the Singlegate building allowing sufficient space for a 630 place school plus 52 full time equivalent nursery places.

Objectives

7. The objectives of the proposals.

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 Singlegate Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2011 nineteen schools, including Singlegate, 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—

(a) a list of persons who were consulted;

The consultation document was sent to all parents with children at Singlegate 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 are 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>
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<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 age), migration (outflows and inflows), total fertility rates, and life expectancy at birth.

The GLA previously only provided the "SHLAA" model, but found in recent years that it severely underestimated 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 Singlegate Primary School is part of an overall programme of school expansion in Merton. From 2008 to 2011 nineteen schools, including Singlegate, have provided additional reception classes to ensure sufficient places are provided. After a plateau/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 Singlegate Primary School meets this criteria:

- Educational standards:- Singlegate was provided with an ‘Outstanding’ Ofsted rating at its
most recent inspection.

- Parental preference: The school has been substantially over subscribed for its 30 and 60 temporary places and for September 2013 received 114 first preference applications.

- Smaller schools expand where feasible: The school is only 1FE so the smallest size of LB Merton Primary schools

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

- Physical constraints of existing school sites: The site is constrained but purchase of the adjacent site, and use of the adjacent recreation ground ensures there is sufficient space for the three forms of entry

- Sustainable and will ensure a school continues to be popular and successful: By a careful design to ensure play areas are protected as much as possible the scheme proposed will ensure the school continues to provide high standards

- Value for money and affordability: By purchasing a former school building the expansion is less expensive than other comparable expansions.

- 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 Singlegate Primary School would be considered under the presumption for the expansion of successful and popular schools. The school received an ‘Outstanding’ rating in its last Ofsted.

The school has been substantially over subscribed for its 30 and 60 temporary places and for September 2013 received 114 first preference applications

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
Singlegate Primary School Proposed Expansion Consultation Responses
December 2012

Responses

Residents 10
Pre-school parent 2
Not stated 1
Parent and pre-school parent 2
Parents 8

Residents

1. Proposed shared use area under-used. Makes sense for school to have sole-use during term time – simpler, cheaper and no complicated arrangements for cleaning and locking the area each day. Suggest additional access gate to school from Christchurch Road.

2. Area already overdeveloped with traffic congestion and no parking spaces. Parents already park inconsiderately and illegally. Will increase noise and pollution.

3. Very important and necessary to increase school places. Totally support the expansion. Current lack of school places in that area.

4. Leave the park as it is - proposed shared use area of park has hedgehogs in it – do not disturb them. (2 x responses from same person) Reconsider shared use proposal as this area has hedgehogs living in it – they are an endangered species.

5. Support the expansion.

6. Not a parent so unqualified to comment on proposed expansion. However would like to see the bell tower restored to a style more in keeping with the original architecture.

7. Concerned about loss of the gated public area which is very important for the community and used regularly. Resent the continual reduction of places to enjoy, walk dogs or play football.

8. Main concern is impact on parking problems. Parents already use the local roads to park in then commute to work on the Underground. Residents are already in dialogue with LBM with regards to this problem.

9. The expansion will be a good thing as it will attract more families to the area who tend to be less transitory than single people. However, the school must
have permanent access to outside play space (current car park used to be a playground) and traffic must never be re-routed in front of the school again (this has caused extremely high levels of pollution in the classrooms in the past).

10. Very concerned about loss of the gated off public area during school hours as it is used regularly throughout the school day. It would be a terrible loss to the community.

**Pre-school Parent**

1. Extremely supportive of expansion. – Singlegate is closest school (live behind park) but daughter still didn’t get into the nursery.

2. Fully supportive. Live in the neighbourhood yet child didn’t get a place at the school. We believe every child should go to a local school.

**Not stated**

1. Two main concerns are: inadequate outside play area for a 3FE school; and additional traffic congestion.

**Parent & Pre-School Parent**

1. Concerned whether the local authority will provide sufficient resources for a larger school, e.g. teaching staff. Budget constraints could cause teaching quality to suffer.

2. School will be too large and intimidating – community aspect will be lost. Would like 2 schools - an infants and a junior school. Infant school pupils should have priority for a place at the junior school. Suggests staggered start and finish times to alleviate traffic congestion and overcrowding. Will funding levels remain the same? Definitely need the shared area of the park plus use of the football field opposite.

**Parent**

1. Do not agree with expansion, better to create new schools. School is successful because it is small. Many advantages associated with small schools and quotes various research that shows small schools are best.

2. Agree with expansion. Suggests the Jamia building becomes a secondary school.

3. A good plan. Singlegate is oversubscribed due to its ‘outstanding’ status and more places are needed.
4. Providing sufficient playground space is a priority. However strongly object to shared use of the Rec due to safety and the logistics. School must have sole use of this area or not use it at all.

