

# **REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 October 2012
<b>Subject:</b>	School Expansion Programme
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Catherine Doran Corporate Director Children and Families
<b>Scrutiny Lead</b>	Councillor Christine Bednell, Children and Families Policy Lead
<b>Member area:</b>	Councillor Zarina Khalid, Children and Families Performance Lead
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out a summary of the school expansion programme, with particular reference to the funding of the programme and to the consultations undertaken.

### **Recommendations:**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to note this report and offer comments.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

1. The local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area. There are several key strands to delivering sufficient school places as an increasing pupil population impacts across primary, secondary and special school provision. The focus of this report is on the primary school expansion strategy. The increased demand for places will impact on the secondary sector from 2016. A report on the Special School Special Educational Needs (SEN) Placements Planning Framework was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 11 October 2012.
2. In July 2011, Cabinet agreed a school expansion programme as part of the School Place Planning Strategy. The strategy aims to secure sufficient primary school places through the creation of additional permanent places, supplemented by planned bulge classes and contingency bulge classes, opened if required.

### **Consultations about the expansion of schools**

3. Following this Cabinet decision, engagement and consultation processes about the permanent expansion of schools were undertaken.

### **Borough-wide primary expansion programme consultation**

4. A borough-wide consultation was undertaken between 10 October 2011 and 11 November 2011. The consultation document set out the challenge for Harrow to meet an increased demand for school places and proposed the permanent expansion of 11 schools from September 2013. This would be preceded by temporary bulge classes in a number of these schools from September 2012. The proposals were developed following consideration of all schools and applying principles developed in consultation with a representative group of headteachers.
5. The consultation documents were circulated widely to stakeholders and interested parties including all schools in Harrow, councillors, diocesan and faith organisations, neighbouring local authorities and interested parties including MPs and voluntary sector organisations. Information was posted on the Harrow Council website and an item was included in the October edition of Harrow People.
6. The outcomes of this consultation were reported to Cabinet on 15 December 2011. Cabinet gave its approval to move to the statutory process for permanent expansion of recommended schools.

### **Statutory consultation about the expansion of nine schools**

7. Statutory consultations were held between 16 January 2012 and 27 February 2012 about proposals to expand permanently nine schools on seven sites:
  - Camrose Primary School with Nursery
  - Cedars Manor School
  - Glebe Primary School

Marlborough Primary School  
Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School  
Pinner Park Junior School  
Stanburn First School  
Stanburn Junior School  
Vaughan Primary School

8. Harrow Council distributed consultation information to a wide range of stakeholders in accordance with the Department for Education School Organisation and Competitions Unit guidance. The distribution included neighbouring local authorities, local MPs, Councillors, unions, diocesan bodies, voluntary organisations, and Harrow Youth Parliament. Information about the statutory consultations and the primary school expansion programme was put on the Harrow Council website, together with a facility for online response to the consultations. The schools distributed information and response forms to their school communities, including parents and local residents as they considered best, and arranged meetings and displays to enable discussion about the proposals. Officers attended consultation meetings at 8 of the schools.
9. The outcomes of the statutory consultations were reported to Cabinet on 4 April 2012. Cabinet gave its approval to the publication of statutory notices to expand permanently the nine schools.

#### **Publication of statutory proposals**

10. Statutory proposals were published for a four week representation period from Monday 16 April to Monday 14 May 2012. The statutory notices and complete proposals were distributed in accordance with the Department for Education School Organisation and Competitions Unit guidance. Public notices were posted on school gates, in libraries and published in Harrow Times. Complete proposals were made available through the Harrow Council website and at the schools.
11. No formal representations in relation to the statutory proposals were received by Harrow Council. At its meeting on 20 June 2012, Cabinet approved the statutory proposals to expand permanently the nine schools. Following Cabinet's decision, there is a legal duty to implement the proposals.

#### **Capital programme to effect the school expansions**

12. Capital building works will be needed at the schools proposed for expansion to be able to accommodate the additional children.
13. Design work has been progressed, and the capital build programme for these schools will be progressed in phases over five years. Planning applications have been submitted for the schools to enable the necessary accommodation to be in place when the schools expand. There is a statutory planning process following the submission of the planning applications.
14. As a preliminary to the submission of these initial planning applications, open meeting for parents and local residents were held. These open

meetings provided an opportunity for parents and local residents to view the design drawings and talk to representatives from the school, architects, constructors and Harrow Council. Comments were invited for consideration by the project team, prior to finalising plans for the submission of the planning application. The open meetings were held in July and September and were publicised to parents through the schools and to local residents via a leaflet distribution to the surrounding streets in accordance with the Planning Department's practice when planning applications are submitted. Meetings such as these are not a statutory requirement and were considered to be appropriate to convene for engagement with the school communities and local residents.

## Financial Implications

15. The 2012/13 to 2014/15 Capital Programme included the cost of permanently expanding the nine schools, estimated at £26.2m. A break down of the reported indicative costs for each school and the funding is detailed in the table below. At this stage the figures are indicative figures provided for illustrative purposes.

