

Wandsworth Borough Council
Interim Equality Impact Assessment – Elliott School Remodelling

Department	Children's Services Department
Decision	(i) Support the proposal for an application by Elliott School Trust for a move to academy status with ARK schools (ii) Agree, subject to the agreement of the Elliott Trust, that the freehold of the entire site be transferred to Council ownership, that Lend Lease Ltd be appointed to carry out due diligence and feasibility work, that officers be instructed to explore the means of funding the refurbishment of Elliott School as a 6FE, that approval be given to a capital budget variation for £2.5m in 11/12 and that other such action is taken as necessary and authorised by SO83 A to bring about the refurbishment of Elliott School.
Involved in preparation	Planning and Development Team, Policy, Planning, Review & Information team, and the Directorate, Wandsworth Children's Services

Key dates for the assessment
Start of consultation period: 1 st March 2012 – 24 th May 2012
Interim completion dates for EIA: 24 th February 2012

1. Aims of the decision?

The aim of this decision is to agree the Council's support for an application by Elliott School Trust for move to academy status with ARK schools and for the proposals for the refurbishment of Elliott school as a 6FE school
Progression of the scheme would be subject to the necessary agreements being secured – specifically in respect of the required land transfer, capital budget variations, planning consent and such other agreements as are needed to implement the scheme.

2. Rationale behind the decision?

The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools in the local area (Education Act 1996 Section 14) and to secure diversity of provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice (Education Act 1996, Section 14 (3A) added by (Education and Inspections Act 2006, Section 2)

The Council's policy regarding schools is to promote choice and diversity for parents in the availability of local schools and to ensure that there are adequate school places to meet demographic need.

The business case highlights that refurbishment and remodelling of the school will considerably improve physical fabric of the school buildings and the teaching and learning environment and facilities. It will therefore improve the attractiveness of the school both amongst the local and wider community – and this supports the policy objective of increasing choice and diversity. The school has suffered declining rolls in recent years with consequent negative impact on the school budget. The view is that refurbishment will reverse the trend leading to increased resources and effectively save a Grade 2 listed building which is in a serious state of disrepair with insufficient government funds to repair and remodel school. This additional funding will be available to benefit all the diverse groups within the school population – and will thus support wider equalities objectives.

3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to contribute to the EIA?

On the 21st November 2011 the Overview and Scrutiny Panel approved the proposal by the Elliott School Trust to create a new Academy with ARK Schools on the site of the existing Elliott school and for the free hold to be transferred to the council who were tasked to explore the means of funding a refurbishment as a 6 form of entry school. The Finance and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee (FCOSC) on the 29th February is considering the proposal to recommend transferring Elliott School playing fields to the council and approve a public consultation and authorisation to submit a Section 77 application for the transfer to take place. This is an Interim EIA based on the information available at this point in time.

Should the FCOSC agree moving forward with the Section 77, a detailed public consultation will take place from 1st March - 24th May 2012 with parent/carers including prospective parents/carers and the community. The consultation will be managed jointly between Elliott School ARK Schools and the council. This stage of the proposal will be set out on the council and school web site, where the public will be able to contribute their views. One or more public events will take place which will include an exhibition of the proposals. Planning officers, the school and Ark will be available clarify and answer questions. The school occasionally lets the sports hall and the playing fields to local groups who will also be consulted on the proposals.

Any further equalities issues arising from the outcome of the consultation will be addressed after the consultation has ended.

4. Data held on the likely impact of the decision in relation to protected characteristics		
	List data held	Gaps in information
Overall	Consultation process	The finding of the consultation will be available after the consultation period has expired on 24 th May 2012 and will be incorporated into an updated EIA.
Race	The current ethnic breakdown of the school from 2008 -11 compared with borough average for 2011	Latest census information is not yet available. Information on school population is included to mitigate against this.
Gender	Gender breakdown of the school from 2008-11 and comparison with borough average 2011	
Disability	SEN breakdown of school from 2008 -11 and comparison with borough average 2011	
Age	The school will continue to provide education to pupils aged from 11-15+ and the plans incorporate a new 6 th form for 16+	
Faith	Information not currently collected. The proposed school is non-denominational.	
Sexual Orientation	Information not currently collected.	

5. What does available information show in relation to the potential impact of the proposed policy? What is the impact on different groups? Please give details

The interim EIA has reviewed the current Elliott school profile in terms of Black and Minority Ethnic, Gender and Special Educational Needs and compared this with the borough average to assess whether it is likely that the proposals would have an adverse equality impact.

Race

There is a higher proportion of BME pupils – particularly Black and Mixed ethnicity pupils - in Elliott school compared to the composition of the local population (as enumerated at the 2001 Census) – although the BME proportion is below the borough average for secondary schools. In large part this reflects the school’s widely drawn catchment area – 28% of pupils are out of

borough – and only 35% come from the neighbouring wards (East Putney, Roehampton, West Hill and West Putney). There has been a small increase in proportion of BME pupils over the past few years. Elliott school already provides a good standards of education for BME pupils. For all BME groups in the school there is a three year upward trend - a very positive picture. IN 2011, gaps narrowed for Asian Pakistani, Mixed White and Black Caribbean, Mixed Other and White British pupils. Gaps widened for Black Caribbean and Black Ghanaian pupils because they are outperforming the borough average. Gaps widened for Black Other and Other pupils - representing 8% of the pupil population.

As far as can be judged there will be no negative impact of these proposals on any ethnic groups either at Elliott or any other secondary school. Indeed it should be noted that declining rolls over the past few years have meant a reducing school budget. Refurbishment offers the opportunity to secure additional resources through an expanding roll - to support and meet the needs of the full range of pupils from all ethnic groups. It will also ensure that the school is increasingly attractive both to the local and wider community, complementing the Council's policy of increasing choice and diversity.

