

STATUTORY NOTICE OF DECISION

Laurel Park School 6th Form Proposal

Introduction

Enfield Council undertook a public consultation about a proposal for Laurel Park School to add a post-16 vocational offer to the current provisions. This report summarises the consultation process and the responses that were received.

The Council has considered the consultation responses, as well as other information, in taking a decision on the proposal. The next stage in this process is to publish a Statutory Notice in accordance with The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. This report would form part of that Statutory Proposal.

Consultation process

The consultation considered the proposal from Laurel Park School for a new post 16 vocational offer.

The consultation period was for four weeks, from 1st December 2023 to 12th January 2024.

There was a single consultation document that was mainly posted on all the Council's digital media platforms and school website and also sent to a wide range of stakeholders (Annex 1 provides the list of stakeholders who were sent the document). The list of stakeholders reflects the school organisation guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

No in person consultation meeting was held in this instance. This report includes the responses received as part of this consultations. (Annex 2).

Individuals, groups of individuals, or organisations were able to respond to the consultation by sending their response to the Head of Strategic Resourcing and Partnerships - Education, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, EN1 3XQ or via email to Neil Best: neil.g.best@enfield.gov.uk.

All consultation responses were reviewed. Quantitative information was analysed to ascertain who had responded (i.e., pupils, staff, parents, residents).

Who responded?

The following table outlines the written responses to the consultation. These include responses submitted online or on paper as well as emails or letters.

Unique responses	Pupil	Staff	Governor	Parent	Local resident
4	0	0	1	1	2

There were 4 responses in total in relation to the consultation, 2 from residents, one from a governor of Laurel Park School and the last one from a parent.

Were the responses supportive of the proposal?

The following table outlines the responses from the stakeholder categories identified.

	Unique Responses	Governor	Parent	Local Resident
Strongly in Favour				2
In favour		1	1	
Oppose				
Strongly Oppose				

All the responses were in favour of the new post 16 vocational offer.

Decision


Following the official consultation period, the council has decided based on all information present that Laurel Park School's proposal to establish a post – 16 Vocational offer to provide T level courses have been approved without modification.

Enfield Council's decision was primarily based on the following guidelines.

- **Program Design:** The structure and design of the T Levels program align with industry standards and educational objectives. The emphasis on practical skills development and real-world application resonates well with the essence of T Levels.
- **Industry Collaboration:** The commitment to forging strong partnerships with relevant industries is commendable. These connections should enhance the experiential learning opportunities for students and ensure the program's relevance in the current job market.
- **Resource Planning:** The detailed resource planning, encompassing facilities, equipment, and instructional materials, indicates a thorough understanding of the requirements for a successful T Levels implementation. This reflects a keen understanding of the evolving educational landscape, and the acknowledgement and support for these initiatives should provide a dynamic learning environment.
- **Community Engagement:** The emphasis on fostering community engagement through extracurricular activities, outreach programs, and partnerships with local organizations resonates with the commitment to developing responsible and engaged citizens.

Copies of the complete proposals with this statutory notice and final decision will be published on the Council's website at www.enfield.gov.uk and The School Hub.

For further enquiries, kindly email Neil Best (neil.g.best@enfield.gov.uk).

Signed:  Neil Best (Head of Strategic Resourcing & Partnerships)

Signed: PETER NATHAN Peter Nathan (Director of Education)

Annex 1: List of stakeholders

The consultation document was available online throughout the consultation period on the Enfield Council website and the School Hub.

Links to the consultation document was shared by the Council to the following stakeholders:

1. The Governing Body and Headteacher of all state-funded schools in Enfield (including primary, secondary, and special maintained schools, academies, and free schools).
2. All Institutions providing further education in the borough.
3. All Councillors of Enfield Council.
4. Neighbouring Councils (Barnet, Haringey, Waltham Forest, Hertfordshire, and Essex).
5. The parents of all pupils at a school and staff.
6. The faith organisations who act as the foundation for state-funded faith schools in the borough: Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster, London Diocesan Board for Schools (Church of England), the United Synagogue.

Annex 2: Responses received as part of this consultations.

RESPONDENT 1: response received on 28/11/2023

I have read the proposal for a sixth form offering t-levels at Laurel Park school and am writing to express my strong support. I am a social worker and child mental health professional. I consider that there is a need for Enfield to offer a range of educational options for young people from the diverse local community. The opportunity for some students to remain in the same educational setting throughout their school life will be a huge benefit, especially for the most vulnerable students. With a mental health crisis amongst young people and a huge rise in those struggling to attend school and engage in learning, now is the time to be developing a broad and inclusive offer.

