

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board Policy and Resources Committee	25 May 2017 8 June 2017
Subject: Expansion of Redriff Primary School from 2 to 3 forms of entry	Public
Report of: The Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Mark Emmerson - Education and Training Strategy Director	

Summary

This report examines the need for expansion at Redriff Primary Academy, a City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) school, from two forms to three forms of entry some time in the next 3 academic years

The terms of the sponsorship agreement between the City Corporation and CoLAT provide that any planned expansion of CoLAT's activities in existing or to additional schools requires the City's written consent as sponsor, following appropriate consultation. Further, any expansion of CoLAT's activities requiring capital investment requires the City's written consent as sponsor.

The Education Board has been given delegated responsibility for the oversight and monitoring of the City Corporation's sponsorship of its academies while the Policy and Resources Committee retains responsibility for considering matters of policy and strategic importance to the City of London Corporation including matters referred to it by other Committees. This report is therefore presented to the Education Board on the basis that the Board considers recommending to Policy and Resources Committee for decision that the City Corporation gives its consent to these proposal for the City as sponsor.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the expansion of the Redriff Academy from two forms to three forms on the basis set out in this report, specifically on condition that the capital investment is provided wholly by Southwark Council.

Main Report

Background

1. Redriff Primary City of London Academy (Redriff) is a high performing primary school, currently graded as 'Outstanding' located on the Rotherhithe peninsula in

the London Borough of Southwark. It is a popular over-subscribed school with capacity to expand, having had 239 applications for 60 places in 2017.

2. On the 16th December Southwark Council considered a pupil planning report for its local authority area. A shortfall of places was predicted with a planned capital expansion to meet the projected need.
3. More specifically the report examined the projected growth in primary-aged children in the Bermondsey/Rotherhithe peninsula, which they refer to as 'Planning Area 2'.

Proposals

4. The Southwark Council report outlined the following proposals:

'an anticipated 1FE (30 pupils) permanent expansion at Redriff Primary Academy. Southwark Free School will be moving to their new site on Rotherhithe New Road in September 2017 and admitting 2FE.'

Since the report was written there has been a decision taken by the Regional Schools Commissioner has recommended that South Free School close. which will mean a further shortfall of 60 places.

5. In addition the report makes it clear that additional places are required on the Rotherhithe peninsula where Redriff is located. It says:

'The geographical isolation of the peninsula and lengthy transport links to other parts of the planning area and the borough as a whole, make it imperative that the Council provides locally based provision, rather than expecting Rotherhithe residents to commute to other schools that have spare places available'.

6. In order to facilitate the capital expansion programme to meet the projected shortfall of places within the borough, Southwark Council have committed a total investment plan of £160 million.
7. As part of this expansion programme £4.1 m has been set aside for Redriff. It is proposed that the capital work is progressed to allow expansion from two to a three form entry some time over the next three academic years. This has been communicated to the Redriff governing body in writing by the Council. Redriff governing body and executive staff, together with the CoLAT Board are supportive of the proposal.
8. The table below sets out the demand for places locally taken from Southwark Council's pupil projections showing basic need for places in the Redriff locality, of at least 1 FE.

Projections	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	938	974	955	968	1,009
Capacity	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	990	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Excess/Shortfall	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	+52	+76	+95	+82	+41

Projections	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	1,038	1,061	1,077	1,096	1,097
Capacity	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Excess/Shortfall	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
2. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	+12	-11	-27	-46	-47

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The expansion of a school presents risk in terms of impact on educational attainment. However in Redriff there is an accomplished senior team with an outstanding Executive Headteacher. There is a substantial school footprint with more than enough open space to expand in to. The risks to educational attainment would therefore be considered relatively small.
10. In addition the sustainability of small primary schools in the current funding context is a concern. This risk would be mitigated by the growth of the school which would draw in close to £1m per year in additional revenue funding.
11. The terms of the sponsorship agreement between the City Corporation and CoLAT provide that any planned expansion of CoLAT's activities in existing or to additional schools requires the City's written consent as sponsor following appropriate consultation as agreed between CoLAT and the City. Further, any expansion of CoLATs activities requiring capital investment requires the City's written consent as sponsor. This report seeks authority for those consents.
12. Additionally, having regard to paragraphs 14-16 below regarding the proposed management of the capital project by Southwark Council, this report seeks the City's authority to waive the requirement in the sponsorship agreement that:
 - (a) programme management of capital programmes shall be managed by the City Corporation's Education Unit (with the consent of CoLAT and subject to any direction by the Department for Education or the Education Funding Agency); and

- (b) the City will establish a project board for this purpose co-chaired by CoLAT's Chief Executive Officer and the City's Education Strategy Director (or other person notified by either party), and shall include the Headteacher of the school to which the capital investment relates as well as a representative from the local authority in which the school is located.

Financial Implications

13. There has been a request to the City of London provide funds to support the capital programme. This has been declined on the basis that the plans for the extension should easily be affordable within the £4.1m already earmarked for the project by Southwark Council and as the existing school site is sufficient to accommodate the expansion. The recommendation is based on the position that the City would not be providing any financial support into this project and that it is delivered wholly by Southwark Council.
14. The capital expansion project would be run and managed by Southwark Council and so would present no financial risk or liability to the City Corporation. CoLAT, through the Executive Headteacher of Redriff and CoLAT's CEO, would be represented on that project board as would be normally expected in respect of such projects.
15. However, having regard to the proposed waiver of the terms of the sponsorship agreement in respect of the City's management of this capital project (as referenced at paragraph 12 above), it is proposed that CoLAT will provide regular written reports to the City Corporation on the progress of the capital project which will be reported to the Education Board in the regular Academy Updates Paper.

Conclusion

16. The planned expansion of places at Redriff Primary School would help meet the needs of Southwark pupils located on the Rotherhithe peninsula. The allocated funding is generous and will be enough to build the proposed extension.
17. With Southwark Council wholly funding and managing the project there would be no financial liability to either the CoLAT or the City Corporation for the capital project.
18. The risks to educational attainment are small while the benefits of increased revenue funding will mitigate the potential effects of school funding reductions in London.
19. Arrangements will be implemented to ensure the City, as sponsor, retains a degree of appropriate oversight over the progress of the project.

Mark Emmerson

Interim Education Strategy and Training Director

T: 020 7332 1432

E: mark.emmerson@cityoflondon.gov.uk