

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services Committee	10/2017
<b>Subject:</b> Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School – Proposed expansion update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Theresa Shortland, Head of Service – Education & Early Years	

### Summary

This report is to inform Members of the progress on the proposal to expand Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to a two-form entry (2FE) school and to update on the 2017/18 admissions.

A risk was identified in 2013 of the City of London not being able to fulfil its statutory duty to ensure sufficient primary school places for City residents. This prompted work to be undertaken to assess the projected needs for school places in the City of London. Despite some early indications that there was an increase in need for places, this has not materialised. The position is that all children resident in the City of London have secured school places this year and in recent years, albeit not all in the school of their first choice.

Ongoing discussions between the governing body of the school, the Sir John Cass's Foundation and the City of London via a series of tripartite meetings continued to pursue possible options for expansion. Having identified that there wasn't a need for further school places, a review of the financial viability of the school as a 1FE concluded that this was not a risk at this time. At the tripartite meeting on 12 June 2017, given the Foundation had not been convinced of the need to expand the school, and the governing body no longer wishing to consider expansion at this time, it was decided not to pursue this further.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

## **Main Report**

### **1. Sir John Cass Expansion Update**

1.1 The proposal to expand Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School to a two-form entry (2FE) was initially proposed at the full governing body meeting of the school on 27 March 2013. Further work was undertaken with regard to the sufficiency of school places in the City of London. The school governing body consequently agreed to introduce a bulge reception class in September 2016.

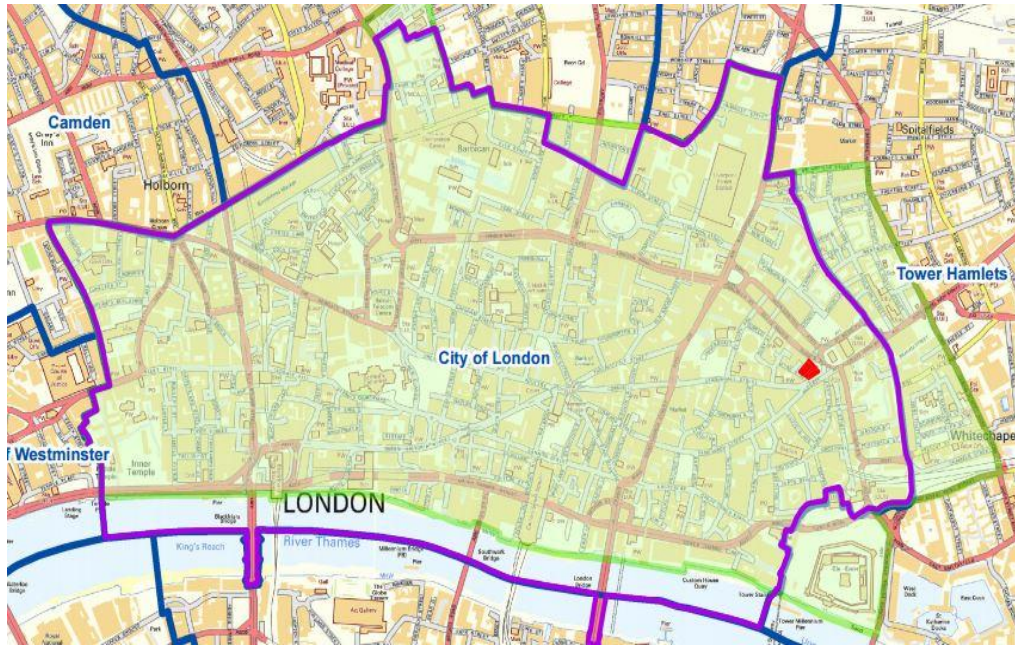
1.2 The Community and Children's Services Committee last received an update on this in a report on 11 December 2015, where it was informed that the Sir John Cass's Foundation had resolved not to give its consent to grant a licence to build, thereby preventing the proposed expansion.

1.3 On-going discussions between the governing body of the school, the Sir John Cass's Foundation and the City of London via a series of tripartite meetings continued to pursue a possible option for expansion. Having identified that there wasn't a need for further school places, a review of the financial viability of the school as a 1FE concluded that this was not a risk at this time. At the tripartite meeting on 12 June 2017, it was decided not to pursue this further.

1.4 At this time, a risk was then identified of the City of London not being able to fulfil the statutory duty to ensure sufficient primary school places for City residents. This has not happened and subsequently all children resident in the City of London have secured school places, albeit not all in the school of their first choice.

