

Title of Report	Supplement to the Education Sufficiency and Estate Strategy - Falling Rolls		
Key Decision No	CE S247		
For Consideration By	Cabinet		
Meeting Date	11 December 2023		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Anntoinette Bramble, Statutory Deputy Mayor, Cabinet Member for Education, Young People and Children's Social Care		
Classification	Open with an exempt appendix		
Ward(s) Affected	All		
Key Decision & Reason	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">Yes</td> <td>Significant effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	Significant effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards
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Implementation Date if Not Called In	19 December 2023		
Group Director	Paul Senior, Director of Education		

1. Cabinet Member's introduction

1.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

2. Group Director's introduction

2.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Cabinet are asked to read three supplementary items outlined below which are to be considered in full alongside the materials and decisions outlined in the primary report to Cabinet.

4. Reason(s) for decision

Additional Appendix

4.1. An anonymised compilation of every comment submitted during the statutory representation period is attached as Appendix A. This appendix was omitted from the primary report due to an administrative error.

- 4.2. All the comments contained in the appendix have been included in the analysis of responses conducted by an independent third party (Kwest). Responses to the themes raised are included in the primary report to Cabinet.

Resubmission of corrupted PDF file

- 4.3. A large PDF document of 284 pages was submitted by Save Colvestone Primary School on 3 November, the deadline for submissions during the statutory representation period, outlining in detail the case not to close Colvestone Primary school.
- 4.4. On 30 November the Council was informed by Save Colvestone Primary School that the document was corrupt, and pages 12-22 were omitted. It was requested that the Council “read and circulate ahead of completing your Cabinet Report, and use the attached for the papers etc”
- 4.5. The complete report is attached as Appendix B. Unfortunately, with the issue identified one day prior to the statutory publication date for the Cabinet agenda, including the report, it was not possible to incorporate the missing pages into the analysis conducted by an independent third party (Kwest).
- 4.6. The first five missing pages (pages 12 to 16) form part of an analysis of vacancies conducted independently by the Save Colvestone group. This analysis is already included in full in the primary report to Cabinet as the analysis was submitted separately from the Save Colvestone PDF. This vacancy analysis was included in the analysis of responses conducted by an independent third party (Kwest). The vacancy analysis and response is included in the primary report to Cabinet in section 4.43.
- 4.7. The remaining ‘missing’ pages (ie. pages 17 - 22) set out in detail the case for not closing Colvestone. Many of the points raised are referenced elsewhere in the original submission however, for transparency and completeness the key points from the missing pages are summarised below for the awareness of decision makers.
- 4.8. Under the heading “Key benefits of Colvestone remaining open” the following points are raised and further expanded
- Ensures the provision of an academically strong, non-denominational, one-form entry community school for families. The impact of the consultation process has meant that many other local schools that are not in consultation are filling up or already full - see the place data analysis included here. If Colvestone stays open, it is more likely that Dalston families will have a highly attractive, local community school they can walk to at the heart of the new 21st Century Street.

- Enables Hackney to recover Colvestone's budget deficit by allowing the school to pay it down over time.
- Supports the future development of Hackney, attracting families to the new housing in the Dalston Plan and anchoring the borough's first 21st Century Street on Colvestone Crescent.
- Preserves provision that reflects desires of Hackney residents, 84% of whom want non-faith education.
- Provides strong SEND provision that can be expanded to meet the urgent need in the borough.
- Saves the taxpayer the enormous cost of closing the school and of paying off the deficit, which, given the school's potential for financial viability, does not make sense.
- Sends the message that the Council listens and does genuinely take the feedback of residents into consideration. It increases faith in the authenticity of the Council's consultation processes.