RESPONDENT 2: response received on 19/12/2023

I would like it noted that I strongly support this proposal. The new Head is doing an outstanding job of leading the school, staff and pupils, and the opportunities this proposal would provide for students cannot be underestimated. It is a wonderful community school with dedicated staff and lovely students. There is currently no other post 16 vocational pathway within the area, or even within the borough, as far as I am aware. Enfield/local young people who want to study vocational courses have to travel to Haringey and Barnet to access the courses they want, and this will also be the case for my child, who is currently a pupil at Laurel Park School. I am an Enfield resident and live locally to the school. All other current 6th form provision in the borough focusses on an academic pathway (A levels), which do not meet the needs of all young people in the borough. This is an opportunity for Enfield to demonstrate its commitment to being fully inclusive, by taking this fantastic opportunity to have an excellent school provide a vocational post 16 pathway for those Enfield students who wish to pursue it. For some students, the option of remaining local to continue their studies or training is a strong factor in their decisions about what to do and where to go, and this proposal would be able to support those students too. I strongly support the proposal and hope to see the proposed plans come to fruition. It will be an asset to Enfield and it's young people, and to the local area. The Head and school community deserve some recognition for the ongoing amazing work that is already going on within the school, and I am convinced this provision, if it goes ahead, will be an extension of that, and will offer an excellent opportunity for young people to develop and succeed.

RESPONDENT 2: response received on 19/12/2023

I write as a governor at Laurel Park School to support the proposal to establish a post 16 vocational offer. Given the number of students currently leaving the borough for vocational courses, it feels that Laurel Park School is ideally situation to offer this provision in-borough. With our new, dynamic headteacher in place, it would undoubtedly encourage many students to continue their education in a supportive environment which has a real opportunity to make a difference to their lives. We know from conversations that have taken place within the school that the thought of leaving Laurel Park is sometimes an intimidating one for our students. On a practical level, Laurel Park School has the space, the drive and the desire (from the young people, the staff and the governors) for this provision. I myself work in the theatre sector and know that vocational studies are becoming increasingly important for us - there should be multiple routes into not just this sector but many others. An academic route is not for everyone; nor is the path to university always a viable one given the financial commitment required. I know that the world of theatre is working hard to attract new employees from diverse backgrounds, and we would welcome applicants with the sort of skills that the proposed courses would facilitate. I hope that you will support the proposal which I believe can only have a positive impact on our young people, the school, and the borough of Enfield.

RESPONDENT 4: response received on 21/12/2023

I am writing in support of the proposed expansion of Laurel Park School. I am a parent governor at the school and both as a parent and a governor I have witnessed at first hand the transformation that has taken place over the last year. As a parent, I have seen first-hand the opportunities offered by the school to their students such as the introduction of a fortnightly enrichment afternoon this year. In previous years my son was afforded the opportunity to debate against other (often prestigious) schools as well as participate in a mock trial competition. My daughter is enjoying the aforementioned enrichment afternoons. In short it is a changed school and deserves praise and recognition of that fact. As a governor I see at first hand the drive, determination and passion of the headteacher and the senior leadership team to do the absolute best for the students in their care and the school. As the proposal states, a substantial percentage of last year's GCSE students felt the need to seek further education opportunities outside of the borough. We know from research done within the school that a number of those students would have stayed on at Laurel Park had the opportunity been available. We believe there is a shortage of Enfield schools offering post 16 vocational courses. and also know that at present East Barnet school is the nearest institution planning on introducing a wide variety of T-levels. Therefore, having a provision like this in Palmers Green will give local students (from both Enfield and Haringey) looking for a more vocational post GCSE education an option near home and within Enfield. A number of our students join the school in Years 10 & 11, often new to the country. A number of those would have definitely benefitted from being able to continue the education at Laurel Park, rather than moving to another school so soon after arriving in a new country. Every time I go into the school I am impressed by the progress that has been made, by the feedback the school receives about its pupils from members of the public, and by the vision and drive of all the staff and pupils to improve and build on the existing successes of their school. Staff in the school are genuinely invested in their pupils' progress, and where required bespoke programmes are put into place to help those that need them. Enabling the school to provide this sort of environment and education post-16 in an area suffering a shortage of vocational education could only be a positive thing and would help secure the future of this great school. I would therefore strongly encourage you to allow the school expansion to proceed.