### **2. Pupil Place Planning 2016/17 – Update**

2.1 Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School year on year attracts a high number of first-preference applications for places that exceed the 30 places available at the school. The school's priority catchment area is identified in the map below; it is worth noting that this area extends into the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.



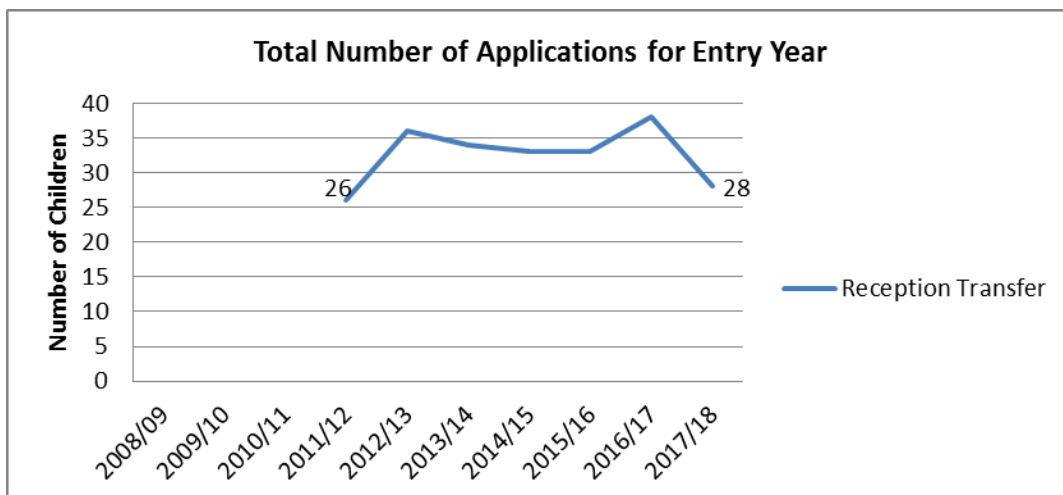
**Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School priority catchment area**

2.2 The 2016/17 entry year saw an increase in the number of City of London resident pupils applying for a place at the school and an increase in the success of their applications. This was due to the introduction of the bulge reception class for this entry year.

2.3 Overall, applications for the 2017/18 entry year to Sir John Cass have fallen. Out of the 10 first-preference applications made by local families, six City of London families received an offer of a place, a decrease on previous years.

### 3. Primary Admissions

3.1 The graph below shows the total number of City of London applications made by City of London families over the past six years for all primary reception school places.



**Applications for school places 2011/12 to 2017/18**

3.2 In 2017/18, 28 children made applications for primary admission. The City of London Primary Academy Islington (COLPAI) was not part of the Pan London Co-ordinated Admissions System as it is a new academy school. This meant that families applied to the school directly and the figures were not included in the City of London's overall preference allocation percentage.

Offer day primary preference allocation breakdown			
School	Number of Children	Borough	Preference Numbers
City of London Academy Islington Primary	8	Islington	First = 8
English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School	2	Tower Hamlets	First = 2
Hugh Myddelton Primary School	1	Islington	First = 1
Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre	6	Islington	First = 5, Second = 1
Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School	6	City of London	First = 6
St Clement Danes CoE Primary School	3	Westminster	First = 1, Second = 1, Fourth = 1
St George the Martyr Church of England Primary Sch	1	Camden	First = 1
St Paul's Whitechapel Church of England Primary Sc	1	Tower Hamlets	Second = 1
The New North Academy	1	City of London	Third = 1
St Peter and St Paul RC Primary School	1	Islington	First = 1

For this report, we have made the assumption that all families who received an offer at COLPAI would have put the academy as their first preference.

Post offer day preference allocation breakdown			
School	Number of Children	Borough	Preference Numbers
Canon Barnet Primary School	1	Tower Hamlets	Third = 1
City of London Academy Islington Primary	7	Islington	First = 7
English Martyrs Roman Catholic Primary School	2	Tower Hamlets	First = 2
Hugh Myddelton Primary School	1	Islington	First = 1
Prior Weston Primary School and Children's Centre	6	Islington	First = 5, Second = 1
Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School	6	City of London	First = 6
St Clement Danes CoE Primary School	2	Westminster	Second = 1, Fourth = 1
St George the Martyr Church of England Primary Sch	1	Camden	First = 1
St Paul's Whitechapel Church of England Primary Sc	1	Tower Hamlets	Second = 1
St Peter and St Paul RC Primary School	1	Islington	First = 1
Not accepting		One family is moving out, the second has opted for an independent school.	
Fraudulant application	1	Parent lived in Islington at the time of application	

3.3 Following the offer date of primary admissions, it is apparent that if the City of London Academy was part of the Pan London Co-ordinated Admissions System, the number of first preferences allocated would be 83%. Only six of the 10 City of London resident children were allocated a place at Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School. In total, six resident children were allocated a school place at Prior Weston Primary school in the neighbouring borough of Islington. The rest were allocated places at seven other neighbouring borough schools.