January School Census date – Elliott	Asian	Black	Mixed
2011	10.7%	23.9%	13.2%
2010	9.9%	23.5%	12.5%
2009	9.0%	22.4%	11.7%
2008	7.1%	19.1%	12.1%
Borough average – secondary (Jan 2011)	21.2%	28.6%	10.6%
4 neighbouring wards (from 2001 Census) – resident population aged 10-19	6.5%	10.6%	7.6%

Elliott School Key stage 4 results

	2011		2010		2009	
	Total Pupils	5+A*-C inc E&M	Total Pupils	5+A*-C inc E&M	Total Pupils	5+A*-C inc E&M
All	139	61.9%	170	48.2%	165	43.0%
Asian-Pakistani	7	85.7%	3	100.0%	3	33.3%
Black-Caribbean	20	65.0%	24	50.0%	16	25.0%
Black-Ghanaian	8	100.0%	3	33.3%	6	83.3%
Black-Other	4	0.0%	3	33.3%	5	0.0%
Mixed-White & Black Caribbean	10	60.0%	12	66.7%	4	25.0%
Mixed-Other	3	66.7%	11	63.6%	3	33.3%
White-British	58	60.3%	69	44.9%	62	38.7%
Other	7	42.9%	5	60.0%	7	71.4%

Gender

One of the more striking features of the school profile has been the overrepresentation of Boys amongst the school population. Boys now make up almost 65% of the school population compared with a borough average of 53.6%. The proportion of Boys has also been rising over the past few years. As far as can be judged there will be no negative impact of these proposals on pupils of either gender either at Elliott or any other secondary school. Refurbishment would, however, offer the opportunity to re-examine and review the facilities and environment of the school and to ensure it is appropriate to meet the needs of both genders – again supporting the policy objective of increasing choice and diversity.

January School Census date – Elliott	Male	Female
2011	64.6%	35.4%
2010	63.0%	37.0%
2009	63.2%	36.8%
2008	61.2%	38.8%

Borough average – secondary (Jan 2011)	53.6%	46.4%

Disability

The admission criteria proposed ensure that if the school is over-subscribed children with the school named in their statement of educational will be given priority. The overall proportion of pupils with any special educational needs is slightly below the borough average – but has risen markedly in the past few years – particularly in terms of pupils at School Action and School Action +. The proportion with higher levels of needs (School Action +) is above the borough average – and the proportion of statemented pupils is at the borough average. As far as can be judged there will be no negative impact of these proposals on pupils with SEN either at Elliott or any other secondary school. As stated above due to declining rolls the school has experienced a reduction in budget. Remodelling offers both the prospect of additional resources as rolls rise – which can be used to meet the needs of pupils with SEN – and the possibility of re-designing the school configuration and facilities to ensure these are as appropriate as possible to the requirements of these pupils

January School Census date – Elliott	School Action	School Action+	SEN Statement	Any SEN
2011	10.3%	17.4%	2.4%	30.1%
2010	11.4%	15.0%	2.7%	29.1%
2009	9.0%	11.0%	2.0%	22.0%
2008	5.2%	10.5%	2.9%	18.6%
Borough average – secondary (Jan 2011)	19.1%	12.4%	2.4%	33.9%

The new school would have the usual admission arrangements i.e. priority for admission would be given in the following order: a) Children Looked After; b) children with an exceptional medical or social need for a place; c) siblings of existing pupils and d) children living nearest to the school. Equally importantly, Elliott school will itself retain its existing admissions criteria.

The funding agreement requires the proposed Academy has regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) and any guidance issues relating to sections 316 and 316A of the Education Act. It also requires the proposed Academy to “use

its best endeavours to, in exercising its functions in relation to the school, to secure that, if any registered pupil has special educational needs, the special educational needs provision which the pupil's learning difficulty calls for is made".

Faith

The proposed academy would be non-denominational and therefore is unlikely to specifically have a negative impact on pupils with regard to their faith or beliefs. It will provide religious education and collective worship provision in line with that offered in other non-denominational maintained schools.

Consistent Information on the faith of pupils at other borough secondary schools is not collected and therefore it is not possible to estimate the potential impact of the proposals on the school population.

Age

The proposed academy would provide secondary education for children aged 11-15+ years (the statutorily defined age group) and a sixth form for pupils aged 16 -19. As the school does not currently have a 6th form this will provide a new opportunity for young people planning further education.

Sexual Orientation

Information on sexual orientation is not collected so it has not been possible to assess the impact in this area.

6. What does your review of the information show?	Evidence for your answer
a)No impact continue with policy	Data in relation to ethnicity shows that the school has a higher proportion of BME pupils than the local community and a higher than average proportion of pupils with a disability. The gender profile is also unbalanced with a marked overrepresentation of boys. In terms of adverse impact the proposals would have no significant impact on young people and their families in relation to the protected characteristic groups. Indeed remodelling offers the possibility of both increased resources to meet the needs of these groups and the chance to re-design facilities to better meet needs. Both of these will make the school more attractive in the local community and more widely and will

	support the Council policy of increasing choice and diversity
b) Adjust policy in light of impact	
c) Continue with the policy despite impact	
d) stop policy	

7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed policy or mitigate any negative impact?
None, however this EIA should be reviewed should any additional relevant information arise from the Section 77 Consultation.

8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective?	
Race	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Gender	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Disability	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Faith	Collected
Age	Not required
Sexual Orientation	Not collected
