

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) on the proposal to establish an all- through special school in the Royal Borough of Greenwich



On behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich
October 2023



All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

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1. Introduction and Policy Framework

This Statement of Community Involvement has been compiled by specialist community consultation group Your Shout, part of Thorncliffe, on behalf of the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG).

This consultation has two main objectives:

1. Seek local community support on the proposal to establish a new all-through special school on two separate sites within the Borough before launching the official school academy sponsor competition which will determine who will manage the new special school.
2. Provide an early public engagement consultation for local residents to inform and support the local authority's planning application for the proposal to establish an all-through special school for the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

This report details the public consultation we have carried out to inform the evolution of the proposals, in accordance with national and regional policies, and Royal Greenwich's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), adopted in July 2020.

The council's report gives six principles for consultation:

- 1) Consultation should be fit for purpose.
- 2) Information should be accessible.
- 3) People should feel confident that they can engage in the process.
- 4) There should be opportunity for early involvement.
- 5) Consultation should be inclusive.
- 6) The involvement should be co-ordinated.

The report continues that the consultation should take a variety of forms such as local exhibitions, circulation of leaflets or the creation of a well-publicised dedicated website, including a facility to make comments.

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This stage of the public consultation has:

- Let local residents, businesses, councillors and other stakeholders know about the ideas for redevelopment on the site.
- Helped the team understand local views, engage with the community, help identify concerns and opportunities, and feed these into the evolving proposals.
- Showed how we have responded to the issues of the community and stakeholders, and how changes have been made to the proposals.
- Helped pledge our continuing commitment to engagement throughout the full development phase.

In the course of this community engagement process, we have adhered to the principles set out below:

- Using plain English and avoiding jargon. Making the whole process clear and concise.
- Using the right tools, whether digital, collaborative, informative or ongoing. Only asking questions where we do not have a final view.
- Ensuring the affected people, groups and businesses are aware, targeted, and allowed proper time to respond. Making sure each group can access and respond to the consultation, however and using whatever means they engage with us.
- Early engagement and front-loading, where early engagement has significant potential to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the process for all parties. We recognise that the more issues can be resolved at pre-application stage, the greater the benefits.
- Analysing and responding objectively and properly to consultations, published in writing and online through this document, and by direct contact if possible. Responses will be published where possible, with due regard to GDPR regulations.

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This SCI deals with the public consultation, the consultation with neighbouring residents and community groups. Details of engagement with statutory and non-statutory consultees, whose engagement are being led by the team's planning consultant, are contained in other reports being submitted as part of this planning application.

This also has regard to the London Plan, adopted March 2021. Planning decisions should be taken as close as possible to the communities and interests they affect, and in as inclusive way as appropriate. Community and voluntary groups, local business organisations and other interest groups have valid contributions to make to planning, and we support their involvement.

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2. The Proposals



The site (above)

The proposal includes:

1. A new secondary and sixth form campus (Years 7 to 14) to be built on the former primary school site at Hargood Road, SE3 8HR.
2. A primary campus (Reception to Year 6) to be developed on an alternative site within the borough. Its location is to be confirmed.

By setting up a new all-through special free school, Royal Greenwich will be able to meet the increasing demand for specialist provision locally, supporting more pupils throughout their education.

3. Our Consultation Process

Your Shout has substantial experience in undertaking community engagement activities on behalf of developers in Royal Greenwich and elsewhere. We believe that our approach is inclusive, accessible and transparent. It also adheres to the council's consultation requirements and abides by the consultation principles set out earlier in this document.

Our approach uses an on-line engagement portal, alongside consultation events (both online and in person), promoted by a letter drop, and providing a Freepost address, Freephone number, and a bespoke email address to maximise the participation rate of local residents and businesses.

Our approach minimises the potential for pressure groups (for example) to dominate a meeting or monopolise the attention of members of the project team to the exclusion of less confident residents.

CONTACT WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

We contacted the following local elected representatives to brief them on the proposals, alert them to the forthcoming community engagement exercise and to offer a meeting to discuss the plans in more detail.

Kidbrooke Park ward members, RB Greenwich

Cllr John Fahy

Cllr Odette McGahey

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, RB Greenwich

Cllr Matthew Morrow

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXERCISE

Invitation letter

We publicised the community engagement exercise to the households and businesses surrounding the site, using GPS-tracked hand delivery to distribute the information letter to 1024 properties, as shown in the map below. The letter was delivered on 19 September 2023.



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The company that hand-delivered the letter uses GPS to show their delivery – the map below shows this GPS report.



The objective of the letter was to publicise the project website and consultation events, to communicate information about the scheme, and to encourage local residents to share their views about the proposal. The letter included a freephone number and freepost address, to increase accessibility in the consultation. A copy of this letter is available in the [appendix](#).

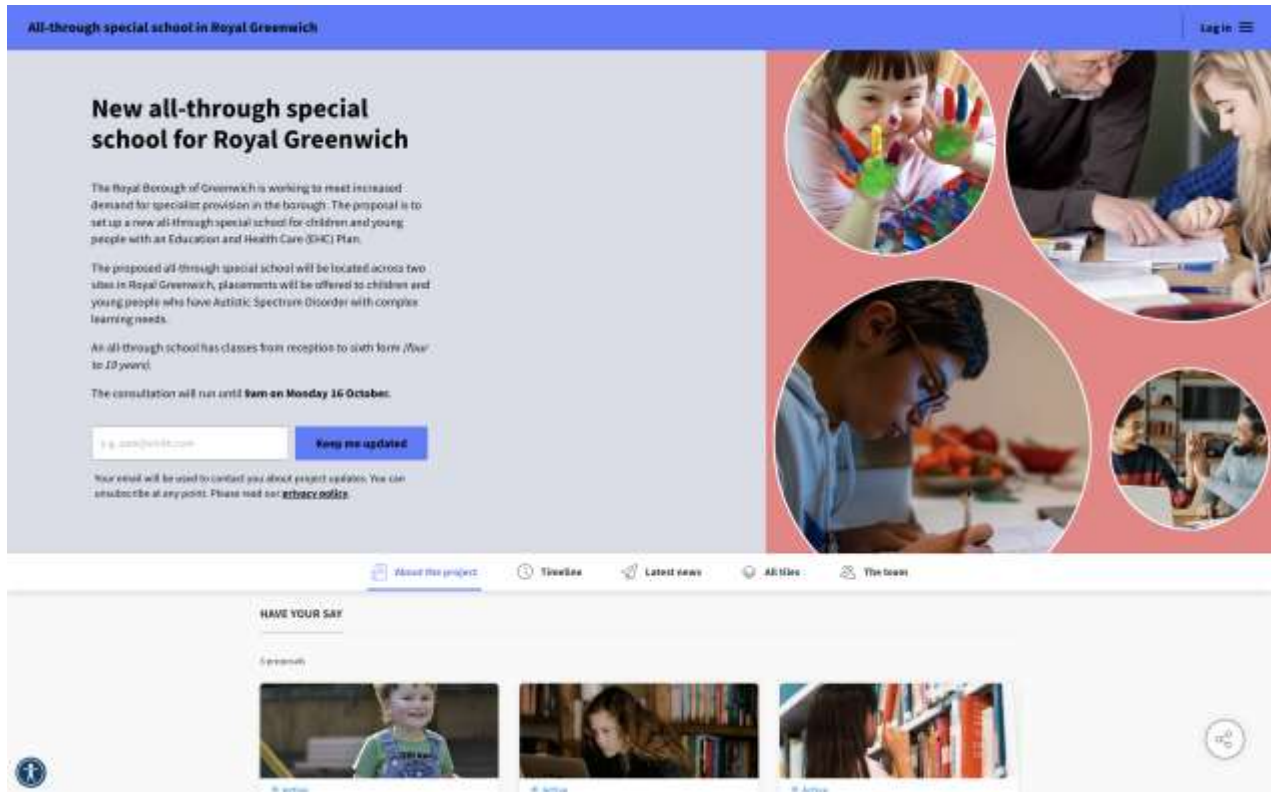
Invitation letters were also sent to all the elected representatives and groups.