School	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Estimated Cost Based on Initial Feasibility
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Camrose	200					200
Cedars Manor		125				125
Glebe	1,000	500				1,500
Marlborough	2,500	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	10,500
Pinner Park I&J	700	400	1,000	750		2,850
Stanburn F&J	1,150	1,000				2,150
Vaughan	4,500	4,400				8,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,050</b>	<b>8,425</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>26,225</b>
<b>Funded By</b>						
Capital Programme – DfE Grant	3,100	3,325	2,500	2,750	2,000	13,675
Capital Programme – Council Funding	1,250	500	500	0		2,250
Capital Programme - Other	3,300	4,600	0	0		7,900
Carry Forward from 2011/12 Programme	2,400	0	0	0		2,400

16. There is considerable range in the cost to achieve permanent expansion which reflects the individual nature of the schools and their sites. Some sites, due to capacity and stock condition, require minimal capital investment while others, such as Vaughan and Marlborough, would require significant rebuild to address capacity and condition.
17. Department for Education (DfE) capital grants are currently anticipated to be insufficient to fund the expansion programme so council funding, totalling £2.25m, was allocated in the capital programme. In addition the capital programme recognised the need for an additional £7.9m to fully fund the expansion programme, £3.3m anticipated in 2012/13 and a

further £4.6m in 2013/14. It was anticipated that this would be met from additional funding streams including monies from planning gains.

18. Since the capital programme was agreed, the DfE have announced an extra £2.64m of capital grant for Harrow in 2012/13. In addition, through savings on schools projects and the reallocation of funding, there is potentially a further £1.4m available to be used to fund the Expansion Programme. These funds go part way to addressing the £7.9m funding requirement and fully address the £3.3m required in 2012/13.
19. Furthermore three of the schools have been prioritised in the Government's Priority School Building Programme (PSBP). This programme is intended to address those schools in the worst condition nationally and the schools will either be rebuilt or have their conditions met. These schools are Cedars Manor School, Marlborough Primary School and Vaughan Primary School. Currently only limited details of the Government's plans for the PSBP are known so it is still too early to ascertain what impact it will have on the Primary Expansion Programme. A meeting with the Education Funding Agency, who are dealing with PSBP for the government, is planned for November in order to understand more about the programme and the implications it has on the School Expansion Programme projects and funding.

## **Performance Issues**

20. Harrow is a high performing Local Authority and the large majority of local services are judged to be good or better by Ofsted. Schools in Harrow perform well in comparison to national and statistically similar local authorities. Most primary schools and all secondary schools are judged good or outstanding.
21. The Schools White Paper and Education Act 2011 maintain a focus on driving up standards in schools, and place more of the responsibility with the schools directly for their improvement. The role of the Local Authority in measuring performance and driving improvement is changing significantly and will reduce from its current level. However, the Local Authority will maintain a strategic oversight and enabling role in local education, and is likely to retain some role in monitoring educational achievement and key measures such as exclusions and absence. The exact nature of the respective roles and responsibilities is still emerging and is being discussed with the schools.
22. Although the national indicator set has been abolished by the Department for Communities and Local Government, all of the key education indicators remain in place and continue to be reported to the Department for Education (DfE). This situation remains under review and the DfE is yet to provide clear guidance on if and how educational performance will be judged at a borough level.
23. There are implications for the provision of performance and management information to other services within Children's Services where schools' data is not transferred to and held by the Council. This includes data from academies and other schools not taking up some interdependent SLAs.

Data sharing agreements have been established with the 7 new academies to mitigate this risk.

### **Environmental Impact**

24. The school expansion programme will have an environmental impact that will need to be considered. Schools account for 50% of the council's total carbon emissions (62% of emissions under the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme – [CRC]) and will need to play a full part in reducing these emissions by 4% per annum, as set out in the council's climate change strategy.
25. The government's position on whether the council or academies are responsible for emissions under the CRC is yet to be clarified.
26. For those schools that are proposed for expansion, planning applications will be required and part of the application will be a travel plan. Through this process and the development of the solutions for the schools, the impact of the additional pupils and their travel modes will be addressed.

### **Risk Management Implications**

27. The directorate and corporate risk management implications for the council arising from school place planning are included on the directorate and corporate risk registers.
28. The key risks for this programme are affordability and an over or under estimate of pupil growth.
29. Several funding streams have been identified and the feasibility studies have identified the capital investment required to ensure that high quality school places will be established.
30. The permanent expansions are planned to meet the minimum growth as indicated by the pupil projections. Although an additional number of places or planning factor is usually applied the position will need to be monitored to avoid over provision. Bulge classes will enable this to be managed as will the re-commissioning of accommodation in schools that have been larger previously.

### **Equalities Implications**

31. Equalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken by officers and headteachers on the schools proposed for expansion. The conclusions of these assessments are that the implications are either positive or neutral in that the expansion of the schools will help to ensure sufficient school places for the increasing numbers of children in Harrow.
32. Harrow's schools are successful and inclusive and provide a diversity of provision. The school expansion programme will ensure sufficient school places for the increasing numbers of children in Harrow and will build on the successful provision that already exists in Harrow's schools. The draft Special Schools SEN Placements Planning Framework considers the

potential increased demand for school places for children with disabilities arising from the growth in the school age population overall.

### **Corporate Priorities**

33. These considerations will support the Council's Corporate Priorities:

- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	9 October 2012		
Name:	Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	9 October 2012		

### **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Adrian Parker, Head of Education Strategy and School Organisation  
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**Background Papers:**

None