## 4. Secondary Admissions

4.1 In 2017/18, 17 children have made secondary applications. In total, six have Central Foundation Boys School as their first choice and the other applications are to City of London Academies and faith schools in neighbouring boroughs. The secondary offer date was 1 March 2017.

Offer day secondary preference allocation breakdown			
School	Number of Children	Borough	Preference Numbers
Ark Globe Academy	1	Southwark	Fourth = 1
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Girls School	1	Tower Hamlets	First = 1
Central Foundation Boys' School	6	Islington	First = 6
City of London Academy - Islington	1	Islington	First = 1
City of London Academy (Southwark)	2	Southwark	Second = 2
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language College	1	Islington	First = 1
Haggerston School	1	Hackney	First = 1
St Aloysius RC College	1	Islington	Fifth = 1
Wapping High School	1	Tower Hamlets	Second = 2
Holloway	2	Islington	ALLOCATED

Final secondary preference allocation breakdown			
School	Number of Children	Borough	Preference Numbers
Ark Globe Academy	1	Southwark	Fourth = 1
Bishop Challoner Catholic Collegiate Girls School	1	Tower Hamlets	First = 1
Central Foundation Boys' School	6	Islington	First = 6
City of London Academy - Islington	1	Islington	First = 1
City of London Academy (Southwark)	2	Southwark	Second = 2
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Language College	1	Islington	First = 1
Haggerston School	1	Hackney	First = 1
St Aloysius RC College	1	Islington	Fifth = 1
Wapping High School	1	Tower Hamlets	Second = 2
<b>2 families who were allocated places have offers at Francis Holland and City of London School for Girls</b>			

4.2 For secondary allocations, six were at Central Foundation Boys' School. In total, 10 received their first choice. In addition, two were allocated places at City of London Academy (Southwark) and Wapping High School. There was one fourth and one fifth choice to Catholic schools in neighbouring boroughs.

## 5. School Capacity Survey 2017

5.1 The City of London has to provide an annual School Capacity survey to the Department for Education every year. This presents an analysis of current and projected pupil place pressures and available capacity. As part of this commentary, we have to explain any school capacity issues, notably where schools/planning areas have, or are projected to have, a shortfall of places, and the steps being taken to address them.

5.2 The City of London has one maintained school, Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School; a voluntary aided Church of England primary school in the heart of the City of London. The school is rated Outstanding by Ofsted and is situated on our eastern boundary with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

5.3 Tower Hamlets residents from the area to the east of Aldgate and Tower Hill fall within the preferred catchment area; therefore, an increase in that borough's population has an impact on demand for places at the one school in the City of London.

## 6. Sir John Cass Foundation Primary School Expansion Proposals

6.1 The School Capacity survey for 2017 confirmed the decision that Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School will not go ahead with the proposal for expansion to a 2FE school and will remain a 1FE school for the foreseeable future.

6.2 The increase in demand for school places is having an impact on families who live locally to the school; furthermore, Tower Hamlets is predicting a shortfall of 90 places for children of reception age in 2023. The City of London will continue to monitor population trends and application rates, to determine the demand for places, which will feed into our future pupil place planning processes and reports.

## 7. Education Funding Agency (EFA) funding

7.1 As the proposed expansion did not proceed, we have proposed to return the funding to the EFA. The City of London is in dialogue with the EFA to determine the level of funding being returned.

## **8. Proposals**

8.1 To continue to monitor the impact of the bulge class and the admissions criteria at Sir John Cass Primary School and to ensure that the City of London discharges its statutory duty to provide school places for residents of the City of London.

## **9. Conclusion**

9.1 The City of London is able to meet the statutory requirement to provide sufficient school places for resident children. School place planning should enable the City of London Education Services to meet the statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. In this context, it may be essential to revisit the expansion of the school in future years if demand for places increases. For the City of London to ensure it meets these requirements, the annual school planning exercise is essential. The School Capacity 2017 indicates that new schools in neighbouring boroughs are likely to have an impact on the demand and supply requirements in future years.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background Papers**

The Community and Children's Services Committee last received an update on this in a report on 11 October 2015.

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