

CYP Scrutiny Task Group on Secondary School Places – Action Plan

Recommendations	Responsible Decision Making Body	Executive Response + Agreed Actions
Recommendation 1		
That building extra classes be considered by Cabinet alongside proposals for a new school.	Cabinet	<p>This is a core element of the administration’s secondary places strategy as agreed by Cabinet in November 2013 and is in line with the approach taken for primary places expansion to date.</p> <p>Action: Officers are identifying the scope for expanding existing secondary schools and are negotiating accordingly with governing bodies.</p>
Recommendation 2		
That Cabinet consider how demand for secondary school provision might best be met across borough boundaries with view to developing existing or new partnerships to facilitate a sub-regional approach to the provision of secondary school places and enable split site provision.	Cabinet	<p>The administration considers that sub-regional planning makes absolute sense in supporting individual local authorities to meet their statutory responsibilities to provide sufficient secondary school places.</p> <p>Action: LB Merton officers to explore mechanisms to enhance purposeful engagement of neighbouring LAs – LBs Sutton; Kingston; Wandsworth; Croydon and Lambeth in particular – in joint planning for secondary school places.</p>
Recommendation 3		
That Cabinet explore the specific needs of those interested in attending Faith Schools in the borough and how this may support the council to meet demand.	Cabinet	<p>The administration is committed to providing choice for parents and pupils in the types of schools available, including faith schools.</p> <p>Action: Officers are engaging with existing CoE and Catholic schools to obtain views in respect of expansion and with the Southwark Diocesan Board. Officers to be open to dialogue with other faith groups as/when approached re new school provision.</p>

Recommendation 4		
That Cabinet explore the possibility of discussing with outstanding Head Teachers how they might assist actively in managing multiple school sites to ensure school standards continuously improve.	Cabinet	<p>The administration is open to new and emerging models of school provision and considers that multiple site solutions may be able to contribute towards the overall secondary places strategy.</p> <p>Action: Officers are examining the principle of split - site models with Merton's Secondary Heads Group. This can be developed further when options work on the availability and feasibility of additional school sites is completed.</p>
Recommendation 5		
That Cabinet consider the opportunities presented for additional income by placing additional facilities on sites that are funded, run privately or by the local authority.	Cabinet	<p>Given that i) the implications of rec 1 demand expanding the accommodation footprint on existing school sites and ii) further development, even if feasible spatially, would impact on green space and sports facilities and policies, the administration considers this recommendation is unlikely to be realisable.</p> <p>Action: Officers to be mindful of this recommendation if any site specific option becomes available.</p>
Recommendation 6		
That a specialist commercial agency be engaged to examine available assets with a view to including them in a financial model which could possibly provide an income stream to repay any borrowing to meet demand and provide secondary school places.	Cabinet	<p>The administration recognises that new financial models may be able to play a part in funding school places expansion but believes that site-specific options need to be identified first with specialist commercial advice then obtained in respect of potential funding models.</p> <p>Action: CSF and corporate finance officers to keep recommendation under review as specific development options are identified.</p>