

**AGENDA  
ITEM 14**

**THURROCK COUNCIL**  
**LEARNING SERVICES COMMITTEE**

15 SEPTEMBER 1998

*Director of Education*

*(Contact Officer: Ian Traynier Tel: 01375-652194 )*

**14. TUDOR COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL - PUPIL  
ACCOMMODATION ISSUES**

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise the Committee of a pupil accommodation need at Tudor Court Primary School.

2. Background

- 2.1 Tudor Court Primary School is the first of three Primary Schools to be built on the Chafford Hundred residential development in Grays.

- 2.2 The building was designed to be built in three Phases, to 420 pupil places:

Phase I consisting of eight classrooms, hall, kitchen, administration areas, playground, field, toilets etc;

Phase II consisting of three classbases plus toilets, and a small playground;

Phase III consists of three classbases, plus pupil toilets, storage etc., a second hall and additional playground space.

- 2.3 Phases I and II have been built, giving the School 330 places in permanent accommodation.

- 2.4 The permanent classbases are supplemented by six system built buildings, giving an additional 168 places, taking the School pupil capacity to 498 pupil places.

3. Forecast Pupil Numbers

- 3.1 The forecast pupils for the School are:-

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Year	Forecast Pupil Numbers	Pupil Accommodation
1998/1999	463	498
1999/2000	467	498
2000/2001	464	498
2001/2002	460	498

3.2 The residential development of this area of Chafford Hundred is nearing completion. Once the initial need for places subsides, it is expected that the school will decline back to its strategic plan size of 420.

#### 4. Accommodating Basic Pupil Need

4.1 The forecast at paragraph 3.1 shows that the School will be over its strategic plan size of 420 for some years. This will place a strain on the general use accommodation, such as the hall and playgrounds, which are only adequate for 330 pupils.

4.2 The existing playgrounds were built to accommodate 240 and 90 pupils, respectively. Even though the School has tried timetabling, there are certain times in the day, such as after school lunch, but before afternoon school, when the playground is overcrowded. The very young and junior aged children both use this playground. This has resulted in a rise in the number of children reporting playground accidents to the mid day staff.

4.3 The School is due to receive extra playground space as part of the last phase, to bring the provision up to an acceptable level.

4.4 The existing hall is adequate for 360 pupils. It is recognised that schools catering for pupils in excess of 390, need additional hall space in order to accommodate the requirements of the National Curriculum for PE, Movement, Dance, Music, etc. It is not possible for schools larger than 390 pupils to practically timetable over 13 classes of children, so that they have the correct level of hall use to meet their educational needs. The School also needs to timetable the hall for other whole school functions, such as school lunch and assemblies.

4.5 The forecast, at paragraph 3.1, indicates a need for the second hall and additional playground and that in the next few years the School will be experience extreme difficulties in meeting National Curriculum requirements.

#### 5. Additional Pupil Accommodation

5.1 The report on 'System Built Buildings - Proposed Ranking Of Replacement' at agenda item 13 refers to Tudor Court Primary as a priority for replacement of three temporary bases. It would be cost effective to provide the Hall and additional playground in conjunction with this proposal. This would also complete the permanent building plan for the School.

5.2 In conjunction with the three classbases, it would also be an ideal opportunity to fund the provision of a Nursery class at this School. Best value for money could be achieved, along with formal provision for four year old pupils in an

area where the provision has been identified as insufficient and requires expansion as soon as possible.

## 6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 Members allocated, as part of the 1998/99 Capital Programme, £70,000 to Tudor Court for an extension to the school hall. After some discussion, the Head and Chair of Governors indicated a preference for additional hard play area, as the funding was not adequate to provide a large enough hall extension.
- 6.2 Arrangements have been started for the hard play area to be laid. However, in order to make best use of the funds, it is necessary to look at the placement of the remaining extension for the School, to ensure, as far as possible, that Phase III would not encroach on the area.
- 6.3 Financing of the hard play area, hall and the addition of the three last phase classbases would ensure that best value for money is obtained, and that all the basic need issues for this school have been addressed. The addition of the Nursery would complete works for this School.
- 6.4 The cost for the hall, playground, three classbases and Nursery, are estimated at £600,000. The cost could partly be offset by the £70,000 already earmarked for the playground.

## 7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications aside from Statutory Notices for the establishment of the Nursery Class.

## 8. Action Requested.

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to:
  - (i) note the basic need situation at Tudor Court Primary School;
  - (ii) approve the provision of an additional playground from the 1998/99 Capital Programme; and
  - (iii) approve the provision of a second hall, subject to sufficient resources being made available in the 1999/2000 Capital Programme.