5. Wish for the expansion to go ahead. Many children are on the waiting list for a place.

6. Really happy for the permanent expansion. All the teachers work hard to maintain the school’s outstanding standards.

7. Not against the expansion as long as the school maintains its standards and the After School Club provision is increased. The introduction of holiday schemes would also be appreciated for working parents.

8. Understand the need but do not feel Singlegate should be expanded. Asks when was the statutory notice for the expansion from 1FE to 2FE as have not seen it. Proposal appears rushed due to the availability of the Jamia building. Concerned about lack of space, the adverse affects to both the school and local community. Suggests bulge years plus an APA for specific addresses in Colliers Wood. Query’s LBM’s decision making and strategy – why are Wimbledon schools only 2FE and the rest of the borough expanding to 3FE? Concerned about security and safety of a shared play area and that the nursery does not increase in size. Consultation appears flawed and a fait accompli as Jamia building has already been purchased. LBM and my local Councillor have not answered my written questions. Would also have liked more input from parents of younger pupils who will be most affected by the change rather that the parent governors have mostly older children. However, I continue to support the school wholeheartedly.
Parents & Residents School Expansion Consultation Meeting

held at Singlegate Primary School

on 27th November 2012 at 7pm

Panel

Paul Ballatt (Chair, LB Merton
Tom Procter, LB Merton
Cllr Martin Whelton (Cabinet Member for Education)

Also present:

Cllr Nick Draper
Nathalie Bull, Headteacher, Singlegate Primary School

Paul Ballatt welcomed everyone to the consultation.

Tom Procter presented the criteria for the selection of Singlegate Primary School as a priority school to expand, the legal process for an expansion and the proposed building plans including the dual use play area.

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

Questions/Comments/Observations from the audience with answers from the council officials (unless stated otherwise)

1. What is the increase in play space per child? Concerned about 630 children playing

Answer – We haven’t calculated the play space per child but given the increase in pupil numbers it will be a decrease, though the new site will provide some additional external space. The school will be able to be flexible with play times to ensure there is sufficient space for play and PE.

2. Some local residents are concerned regarding the shared play area which is good and used all year round. However others think the dual use is a brilliant idea – it is an asset that will improve the area.

3. Enquiry regarding ‘the dog area’.

Answer by member of the community – this is a dog free zone and was never intended to be used as a dog area.

4. Very supportive – lives only 500m away and daughter did not get a place
5. Asks if school has considered staggered finish times.

Answer – this can be considered but would need to be mindful of the length of time between the finish times especially for parents with children in different year groups. It can also prolong the time period of disruption to residents.

6. There will be a significant increase in numbers but not necessarily more traffic. It is a very local school for local families. The opportunity to purchase the Jamia building is very good.

7. Who will be responsible for the upkeep of the shared space?

Answer – the area needs to be protected and a draft management agreement has been produced with a division of responsibility between the council’s Greenspaces team and school. School staff would inspect at the start of the school day and then the area would be locked during the school day but available to the public in summer evenings and weekends. Idea is for there to be mostly grass and some all weather surface but would be kept natural with no trees planned to be removed.

8. Where does the data on births come from and difference between actual and forecast.

Answer – The table in the presentation was explained. These were live birth figures by academic year for the LB Merton from the Office for National Statistics. The years were five years after birth for the start of school i.e. children born in 2010/11 start school in 2015/16. We do not have live birth figures for 2011/12 (starting in 2016/17) or 2012/13 (starting in 2017/18) but we do have birth forecasts from the GLA who undertaken population forecasts for London.

9. Are you expanding secondary schools?

Answer – The rise in demand will reach the start of secondary sector in 2015/16 and gradually increase. We will need to undertake an extensive expansion programme and are currently working on this.

10. What are the plans for the tower?

Answer for a local councillor – 150 1 & 2 bedroom flats, rented, not affordable. Car free. Aimed at people commuting into the City.

11. Is the school expansion going to be enough?

Answer – It should be enough to meet demand for the forthcoming years but we will need to review to see whether further expansion in the area is necessary.
12. Comment from chair of governors of Singlegate and William Morris school:
Governors welcomed the opportunity to use the Jamia building as it will be
less disruptive for the school. Want to be able to offer local children places
at the school.

13. Are you going to increase the nursery places?

Answer – It is not part of this proposal. There is an issue that the current
nursery and reception (“foundation stage”) is in an ideal purpose built area
and changing it due to nursery expansion would be problematic.

14. Are there any plans to expand even more?

Answer – the site wouldn’t be able to provide for 4 forms of entry so further
expansion would need to be on other sites.

