January 2016

Potential Expansion of Greenford High School, Ealing

Background
To meet the growth in the demand for school places, the Council has significantly expanded primary school places in the borough. These larger year groups begin to enter secondary school in 2016. By 2021 the Council project that the borough will need at least a further 23 additional forms of entry (FE) at secondary schools. As an example, the Council will have added 10 additional forms of entry in primary schools in the Greenford, Northolt and Perivale part of the borough, and 12FE in the Ealing and Hanwell part of the borough, by 2017.

William Perkin High School, in Greenford, opened in 2013 to meet some of the secondary school demand. In addition, three new free schools have been approved to open in the Ealing and Hanwell area; Ealing Fields as a 4FE in 2016, North Twyford as 6.5FE in 2016 and Ark Ealing as a 6FE in 2017. However, the numbers of applications for secondary school places and projected demand for future years indicate that further expansions will be required in order to meet the needs of the local community. The Council’s strategy is also to work with schools to expand in order to create additional places in areas of high demand where this is viable. We are already underway in expanding Brentside High School and Elthorne Park High School by 56 and 60 Year 7 pupils, respectively.

Greenford High School is located in an area of need. The Council has asked the governing body to help meet the demand for extra places by increasing the school’s capacity from 1,200 students aged 11 to 16 to 1,500. The purpose of this document is to outline the proposal, set out the next steps and seek your views.

The proposal
The governing body of the school and the Council are seeking views on a proposal to expand the school from 1,200 to 1,500 students aged 11 to 16. This would be phased over five years starting with 60 extra students in Year 7 in 2018 and ending in 2022 when the school would have 300 students in each Year Group, 7 to 11. The school will continue to provide a 6th Form/Post 16 Centre. The expansion will require investment in the existing new school buildings. This would be funded by the Council.

To enable the school to expand it is proposed to provide additional classrooms and learning spaces and extra teaching and non-teaching staff would be recruited. In developing the plans further, the school will seek to maintain as much as possible of the external play space on site and the works would also include fencing and landscaping. The accommodation would be built to government requirements and guidelines.

Planning permission for the building works would be required and there would be a separate consultation with local residents and other interested parties should the proposal proceed.

The views of the school and governing body
We have discussed the proposal and support the principle of expansion so that we can help meet the need for school places in the local area. There are disadvantages as well as advantages to expansion and we summarise below some of these. We recognise that this
list is not exhaustive and have left space on the attached questionnaire for you to add your views. Should the plans progress there would be further statutory consultation processes to go through and there would be further opportunities to have your say. We will keep you informed at every stage.

Advantages
- The school would be better able to meet the needs of more of the local community who wish for their children to attend their local school.
- Additional places would be available for children living nearby
- Job creation and greater career progression opportunities for members of staff. The expansion of the school would provide further teaching posts and other related roles by 2022.
- Increased financial flexibility and resourcing for the school.
- New facilities for teaching and learning.

Disadvantages
- The school size will increase, but this will happen incrementally over five years. We will preserve a “family” feel so that students know the staff in their area and don’t feel lost.
- Some disruption may occur during the building works on the site and in the local area which would need to be managed very carefully.

Have your say

We need your views to assist us in making a decision on expansion.

IMPORTANT

There will be a meeting at the school to discuss the expansion proposal. This will be held at Greenford High School on Wednesday 27th January 3pm to 6:30pm.

Please go to the school foyer, the entrance for parents’ evenings, via the Lady Margaret Rd entrance (not through the main reception).

What happens next?

- January 2016 consultation starts;
- February 2016 deadline for responses to the consultation
- March 2016 governors consider consultation responses plus the outcome of the feasibility study and decide whether or not to proceed. Update for parents on progress.
- April 2016 statutory notice to be published in local paper, with a further month to comment on the proposals
- May 2016 Ealing Council Cabinet will determine the proposal
- Preparations begin for September 2018 implementation.

Please take time to complete the attached questionnaire so that we can get your feedback. In order for us to collate your responses, please return the questionnaire to school by midday on Friday 12th February 2016.