The website homepage for the project is: <https://all-through-special-school.commonplace.is/>. This went online in September 2023.

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Below is a screenshot of the homepage of the Commonplace website. Other pages are in the [appendix](#).



The consultation events

Two of the community engagement events were held on the communityUK platform, via a web browser, and one was held face to face.

- The face to face drop-in session was held on Wednesday 4 October, 3pm to 7pm, at St Nicholas Church, Whetstone Road, SE3 8PZ.

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- The two online events were held on Monday 25 September at 7pm; and the second on Monday 9 October at 1pm.

We used the communityUK system, because it makes consultation events and information highly accessible, highly participatory, and gives residents equal access to the team.

It encourages and enables residents to share their views in an interactive and meaningful manner that helps influence decisions and creates trust. It is a far more accessible platform than using Zoom, and more residents participate in consultations.

The system is about reducing barriers to participation, for example for parents with children, professionals and other workers that find it easier to engage online or on their mobile. Indeed, younger people find online events more attractive to attend. Allowing participants to create audio or video questions also reduces barriers for some people. There's also an option to watch on YouTube.

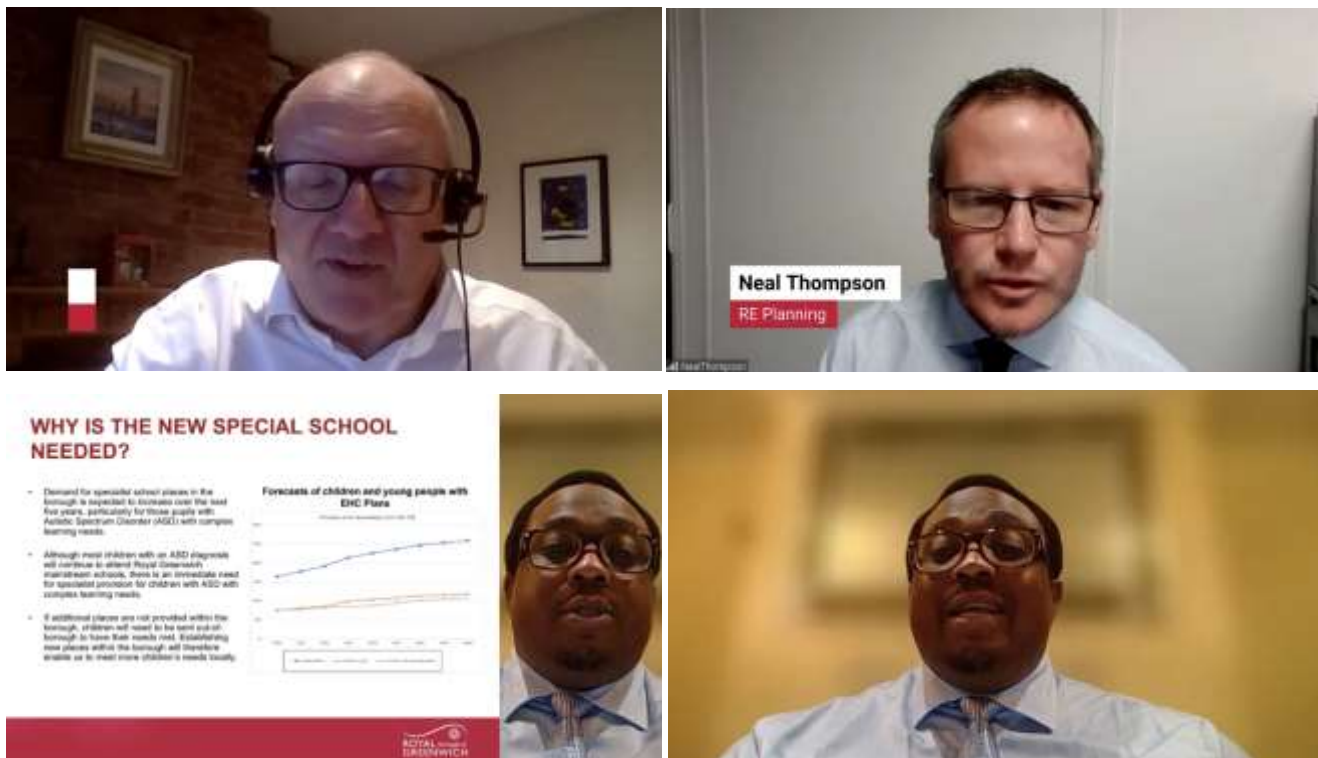
It's also helpful that the system allows recording of the events, with all the questions timestamped. Clicking on the question on the right of the screen enables you to watch the answer to the question on the video to the left of the screen. The events are recorded online at <https://newspecialschool.communityuk.site/event>

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Registered participants were able to submit questions before or during the consultation events using a text-entry form on the event viewing page. They could also submit video questions and questions via a freephone number.

Screenshots of the events are shown below:



The times and dates of all the community engagement events were chosen to encourage the maximum number of people to participate, including those in full-time employment and those with parental responsibilities. We ensured the date did not fall on any locally observed religious or cultural festivals.

Participants were able to register for any of the community engagement events in advance. Registered participants were sent at least one reminder email ahead of their chosen event, and an email after the event to encourage participants to share their views. An example of one of these emails is shown in one of the appendices.

Representatives from the applicant and the consultant team were present throughout the consultation events.

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The following residents participated and / or watched the in-person including the recorded sessions and the YouTube stream. In the case on the online events, the attendance is measured by IP-address, and includes those who watch the recording after the event.

	Participated or watched
25 September 7pm – communityUK	7
4 October 3-7pm – drop-in event	15
9 October 1pm - communityUK	29

Using Google statistics, we can see the demographics of those who watched the events on communityUK.

- 57% are aged 18-44
- 43% are aged over 45
- 71% use a PC
- 29% use a mobile or tablet

Response mechanisms

We have maintained, and continue to maintain, several response mechanisms for the local community and stakeholders to share their views about the scheme, including:

- A survey on the Commonplace portal, which is now closed
- A freephone number, staffed during office hours: 0800 955 1042
- A consultation event hotline
- A bespoke email address: newspecialschool@yourshout.org
- A freepost address: FREEPOST RTXU-JGSR-KHLE, Your Shout, 28 China Works, London, SE1 7SJ

All survey information was held in a GDPR-compliant format, with the following privacy notice published on the invitation letter and online portal:

Data will be held by Your Shout and the project team. By volunteering this information you are giving your consent for us to process your data regarding this project. Your comments will be given to the council as part of the planning application process. You are also confirming you are aged 16 or over. You can withdraw consent for us to use your data at any time by emailing us at privacy@yourshout.com. You have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at any time if you feel there is a problem with the way we are handling your data.