15. Concerned about number of extensions (already had 3) and glare from
external lighting.

Answer – endeavouring to be as sensitive as possible to local
surroundings. With the use of the Jamia building there should be no need
for a further major extension as he building is sufficient for 15 classrooms
– it will be mostly adaptation although there will be a small extension
housing a lift and staircase. Need to balance the interests of pupils and
residents.

16. Where is the catchment area measured from?

Answer – after special cases and siblings, admissions are prioritised on
straight line distance from the school gate. We can look at seeing whether
we should consider using gates at both Jamia end and existing school
entrance gate in the criteria.

17. What are the next steps?

Answer – After this consultation the council will decide whether to publish a
statutory notice after which the expansion can be legally approved subject
to planning permission. We will be working in detail on the building scheme.
There is a significant amount of work to be done in this area.

Cllr Martin Whelton closed the meeting thanking everyone for their
attendance.
Singlegate Primary School

Consultation on proposed permanent expansion of the school to 3FE (90 pupil places per year), utilising the former Jamia School building, and shared landscaped area for Colliers Wood Recreation Ground

Responses to be returned by Thursday 20 December 2012

Consultation meetings at Singlegate School on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 7pm
Background

In autumn 2011 the council consulted on a proposal to permanently expand Singlegate Primary School from 210 permanent places (plus nursery) to 420 places. Due to the restricted school site, the consultation also proposed that a small area of the recreation ground adjacent to the school should be available for the exclusive use of the school during school hours.

The scheme was to be implemented in two phases, with the first phase providing two classrooms and group rooms adjacent to the main school hall that would be converted to be an additional hall and a kitchen after phase 2. Phase 2 was planned to be a two-storey extension on the other side of the school.

There was a positive response to the consultation and the council implemented phase 1, which was completed for September 2012, allowing space for the school to provide 60 reception places for the second consecutive year. The school will also provide 60 reception places in September 2013.

In spring 2012 the opportunity presented itself for the council to purchase the adjacent Jamia School building, and the council completed its purchase in August 2012.

What is now proposed?

By utilising the Jamia School building, and through a minor extension, the Council wishes to permanently expand Singlegate Primary School from September 2014 to be a three-form entry (3FE) school, admitting up to 90 pupils per year in three classes. This means it would eventually have up to 630 pupils on roll excluding the nursery, but the expansion of the places would be gradual. The school will have at least two forms of entry in all year groups in 2017/18, and will not be 3 forms of entry in all year groups until 2020/21. It is expected there will be a separate infants and junior block.

With 630 pupils plus 52 place (26 full time equivalent) nursery on site, and only some additional external space with the Jamia site, there will be as much pressure on play space as the previous proposal. Therefore it is still proposed that a small area of the recreation ground adjacent to the school is enhanced to provide creative children’s play facilities that will be available for the exclusive use of the school during school hours, but will be fully open for the benefit of the general community for all other hours that the recreation ground is open.

A drawing of the area showing the configuration of the buildings and the shared landscape area will be available for discussion at the public consultation meeting on 27 November 2012, and will then be on the LB Merton website http://www.merton.gov.uk/schoolsconsultations.htm

Why is the Council proposing the expansion of the 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.

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 Singlegate 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

Singlegate Primary is a popular and successful school. In its most recent Ofsted inspection, it was judged to be “outstanding”. The school was still heavily subscribed even when providing the additional 30 places in reception year in September 2011 and 2012, and was only able to provide places to some 525 metres under the distance criteria. With demand for places forecast to increase further, even if 60 places continue to be provided, the distance offered is likely to be less in the future. With demand for places forecast to increase further over the next few years the provision of 90 places will allow the council to provide sufficient local school places.

The changes to the recreation ground, as well as benefitting the school, will provide improved play facilities for children in the community at the time they are most needed i.e. outside school hours.

**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.

**Consultation meeting**

A consultation meeting has been organised, to be held at Singlegate Primary School, South Gardens, London SW19 2NT on **Tuesday 27 November at 7.00pm**

Representatives from the council and school will attend the meeting.

**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.
Please provide comments below or on a separate sheet by Thursday 20 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 Singlegate Primary School, South Gardens, London SW19 2NT 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 Singlegate Primary School to provide 630 places
   (You may continue on a separate sheet)

Are you:
A parent with a pupil currently at Singlegate Primary School ___
A parent with pre-school children ___
A member of Singlegate 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: Thursday 20 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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<th>Children, Schools and Families</th>
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* OSC = Overview and Scrutiny Commission, CYP = Children and Young People, HCOP = Healthier Communities and Older People SC = Sustainabile Communities,