

Bid to turn union building into school 'is accepted'

A DEAL has been struck which should see Crouch End with the new primary school it desperately needs.

Council chiefs have put forward an offer to buy the old Trades Union Congress

By ALISON CAMPSIE

(TUC) building on Crouch End Hill, which is said to have been accepted.

Councillor George Meehan, executive member for education and lifelong learning,

says the final details of the deal are still to be ironed out.

But he agreed the latest development was a "significant step forward" in solving the area's school places crisis.

Councillor Meehan said: "It's good news. I

can't see any reason why this sale will not go ahead.

"It is going to take a little time to do a proper assessment on the building, and obviously we want to do that as quickly as possible.

"It is a good building, but we just have to make sure how suitable it is for a school in its present state."

It is proposed that the new school should be a two-form entry.

Architects will examine the site to work out if parts of the building need to be extended or demolished.

Last year, more than



■ "IT'S GOOD news," says Councillor George Meehan

80 parents did not get a place for their child in a Haringey school.

Pressure on places has been particularly acute in the west of the

borough, due to the 2000 baby boom and an acceleration of house building projects.

At the time of press, the TUC could not confirm the deal had been finalised.

But Barbara Roche (Labour), MP for Hornsey and Wood Green, says she is "absolutely thrilled" with the deal.

She said: "I understand that the TUC has accepted the council's offer on the building, although it is subject to all sorts of fine detail.

"I am absolutely thrilled with this news, particularly because it was my idea to see the building used in this way.

"We desperately need this school provision."