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TIMELINE AND SUMMARY OF OUR CONSULTATION

Date	Event
19 September 2023	Letters delivered to local community, and online platform goes live
25 September 2023	First consultation event (online)
4 October 2023	Second consultation event (drop-in)
9 October 2023	Third consultation event (online)
October 2023– January 2024	Academy Sponsorship Competition to determine who will operate the new all-through special school
March 2024	Submission of planning application

4. Consultation Responses

We had **40** questions at the online community engagement events (which are in the [appendix](#)).

Three residents emailed our dedicated email address: these emails are included in the [appendix](#).

We had **105** responses to the survey (including 15 via the written feedback form), which is now closed.

Respondents were asked their connection to the area and were able to choose more than one.

Of the respondents:

- 69 - local residents
- 30 - parents of a child who attends a school in the local area
- 15 - parents of a child attending a primary school in the area.
- 6 - parents of a child attending a secondary school in the area
- 5 - parents of a child attending a special school
- 3 - school representatives
- 2 - parents of a pupil attending an Alternative Education Provider in the local area
- 2 - representatives of local groups in the area
- 1 - parent of a Sixth Form student

In addition, respondents wrote in the following:

- Grandmother of children with autism
- Local teacher
- Parent of a child attending a specialist school out of area
- Parent of a child I had to remove from a local school in the area
- Specialist in early childhood education
- Resident in nearby area
- Resident in SE18

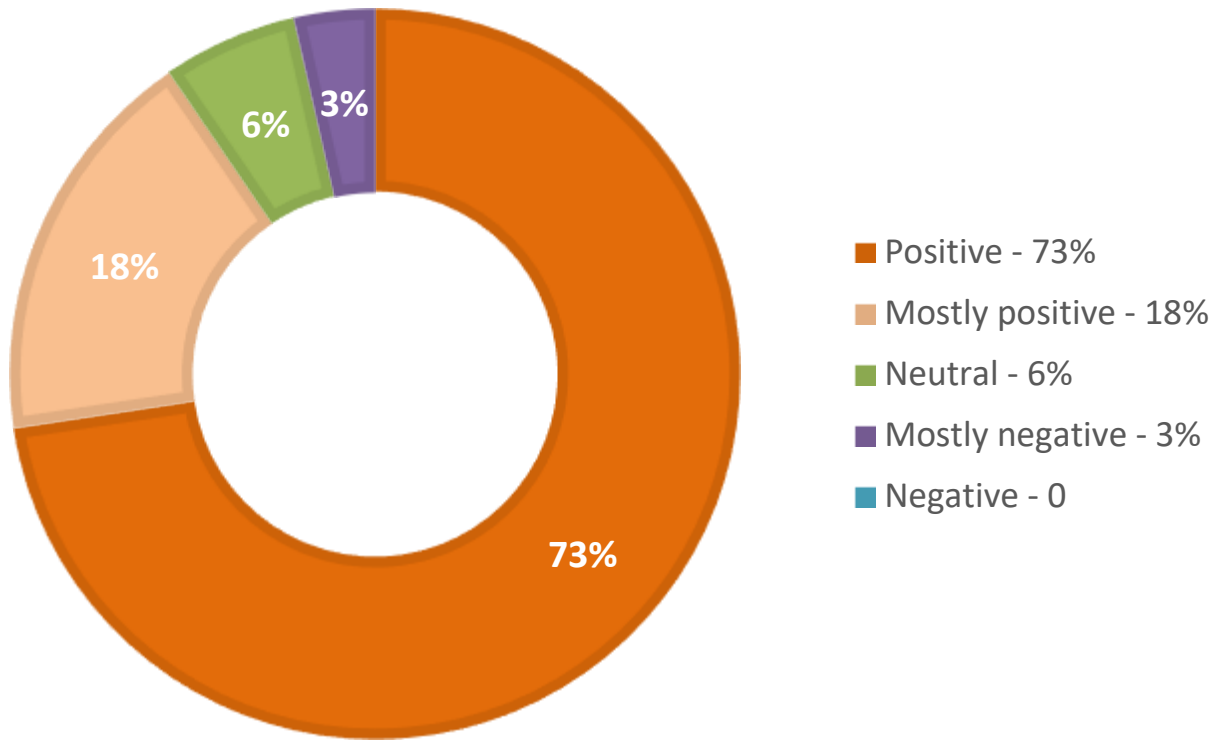
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Respondents were asked how they felt about the proposal to set up a new all-through special school within the borough.

91% of all respondents stated that they were mostly positive or positive about the proposal.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO SET UP A NEW ALL-THROUGH SPECIAL SCHOOL WITHIN THE BOROUGH?



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Respondents were given two open questions to give comments. We have shown these comments corresponding to their reaction, positive or otherwise, to the previous question.

Why do you feel this way?

Positive

- I feel there is inadequate provision for specialist support for children with significant SEND which mainstream schools cannot fully support effectively. I believe this is detrimental to the outcomes for children whose needs cannot be fully met in a mainstream setting.
- Will address the Current Lack of provision for ASD children in the borough.
- I have a child with ASD.
- Completely necessary provision.
- Special needs schools are very rare. So much needed in this area.
- There needs to be more SEN schools in the area.
- I have worked with teenagers on the spectrum. I also have a grown up son on the spectrum.
- We need provision in the borough.
- Overdue and much needed.
- Willow Dene is fantastic but can 't meet demand. We need more specialist provision.
- It is really important that the needs of these children are met effectively to enable them to have happy and fulfilling lives.
- There is an urgent need for this.
- Greenwich desperately needs more specialist SEND provision in order to meet the needs of children within the LA.
- SEN children deserve access to a suitable education provision. They 're people too and deserve treating as such.
- We need to provide care to SEND kids.
- It will help the local primaries cope with the high volume of special needs children.
- There needs to be more support and alternative provisions available for children with complex learning needs.
- There is a need within this borough for additional specialist provision. There are a number of children within mainstream secondaries that need specialist support.
- We desperately need more SEND school places in the borough!

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- As a primary school teacher I see the increasing numbers of children with complex needs in mainstream. We do our best but do not have the necessary expertise, resources, environment etc for these children to thrive.
- The ability to meet the needs of many of our children in mainstream is increasingly becoming more difficult as we do not have the physical environment that suits the needs of the children.
- Mainstream schools welcome all children but do a disservice to children who need specialist provision.
- Much needed.
- Huge need to expand existing provision for pupils.
- There are increasing numbers of pupils in RBG with SEN needs who are not able to get a place in a specialist school due to limited places in existing provisions.
- There is nowhere near enough provision for children with complex needs at the moment.
- We need more support for autism so children can become self sufficient. Current state school doing a good job with care, but my son is not learning enough and there is very limited resources.
- This school is really needed as there aren't enough places in SEN schools in the borough.
- Needed.
- There is a real need for SEN children and special school will really help them.
- As a retired primary/Secondary teacher I admit I was often unable to accommodate the demands of pupils with special needs unless they were granted extra support.
- It is the least that we can do for our autistic children.
- Greenwich is lacking in this type of school. All parents should feel they're helping their kids achieve their potential and school is key part of their development.
- I think we have needed this provision for a very long time. I 'm very pleased that we are finally getting this.
- Need to protect and support the children through their school years
- Assuming that these proposals are the right solution for the children themselves then I wholeheartedly support so the kids don't have to travel too far to be supported.