4.9. Under the heading "Key risks of closing Colvestone" the following points are raised and further expanded:

- Colvestone students who go to Princess May will increase their exposure to air pollution and run the risk of having their school closed twice due to an already low enrollment at Princess May.
- With the lack of mitigation for Princess May being forced to raise its PAN, it seems likely that the proposals will actively damage Princess May School and make it financially unviable.
- Unlike other London boroughs, Hackney is closing a lot of schools at once, but the consequences of closing a school is still untested. Closing such a large number means any mistakes in the process—academic, financial, social—are amplified. It's a high-cost, high-risk strategy that may accelerate the rate of families fleeing to free schools, academies or private schools or leaving the borough altogether, while costing the taxpayer millions of pounds.
- Closing schools is expensive and the costs could skyrocket. The Estates Strategy report estimates closing and merging these six schools will cost £3.5 million in the first year alone, but warns that the actual cost could be much higher, and Colvestone is a particularly expensive school to close. This submission, and the 'call-in' document that follows, details multiple additional budgetary considerations (costs) that have not been accounted

for in these proposals or included to allow for genuine consideration of the proposals or inform any decision.

- The Dalston Plan promises to bring hundreds of new family homes to Dalston, but the closure of Colvestone, the closest school to that development, removes key infrastructure from that project - Nursery and Primary School provision. The analysis of future pupil yield from these developments is included in this submission.
- By removing local primary school provision the developments themselves become less attractive to potential families and would be expected to negatively impact on developers' ability to sell those homes to families.
- The threatened closure of Debeauvoir and Randal Cremer has meant that local school places are already becoming more scarce and families may be forced to attend school out of the area.
- Should Colvestone need to reopen in the medium term due to insufficient places in the area, the borough would be forced to reopen it as a free school, meaning the borough would lose another local authority school (both the leasehold and education provision would be surrendered by the local authority to a private, for-profit business under 'free school presumption' on a peppercorn rent for 125 years - as happened recently with Haggerston school).
- There is a significant increased cost to the council for SEND if Colvestone closes as a result of having to send children out of the borough to private schools.
- Continuity in SEND support is extremely important, relationships that will be lost if Colvestone is closed
- Long term damage to student engagement (after already enduring Covid), increased Emotionally Based School Avoidance, and associated problems could result from breaking hard to establish close-knit communities both internally to the school and with the surrounding area
- Hackney Council risk making further errors by acting rashly in relation to GLA population projections - catastrophically wrong as recently as 2017, whilst also failing to account for population increases predicted by GLA analysis of the Dalston Plan proposals included here. Even the GLA data (included in the Statutory Notice) asserts that pupil numbers stabilise at current levels / start to rise by 2031.

- Loss of faith in the Council and in the Labour Party.

Other submissions received outside the statutory representation window

- 4.10. Five emails opposing the proposal to close Colvestone were received on 3 November after the 5pm deadline and were not included in the consultation response or analysis conducted by an independent third party (Kwest). The emails are included in full, anonymised, in Appendix C, for decision makers to consider. The appendix is except on the basis that individuals could be identified from the content of their emails.
- 4.11. The emails were received from five members of the same family who are local Dalston residents and who attended the school.
- 4.12. The emails are repeats of each other, aside from minor changes that reflect the family member sending the email, and raise a range of concerns that have been expressed by multiple other respondents in support of keeping the school open. The themes raised are addressed in the primary Cabinet report however the emails have been included here for transparency and completeness.

5. Details of alternative options considered and rejected

- 5.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

6. Background

Policy Context

- 6.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

Equality impact assessment

- 6.2. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

Sustainability and climate change

- 6.3. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

Consultations

- 6.4. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

Risk assessment

- 6.5. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

7. Comments of the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources.

- 7.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

8. **VAT implications on land and property transactions**

8.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

9. **Comments of the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services**

9.1. Please refer to the primary report to Cabinet.

Appendices

Appendix A - Anonymised responses received during the statutory representation period

Appendix B - Save Colvestone Submission (revised-complete)

Exempt

Appendix C - Emails submitted after the deadline

Report Author	Name David Court Title Interim Assistant Director of the School Estate Strategy Email david.court@hackney.gov.uk Tel 020 8820 7667
Comments for the Group Director of Finance and Corporate Resources prepared by	Name Title Email Tel
Comments for the Director of Legal, Democratic and Electoral Services prepared by	Name Title Email Tel