

# **Application for Secretary of State's consent under Section 77 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to dispose of school playing field land**

## **Background**

The former Brentwood School closed on the Brentwood Avenue site in 2016 after the School relocated to a new purpose built School on Cherry Lane, Sale. Since then the former Brentwood Avenue site has been mothballed and was put on the Strategic Land Review Programme.

The Council owns 2a Houldsworth Ave, Timperley known locally as the Brentwood House. The house was used to provide pupils at Brentwood School the opportunities to learn independent living skills. With the re-location of the School the house became surplus to requirements. The Executive agreed the disposal of the house in March 2018.

In Autumn 2018 a feasibility study was undertaken to see if Education could utilise the former Brentwood School site for another Education purpose as opposed to selling the building and its land.

In a report to the Executive on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018 it was agreed that the former Brentwood School site be used to co-locate Trafford High School (THS) and Trafford Medical Education Service (TMES) and to place the following sites on the strategic land review programme;

Former Trafford High School, Lydney Road, Flixton, M41 8RN

Former Trafford Medical Education Service, 350 Flixton Road, Flixton, M41 5GW

The refurbishment work at the former Brentwood School site has been completed so that THS and TMES can re-locate over the next few weeks.

The decision to dispose of the two sites was made on the basis that;

**Trafford High School site** is a former 1FE primary school, however, the building has high condition needs and is not fit for refurbishment. The site is located at the edge of the Trafford boundary and therefore not in a suitable location for another primary school. There is also no demand for further school places in this area in the foreseeable future.

**Trafford Medication Education Service site** was originally a youth club and has had modifications to create teaching spaces. There are only two reasonable classroom spaces and three smaller spaces neither of which can accommodate more than 6 pupils. The space upstairs does not have disabled access and therefore has limited usage. The outdoor area is unsuitable for PE activities.

The Council are now reviewing future options for the above sites which will be subject to Executive approval.

## **Sale Proceeds**

Any capital receipt from the sale of these sites will be used to fund the refurbishment works at the former Brentwood School. The remainder of the disposal proceeds will be ring-fenced for capital facilities for sport (which will take priority), recreation or education facilities within the Borough.

All nearby schools with a shortage of playing field land have been contacted separately. *'Playing field' is defined as land in the open air which is provided for the purposes of physical education or recreation. Physical education and recreation is considered to mean team games, non-team games, informal and social activities and the study or enjoyment of the natural environment.*

Disposal of former school sites requires Secretary of States approval via a Section 77 application. This consultation will feed into this application and an analysis of the comments will be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

## **Have your say**

If you wish to make any comments on the proposed disposal please visit;

<https://trafford.citizenspace.com/children/schoollandchanges>

or by email to [schoolprojects@trafford.gov.uk](mailto:schoolprojects@trafford.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below no later than Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020;

Schools' Capital Projects Team,  
Trafford Council,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Waterside House,  
Sale,  
M33 7ZF