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- At my child 's current school Willow Dene, there is only about enough provision for a quarter of primary children to move to the secondary Willow Dene site. There is a desperate need for more places for children with complex special needs, such as my son who is autistic , non verbal, high sensory needs and wears incontinence pads full Time.
- Lots of children including my child have better chances of placement at school.
- Much needed school and design and location look appropriate.
- We need more of these schools, also I have autistic grandchildren.
- It gives a fluidity to both children and parents.
- Because I had to remove my child from school in the area because the needs this school seeks to accommodate could not be handled within the borough.
- There isn't enough provision for special educational needs in the state schools in the Borough.
- I have a son with ASD.
- Both of my children have special educational needs and I was looking to home educate both due to the lack of facilities.
- I believe education for SEN children should be one place with excellent teachers and support.
- Not enough provision for autistic children in borough.
- The need to have separate specialist care is important.
- It is a brilliant innovation that will help those young people.
- Special educational needs provision is needed to help children to get the best possible education in a setting suitable for their individual needs. Giving them the help and support they need so they feel included.
- These children have complex needs so continuity and good facilities can only be helpful.
- I think it is great to have this kind of education available in our borough for the children of 1s that require special education. These students do not get the help they need in normal catchment area schools.
- It is necessary.

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Mostly positive

- More schools are needed in Greenwich.
- A very worthy cause.
- Good support for kids who need it, slightly concerned about disruption.
- I am worried about the steep slopes within the site : how can everyone negotiate the steps for access?
- there is a significant shortage of spaces in special schools.
- We need more provisions within the borough.
- I think this will be good for the children / students. Also, it responds to parent/carer requests.
- It's a positive move to have school places available for children with additional needs.
- I 'm all for it however My concern is that in creating this school you will neglect the needs of SEN children in mainstream schools even more. It will divert much needed resources away from them.
- Need to meet the needs of those youngsters.
- Because children with special needs are being shoved in main stream schools often without properly trained staff. This can also be detrimental to children that can cope with main stream.

Neutral

- I cannot see the plan in any detail as the writing is too tiny to read and there is no written description.
- It is needed but inadequate for the needs profile of the population coming through and already existing in the borough.
- It's not enough, there will still be both primary and secondary students not receiving the support they need.
- I would need to know much more about the proposal. Separating children has its problems in terms of children being marginalised.

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Mostly negative

- Disruption for residents particularly for traffic and safety/security.
- Traffic would be a huge issue!
- Lack of car parking will create congestion in the roads around the school. This area is already poorly cleaned and too much rubbish can be found along the roads due to students throwing everything on the floor, additional school will increase this too many schools already in this area and one additional will increase rubbish on the roads. increase of noise.

Do you have any further comments or views on the proposal? -

Positive

- A specialist setting would benefit the borough.
- I assume that by Sponsor it means that the school will be run by an Academy rather than LA maintained.
- I am a little worried that it will only be open to children with an EHC plan as this process itself can be a bit arbitrary and this will mean that children who would benefit would miss out.
- Will be back to see the full plans.
- Meeting was very informative and have no concerns on the proposed school.
- It's about time this is being introduced as some children with learning disabilities do not do very well in mainstream schools and tend to be left behind with their educational needs. Well done Greenwich Council.
- I hope this is a success and the planning permission is granted.
- It needs to be completed as best it can be not, not less than required. Money needs to be found. No PFI!!
- My organisation would like to formally discuss the proposal and how we might be able to help.
- How soon can this be done?
- This new school will help, but it still won't be enough to meet need and ease the pressure on mainstream schools (which are desperately trying to meet the needs of children who require specialist provision).

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- I've worked with Willowdene before and found them to be a great school.
- This is so needed. With only one local SEND school which now only has one panel a year, children with complex needs are being failed by the system as it stands.
- Additional specialist provision will enable SEN children the ability to access the curriculum and develop life skills in ways that are not possible in mainstream schools.
- Children are entering into mainstream schools with ever increasing complex needs and special school places in the Borough are woefully inadequate.
- It's a shame there isn't a clearer sense of timelines as this work is essential and urgent.
- This is a desperately needed provision and must be treated as a priority.
- Greenwich SLT need to start teaching non-verbal SEN kids to speak, my son went through a SEN primary school in the borough and none of the non verbal kids were taught how to speak. The standards need to improve. The person who was head teacher at Tree Tops school in Grays Essex would be a great head as she had good results and this new school should model itself on that one.
- There is an urgent need for special school places especially secondary. I would recommend current outstanding special school Willow Dene School to be handling this new school to ensure it meets the best practice benchmark just like Willow Dene School.
- I think you need to think of car parking, that is safe for the children.
- It will be fantastic for children, young people and families in Greenwich to have this kind of provision as the current offer is not sufficient.
- Would it be better to use the Hargood Road site for the primary school as near to homes and the secondary school at the Environmental curriculum centre as this would give more space for the young adults to get around and to be less impact on homes with regard to noise and also for the students privacy and giving easy access for transport as the older students are more likely to arrive on their own in buses or taxis. There is access there to allow their transport onto site so won't be waiting in the street like they currently do at Charlton Park. It gives far more outside provision too.
- The new school will help many children and parents to get the right education and support. Excellent proposal which I fully support.

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Mostly positive

- Yes, this has to come with traffic control and parking restrictions. I live in Wricklemarsh Road, when Kidbrooke Park School was there, I had at least one irresponsible parent weekly blocking my driveway so I couldn't drop off or pick up my children from school (my children didn't attend Kidbrooke park). You need to explore making Hargood road one direction and put white parking lines in Wricklemarsh road so I can take photos if a car is parked blocking my driveway and you can issue a ticket.
- I cannot see from the diagrams if there is sufficient green open space for the pupils' needs.
- Just that the extra traffic from school buses will need to be considered, and where they might wait between arriving at the school and being able to enter the school grounds.
- I am a parent of a child with SEN so I am very aware of how under staffed, under resourced and under supported schools are when it comes to SEN provision.
- Arrangements are needed to ensure that pupils of these schools are not isolated from the mainstream.
- I don't know enough to make a fully positive decision, but I am happy that children with additional needs get the support they need.

Neutral

- There are no plans that I can read (the writing is too tiny) and no written description. You must do better than this. I remember the site as being in a dip with many steps down to the buildings and with difficulty of access from the pavement level. That is why Kidbrooke Park Primary moved. Has anything changed? *[note: this is included in the neutral comments as the person expressed a neutral attitude towards the question re how they felt about the proposal to set up a new all-through special school within the borough].*
- As well as this proposal there should be expansion to the existing settings and support provided from those school to meet the needs of students in the borough.
- Perhaps it is more important to put more funds and resources into existing schools to support special units within an integrated system. But on the other hand, a dedicated school properly resourced with specialist knowledgeable teachers could concentrate expertise. It

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should not become a dumping ground for misdiagnosed / difficult children.

Mostly negative

- The area needs to be better cared for by the council. Cleanliness is an issue in Kidbrooke.

5. Our response and continued consultation

During the online consultation, we received many questions that were answered at the events. We are using these questions as the basis for giving our response to the consultation here.

Q Will the school have a staggered opening, or will you open with a full register of all year groups from day one?

The answer to this question will depend on how many of those children we are able to identify at a time this school comes on stream.

In terms of admissions, we know it's a very complex process for children with special educational needs, as they have to go through a panel and go through a consultation process. We also know that we have a lot of children currently in mainstream education who probably should not be there, who need specialist provision, and whose needs will be best met in such a provision that we are building.

Q: Is there any plan for providing school places for children with autism and moderate learning disabilities? Children who struggle in mainstream but whose needs are not significant enough for a school like Willow Dene.

Places will be allocated to children who have an education and healthcare plan, and the places will be specific for those children that have been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder with complex learning needs. It is only for those children with very complex needs that will be allocated places at the new school, and the allocation of places will be managed through our SEND admissions process.

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Q: Is this the only school in your forward plans that you intend to build. What is the current demand and how will it meet the needs in future? Will this school offer multiple disciplines? Is there any boarding facility available with the school?

Our current plan is to build just this school. We do not have any other plans to build another school, although our school place planning projection is suggesting that we might need more specialist provision in the borough in the near future. We have to make sure that whatever proposals we bring forward are affordable and can be delivered. We are not providing boarding facilities.

Q: Who would be the provider for the new special school? What would be the criteria for choice of the provider, and will the opinions of parents/carers be taken into account?

The new provider/sponsor is yet to be determined. We hope a sponsor will be appointed by Spring 2024.

Q: There used to be a primary school at that location, and it has been moved 400 metres up the road. Which means that building on the old site would not replace a school but add one to the neighbourhood.

We accept that this will be an addition to the number of schools in that area. That's why we take this very seriously to make sure that it has very limited impact on the local community. That's why we'll be carrying out a detailed assessment, undertaking a transport assessment, and doing all sorts of due diligence exercises.

Q: Will you consult with TfL and the police?

Yes, we will consult with Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade.

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Q: How many children will there be in each year and the school?

There will be a total of 128 specialist places delivered for the secondary and sixth form. The sixth form will deliver 80 places and the secondary school 48 places. The second phase is the primary school for which a suitable site has yet to be identified and we hope to deliver up to 112 places from September 2026.

Q: Will the schools be available for community use?

Yes, we hope the school will be used for the community - we encourage good community relationships.

Q: Will there be a cycle scheme?

It's very early for us to determine what the planning requirements for the project will be but as part of the planning process, there will be a transport assessment and development planners will determine what needs to be included in a project. But from past experiences where we have delivered new schools or refurbished existing schools, the planning requirement has always been that we make available cycle racks to encourage pupils or children and staff cycling to school.

Q: There is only one bus locally, which is already overcrowded at school times, with people left at the stop when the drivers can't allow anyone else on the bus. Will more buses be provided, not just for children but staff too?

We will put all those issues through to Transport for London that controls the allocation of busses to that area. They monitor their data and can resource any route that needs additional busses on the basis of demand.

Q: If children are dropped on in minibuses, how will you deal with this?

There will be a drop off area on the school site within the boundary of the school.

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Q: We have a lot of youth from other secondaries with a lot of litter, how will you deal with this?

This is a behavioural issue for parents dropping off children and some children commuting to school. We will make sure that all those issues that are being raised by residents are brought to the fore so that parents will be advised on what they should be aware of so that the impact on the local community is limited. We'd also advise residents who have concerns to get in touch with the relevant departments in the council.

Q: There is already traffic from surrounding schools and the football stadium, a new school will exacerbate this, how will you address this?

Although we encourage independent travel for children going to school, due to the complex needs of the children that will attend this school, the majority will travel to school by using council assisted travel arrangements. It would mean that they would have travel with the local authority bringing them to school in a bus that goes directly from their homes to the school sites. That helps in easing of any potential impacts on the existing infrastructure.

As part of the design, we will look at the traffic management measures that can be implemented, which will be incorporated into the design of the scheme, such as expanding the pedestrian pavements around the school and widening of the road outside of the school to accommodate dropping off within the school site rather than on the road.

Q: Why is the school being built in such a dense residential area?

There are rules and regulations in terms of how we use land; the central government sets those rules in terms of how school lands are used. We appreciate that this is a residential area.

This school has been established on education land, meant to deliver education. The local authority would have to seek the Secretary of State's approval in order to use it for any other means.

We think having another school on this site is the best way of using this site at the moment. As a local authority, we have an obligation to deliver additional school places for those children who need them.

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Q: Please let me know if your school provides for children with ASD to start in September 2023?

This school will meet the needs of those children diagnosed with ASD with complex learning needs and it needs time for it to be delivered. We are planning to deliver this provision for the secondary and the sixth form by September 2025, and the primary phase by September 2026.

Q: Please tell us about the likely timescale for construction

We are looking to start the design process for the Hargood Road scheme from November this year, which will be ending August 2024. From there, for the construction period, we have 52 weeks. We are looking to finish by August 2025. The school will be completed and will start operation in September 2025.

Q: How many parking spaces will there be on the site?

This is still being confirmed as part of the design process.

Q: What specific needs will the school focus on?

Children that have been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder with complex learning needs.

Q: How are places allocated at this new school?

Places will be allocated to children who have an education and healthcare plan, and the places will be specific for those children that have been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder with complex learning needs. It is only for those children with very complex needs that will be allocated places at the new school, and the allocation of places will be managed through our SEND admissions process.

Q: Will there be a study into poorer air quality from additional traffic.

Yes, this will be carried out under the traffic management plan.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Q: Will there be an improvement to the walking route to Kidbrooke Station?

We are aware of residents' concerns about existing infrastructure towards the station, but unfortunately the solution may be outside of our remit.

Where we can help, for example, is the widening of the road in front of the school and making provisions for dropping off within the school site rather than on the on the street.

Q: Will there be a construction management plan in place to govern all contractors for work at the school and the surrounding site including the roads and pavements?

Yes, there will be a construction management plan in place to govern all contractors for work at the school and the surrounding site including the roads and pavements, and a Construction Manager will oversee this.

Q: A special needs school with teenagers up to 19 years of age is a catalyst for trouble, and the roads are narrow, filled with lane-wide speed bumps, some are one-way-only roads, and even police cars can't intervene quickly in case of necessity. This might put residents and their property in grave danger.

We will consult with the Metropolitan Police at an early stage of the pre-application process. Secure by Design is an important design accreditation for development, which can cover a multitude of things such as security, lighting, surveillance, CCTV surveys and cameras. Principally it is there to ensure that the development is safe and it considers all aspects of the scheme in terms of crime or the fear of crime.

Q: Will there be a study into additional parking pressures from students, parents and staff?

Yes, there will be a vigorous traffic management plan carried out by Transport Consultants who will study the additional parking pressures for all.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Q: There is just one bus route going through the whole of Kidbrooke (the 386) which is already overcrowded at school times, with people left at the stop when the drivers can't allow anyone else on the bus. Any other bus line is more than 10 minutes' walk away from Hargood Road. The only train station is at least 15 minutes' walk away. This makes the site unsuitable for a school serving a wider area, and it would get even more cars in the already crowded roads.

There will be a detailed traffic management plan carried out by Transport Consultants who will study the additional parking pressures for all. We will consult at an early stage with Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police.

Q: There is no fast access for the police. A special needs school with teenagers up to 19 years of age is a catalyst for trouble, and the roads are narrow, filled with lane-wide speed bumps, some are one-way-only roads, and even police cars can't intervene quickly in case of necessity. This would put residents and their property in grave danger.

We are consulting with the Metropolitan Police and the London Fire Brigade at early stage to address security and safety issues.

Q: Building there would increase traffic in the area. The two roads leading to Hargood Road from North and South are usually completely stuck at school drop off and pick up times. Adding a school in Hargood Road would make this situation worse, adding pollution, travel time, and bringing back the problem that residents faced in the past when parents taking the kids to Hargood Road would park in front of private driveways. The area can't afford more traffic at school time.

Although we encourage independent travel for children going to school, due to the complex needs of the children that will attend this school, the majority will travel to school by using council assisted travel arrangements. It would mean that they would have travel with the local authority bringing them to school in a bus that goes directly from their homes to the school sites. That helps in easing of any potential impacts on the existing infrastructure.

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Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Feeding-back to participants and the wider community, and opportunities for continuing involvement

One of the main objectives of this Statement of Community Involvement is to help record individual and collective responses to the proposals and how these responses have affected our proposals.

This report also allows us to feed back this information, in a more readily digestible form to the local community, respondents, other stakeholders and councillors.

This Statement of Community Involvement will be made available, alongside other planning documents, as part of the planning submission to the planning authority.

We remain committed to keeping in touch with local groups, individuals and all those that have participated throughout this consultation exercise. The team will be available to meet consultees again as appropriate.

This Statement of Community Involvement fully demonstrates the applicant's commitment to a thorough and meaningful public consultation and meets the requirements set out by the council and the DfE.

Your Shout

October 2023

All-Through Special School RBG

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Appendices

[Appendix: Public consultation – example invitation letter](#)

[Appendix: Comment forms for local residents](#)

[Appendix: Project website – screenshots](#)


[Appendix: Consultation events – example reminder email](#)

[Appendix: Comments submitted by email](#)

All-Through Special School RBG

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Appendix: Public consultation – example invitation letter



Freepost RTXU-JGSR-KHLE (SEN),
Your Shout,
28 China Works,
SE1 7SJ

newspecialschool@yourshout.org
0800 955 1042

18 September 2023

Have your say on a new all-through special free school in Royal Greenwich

Dear Resident,

We would like your help in shaping our proposal to set up a new all-through special school for children and young people with an Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan. An all-through school has classes from reception to sixth form. This special school will offer placements to children and young people who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder with complex learning needs.

The proposal includes:

1. A new secondary and sixth form campus (Years 7 to 14) to be built on the former primary school site at Hargood Road, SE3 8HR.
2. A primary campus (Reception to Year 6) to be developed on an alternative site within the borough. Its location is to be confirmed.

By setting up a new all-through special free school, the Council will be able to meet the increasing demand for specialist provision locally, supporting pupils throughout their education.

To ensure we reach as many people as possible we have commissioned an experienced consultation organisation, Your Shout, to host online and in-person engagement events.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Talk to us:

The consultation will run from **Monday 18 September 2023 to 5pm on Sunday 15 October 2023**.

During this time, all residents can use our online portal to provide feedback, a link can be found towards the bottom of this letter. However, residents are also welcome to share their views and comments by contacting Your Shout via phone, email, or post, contact details can be found in the top left hand of this letter.

We are also holding three events where you will have the opportunity to ask questions – in advance or on the day.

If you have questions but you are unable to attend, you can submit them via the website and your questions will be answered.

Monday 25 September, 7pm, online

Monday 9 October, 1pm, online

Wednesday 4 October, 3 to 7pm, St Nicholas Church, Whetstone Road, SE3 8PZ.



Have your say

To have your say and register for events, visit:

royalgreenwich.gov.uk/SEND-school-survey

If you are unable to access the website, Your Shout can send you printed materials. Please contact them using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Matthew Morrow

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People



All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Appendix: Comment forms for local residents

Have your say

New all-through special school for Royal Greenwich



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Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Have your say

An all-through school includes classes from reception age to sixth form (four to 19 years), placements for the new special school will be offered to children and young people who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with complex learning needs.

The first phase of the project focuses on a purpose-built school for secondary students, including sixth form on Council land in Hargood Road, SE3. The site was formerly home to Kidbrooke Park Primary School which moved in 2021. A primary campus (Reception to Year 6) will be developed at an alternative site within the borough.



This is an artist impression of the secondary school site on Hargood Road.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

The consultation

What is your connection to the area? Are you a:

- Local resident
- Parent of child who attends a school in the local area
- School representative
- Special School in the local area
- Primary School in the local area
- Secondary School in the local area
- Sixth Form School in the local area
- Alternative Education Provider in the local area
- Local business owner
- Alternative Education Provider in the local area
- Other

How do you feel about the proposal to set up a new all-through special school within the borough



Dislike

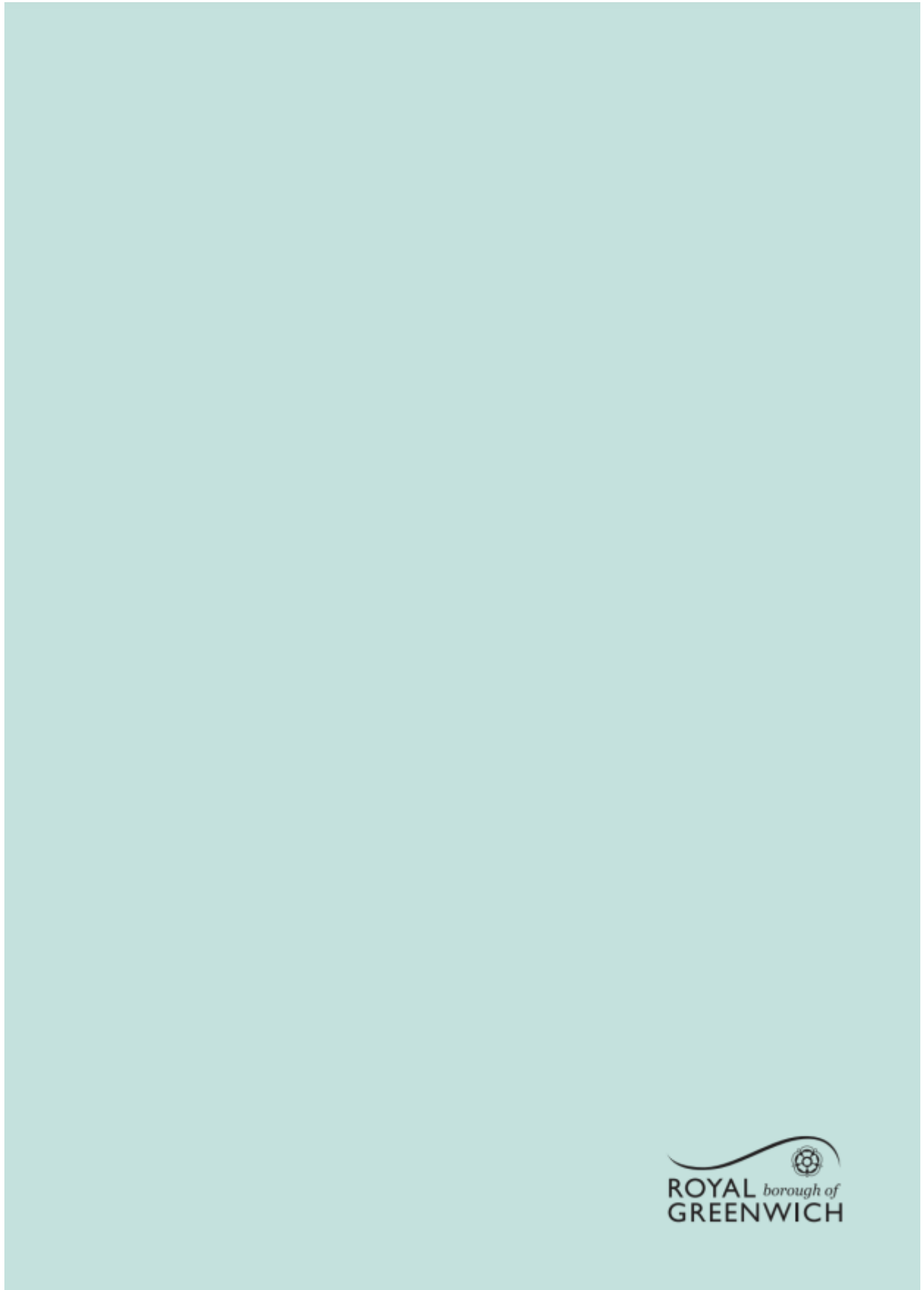
Love it

Why do you feel this way?

Do you have any further comments or views on the proposal?

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI



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Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Appendix: Project website – screenshots

The screenshot shows a project website with a navigation bar at the top containing five items: 'About the project' (document icon), 'Timeline' (clock icon, underlined), 'Latest news' (paper plane icon), 'All tiles' (grid icon), and 'The team' (people icon). Below the navigation bar is a 'Milestones' section with a vertical timeline line on the left. Four milestones are listed in light grey boxes:

- Proposal and consultation**
Monday 18 September - Monday 16 October
Gather thoughts, ideas and comments ahead of finalising the all-through special school.
- Sponsor competition**
Autumn Term 2023 - Early 2024
In line with current laws, the Council is required to appoint a sponsor for the new all-through free school. The sponsor will be determined through a competition that will be run by the Council during the Autumn Term 2023.
- Procurement of construction company and work begins**
Early 2024 - September 2025
A contractor will be appointed by Royal Borough of Greenwich following a procurement process, then work will begin.
- Proposed secondary school opens**
September 2025 - September 2025
Due to the increased pressure for places, we are hoping that the proposed secondary phase of the new all-through special free school will be built and operational from September 2025.

All-Through Special School RBG

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Proposed primary school opens

September 2026 - September 2026

The opening of the primary phase is subject to being able to identify a suitable site. However, we anticipate that the primary phase will open from September 2026.

About the project

Timeline

Latest news

All files

The team

Latest news

Stay involved in the discussion. Keep up to date with the latest news and share it with your fellow community members.

Have your say on a new all-through special free school in Royal Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is rising to meet increased demand for specialist provision with a proposal to set up a new all-through special school for children and young people with an Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan, ensuring we have the right facilities to give eve...

Posted on 14th September 2023
by Rhodja Taborda

Get project news

Do you want to receive an email when news items are posted?

Your email

Keep me updated

Your email will be used to contact you about project updates. You can unsubscribe at any point. Please read our [privacy policy](#).

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI



About the project



Timeline



Latest news



All files



The team

Have your say

Have your say and help shape the future of your community.

HAVE YOUR SAY

[View all](#)



Frequently asked questions

Take a look at the answers to our frequently asked questions.



Have your say on an all-through special school

Take our short three-minute survey.



Speak to us

You can visit our online and in-person events to ask questions on the proposal for an all-through special school.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

-  About the project
-  Timeline
-  Latest news
-  All tiles
-  The team

Let's introduce you to the team

Commonplace facilitates this conversation on behalf of the team made up of the organisations listed here. The information you provide will only be used for the purposes stated in each organisation's privacy policy.



The Royal Borough of Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is surveying residents about Greenwich Info. We collect and process personal information about you in order to provide public services and meet our statutory obligations. This privacy notice explains how we use the information about you and how we protect your privacy.

[Read The Royal Borough of Greenwich privacy policy](#)



YourShout

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI

Frequently asked questions

What is the Royal Borough of Greenwich proposing?

We are proposing a new primary and secondary (with sixth form) special school split across two sites in Royal Greenwich.

The all-through free school offers placements for children and young people from reception age to sixth form (four to 19 years) who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with complex learning needs.

There will be:

- 112 primary places (YR to Y6).
- 80 secondary places (Y7 to Y11).
- 48 sixth form places (Y12 to Y14).

The first phase of the proposal focuses on a purpose-built school for secondary students, including sixth form on Council land in Hargood Road, SE3. A primary campus (Reception to Year 6) will be developed at an alternative site within the borough.

Why are you building a new special school?

Establishing a new all-through special free school within the borough will help the Royal Borough of Greenwich meet the increasing demand for specialist SEND provision, particularly for children and young people diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with complex learning needs.

Data has shown the number of children in Royal Greenwich who have an Educational and Health Care (EHC) Plan has been rising with ASD being the most prevalent primary need.

Currently, around 46% of primary needs identified in these plans are ASD and the number of children with an EHC Plan is expected to rise by 450 over the next five years.

Who will operate the new school?

In line with current laws, the Council is required to appoint a sponsor for the new all-through free school.

The sponsor will be determined through a competition that will be run by the Council during the Autumn Term 2023.

We hope to have a sponsor confirmed in early 2024.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Who is funding the construction of the new school? ^

The new school will be funded by Royal Borough of Greenwich.

What is the estimated cost of building the new special school? ^

The cost is still to be determined.

Who is building the proposed new special school? ^

A contractor will be appointed by Royal Borough of Greenwich following a procurement process.

When will the new school open? ^

Due to the increased pressure for places, we are hoping that the proposed secondary phase of the new all-through special free school will be built and operational from September 2025.

The opening of the primary phase is subject to being able to identify a suitable site. However, we anticipate that the primary phase will open from September 2026.

Will there be nursery provision in the new school? ^

No.

Will the new school be for boys and girls? ^

Yes, the proposed new all-through special free school will be co-educational.

What is the character/ethos of the new school? ^

The proposed new all-through special free school will not have a religious character or ethos.

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Will there be community use of the new school facilities?

The new special school will be expected to make available its facilities for community use where possible.

How long is this consultation for?

The consultation will run for four-weeks from Monday 18 September to Monday 16 October 2023.

How can I share my views on the proposal?

You can fill in our consultation here on Commonplace, [click here](#) to be redirected.

During the four-week consultation period which ends on Monday 16 October, any person may support, object, or comment on the proposal by contacting Your Shout by phone, email, or post:

- **Call:** 0800 955 1042, Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm
- **Email:** newspecialschool@yourshout.org
- Freepost RTXU-JGSR-KHLE (SEN), Your Shout, 28 China Works, SE1 7SJ

Are there any other ways I can have my say on the proposals?

We are also holding three events where you will have the opportunity to ask questions – in advance or on the day. If you have questions but you are unable to attend, you can submit them via the website and your questions will be answered.

- **Monday 25 September, 7 pm**, online
- **Monday 9 October, 1 pm**, online
- **Wednesday 4 October, 3 to 7 pm**, St Nicholas Church, Whetstone Road, SE3 8P

If you plan to attend, please ensure you register before hand.

What is at the Hargood Road site at present?

The Hargood Road site, SE3 8HR is currently vacant and ready for development.

It was previously home to Kidbrooke Park Primary School before it moved into its new school building at Holburne Road, SE3 8JG in 2021.

All-Through Special School RBG

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Will you be running another consultation for the primary phase site once the proposed site is confirmed? ^

No, the Royal Borough of Greenwich will not be running a separate consultation for the proposed primary phase site once the site is confirmed.



All-Through Special School RBG

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Recording of first communityUK event (25 September 2023, 7pm)

[Click for the in-person event](#)

[Click for second communityUK event](#)

Here are the consultation slides used in the presentation: [Consultation slides](#) (warning opens a large file PDF)



Start	▶
Introduction of panel members	▶
Architects presentation	▶
Question on area sustaining two schools	▶
Question on buses	▶
Question on police being consulted	▶
Question on construction management plan	▶
Question on how places to school allocated	▶
Question on walking route improvements	▶
Question on community use of the building	▶
Question on timescale of the project	▶
Question on when reports will be available	▶
Question on whether people can view application do	▶
Concluding remarks and how to provide feedback	▶
END	▶

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI



Some images from the in-person event (Wednesday 4 October, 3pm to 7pm)

[Click for first communityUK event](#)

[Click for second communityUK event](#)

Below is a collage of images from the public consultation event.



All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCI



Recording of second communityUK event (Monday 9 October, 1pm)

[Click for first communityUK event](#)

[Click for in-person event](#)

Here are the consultation slides used in the presentation: [Consultation slides](#) (warning opens a large file PDF)



Start	▶
Introduction of panel members	▶
Architects presentation	▶
Question on provision for children with ASD	▶
Question on location of the school	▶
Question on traffic increase	▶
Question on anti-social behaviour	▶
Question on drop-offs from mini busses	▶
Question on public transport	▶
Question on cycle scheme & provision	▶
Question on community use of the school	▶
Question on number of pupils per year	▶
Question on consultation with TIL and the police	▶
Question on school addition to the area	▶
Question on school provider	▶

All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Appendix: Consultation events – example reminder email

Dear residents

Welcome to the consultation for the new all-through special school for Royal Greenwich.

The Royal Borough of Greenwich is working to meet increased demand for specialist provision in the borough. The proposal is to set up a new all-through special school for children and young people with an Education and Health Care (EHC) Plan. .

We are continuing our consultation events for residents to take part.

The online event is at 1pm.

You can take part in the online event on the following <https://newspecialschool.communityuk.site/registeredparticipant>

The online event will last between 30 and 90 minutes, depending on how many questions we receive.

We will also livestream this event on our [YouTube channel](#) - search for communityUK on youtube ([here's a handy guide](#)). Use the [text-only](#) page to send questions. Today's YouTube [link is here](#).

After the event, we will place the recordings on the website. Questions will be timestamped for ease of watching, and you'll be able to turn on auto-generated captions (subtitles).

You can also share your views about the project. [Click here](#) to share your views.

We recommend you check your set up before the event starts. We start the livestream 15 minutes before each event so you can test your set-up in advance.

We hope you enjoy your experience of the communityUK platform. If you want to rate your experience about the platform, [click here](#).

If you need any help, our event helpline is open 30 minutes before each event, on [0800 511 8225](#).

We stream live on our website via Vimeo. If you have problems viewing the video, you can use our [YouTube stream](#), or you may need to [update your browser](#).

Regards

communityUK



All-Through Special School RBG

Statement of Community Involvement - SCl

Appendix: Comments submitted by email

Comments and questions submitted using the dedicated email address.

I've looked at the notification re the new school on Hargood Road. I have one concern and that is management of the additional traffic it will generate. Presumably pupils will come from all over the borough and by some form of private / special transport. The roads leading to the school from Shooters Hill Road (Begbie and Eastbrook) are quite narrow and cars do park on both sides of the roads. They also get busy at rush hour. It would seem sensible therefore, to avoid jams, if buses taking children to the school were asked to use existing bus routes wherever possible.

There will be a detailed traffic management plan carried out by Transport Consultants who will study the additional parking pressures for all. We will consult at an early stage with Transport for London and the Metropolitan Police.

How do I express my views about the proposed building of the school at Hargood Road via email. Is there a specific format/form to follow or just free email format?

As well as this consultation there will be opportunity at the planning consultation to express your views.

I am writing about the plans to open a new All-through special school in Kidbrooke, specifically the "secondary" (to 19 years) in Hargood Road.

I live at 89 Holburne Road with my family and young child, on the corner of Holburne and Hargood, so I know the area really well and I am very interested in the development.

We do believe that opening a new school at the site in Hargood Road is a very bad idea for a number of reasons:

There used to be a primary school at that location, and it has been moved 400 metres up the road. Which means that building on the old site would not replace a school, but add one to the neighbourhood.

Building there would increase traffic in the area. The two roads leading to Hargood Road from North and South are usually completely stuck at school drop off and pick up times. Adding a school in Hargood Road would make this situation worse, adding pollution, travel time, and bringing back the problem that residents faced in the past when parents taking the kids to Hargood Road would park in front of private driveways. The area can't afford more traffic at school time.

There is just one bus route going through the whole of Kidbrooke (line 386) which is already overcrowded at school times, with people left at the stop when the drivers can't allow anyone else on the bus. Any other bus line is more than 10 minutes' walk away from Hargood Road. The only train station is at least 15 minutes' walk away. This

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makes the site unsuitable for a school serving a wider area, and it would get even more cars in the already crowded roads.

There is no fast access for the police. A special needs school with teenagers up to 19 years of age is a catalyst for trouble, and the roads are narrow, filled with lane-wide speed bumps, some are one-way-only roads, and even police cars can't intervene quickly in case of necessity. This would put residents and their property in grave danger.

Greenwich council has proven to completely neglect Kidbrooke in the past years. For example, one of the pavements in Hargood Road had been opened for roadworks and it was left open for 11 months before being badly patched up with tar and cement just one week ago. The problem was reported to the council via FixMyStreet by many people, and continuously ignored. Bringing a new school, more cars, requiring more maintenance in an area that is neglected means to condemn the entire area.

On the note of the distance to transport, the only way to get to Kidbrooke train station, which offers a now reduced service by SouthEastern after the latest change in the timetables, is through a narrow and dark wooded area along the motorway. The lane, running along the A2, is an open-air landfill thanks to the council's lack of maintenance, and it feels unsafe after dusk. Forcing more problematic teenagers down that path would put both them and other residents at risk.

Bottom line: Kidbrooke can't take the load of another school, definitely not before seeing a massive improvement in the quality of services provided to the area and its residents. There are much better locations for such facilities, more accessible, not overcrowded, better served by transport and police.

Your Shout

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Black Prince Road
London
SE1 7SJ



0800 955 1042

hello@yourshout.com

Your Shout is part of Thorncliffe Communications Ltd

