

REPORT FOR: Education Strategy Consultative Forum

Date of Meeting:	30 January 2013
Subject:	Secondary School Place Planning Strategy
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Catherine Doran, Corporate Director of Children and Families
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Mitzi Green, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report outlines the proposed approach to develop a secondary school place planning strategy to ensure that there are sufficient secondary school places in Harrow.

Recommendations:

Education Strategy Consultative Forum is requested to:

1. Consider and comment on the proposals for the Secondary School Place Planning Strategy
2. Note the proposed process and timeline to develop and agree the Strategy
3. Receive a progress report in the Autumn on Secondary School Place Planning.

Reason: (For recommendation)

Harrow Council has a statutory responsibility to secure sufficient school places in its area. The proposed Secondary School Place Planning Strategy will ensure that there is an agreed approach to manage secondary school places over the next 5 years.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. Harrow Council has the statutory duty to secure sufficient quality, school places in its area. This duty is across all phases of schools; primary; secondary and special school provision. Like many London Boroughs Harrow is experiencing a growing population which is increasing demand for school places particularly in the primary sector. As the commissioner of school places, progress has been made to address the immediate pressure in demand for primary school places. Phase 1 of the expansion programme is being implemented and Cabinet have agreed the approach to develop a Phase 2. In addition, a Special School and SEN Placements Planning Framework is being developed with options to increase provision in special schools.
2. Given the increase in pupil numbers in primary schools, there will be an impact on secondary schools from about September 2015/6. Initially it is expected that there will be capacity within the existing schools to manage this growth. However, the projections indicate that there will be a shortfall of secondary places starting in September 2016. However, the extent of the shortfall will depend on a number of variables including the final size of Avanti House and any other successful free school proposals.
3. The Secondary School Place Planning Strategy will contribute to the delivery of the Council's statutory duty for school places. This report outlines how the Council will work with the community of schools in Harrow to ensure that there are sufficient secondary school places through the development of the Secondary School Place Planning Strategy.
4. The proposed approach to develop the strategy will contribute to the Council achieving its corporate priorities:
 - United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads
 - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Options considered

5. At this stage, there are no specific options to consider that will increase the capacity in secondary schools in Harrow. The options available are to increase the size of existing schools either on a temporary or permanent basis, or to open new schools. If a new school is opened it would be a free school established as part of the government's academies and free school programme.

Context

6. In Harrow there are 10 secondary schools making provision for pupils aged 11 to 18; 8 are academy schools, one is a voluntary aided (VA) school and one is a community school. There are two special secondary schools for pupils with severe and complex needs and moderate learning difficulties making provision for pupils from 11 to 19. There is one all through free school that makes provision for pupils aged 4 to 18.
7. Through partnership, collaboration and support between the schools, colleges and the local authority the secondary school landscape in Harrow has changed significantly in the last few years:
 - By September 2009, sixth forms were established at all the secondary schools;
 - September 2010, the strategic school reorganisation in Harrow moved Year 7 pupils into the community secondary schools;
 - August 2011, 7 secondary schools converted to academy status;
 - August 2012, a VA school converted to academy status;
 - September 2012, the all through free school opened and recruited Year 7 pupils; and,
 - a free school will open for alternative education provision in September 2013.
8. Within this period the role and function of the local authority has also changed significantly. The local authority retains the statutory duty to secure sufficient school places, but in the role of a commissioner rather than provider. The Council has always worked in partnership with schools to develop and implement major changes that contribute to improving schools and education outcomes. As the commissioner of school places, the Council's partnership approach will continue, working with all schools and providers in Harrow to ensure the best education and schools for the communities of Harrow.

Secondary School Place Planning Strategy Aim and Objectives

9. The aim of the Secondary School Place Planning strategy is to ensure that there are sufficient secondary school places in Harrow. The Strategy will be developed in partnership with schools and will be the basis on which Harrow Council commissions secondary school places. It will provide the framework that brings together the strategic planning of the local authority with individual school development planning. It will also set out how the schools together with the local authority could

contribute to increasing provision, including new provision through the Government's academy programme.

10. The objectives for the local authority are to:
 - secure sufficient high quality secondary school places in Harrow by commissioning schools and other providers;
 - work with schools and providers to increase provision and develop new secondary school places in Harrow to meet demand through the Government's academy and free school programme;
 - create a stronger community of schools across primary and secondary sectors; and
 - inform the Council's capital strategy to allocate the government's basic need capital funding to support the provision of school places;
 - provide a strategic context for the local authority's Planning Committee to consider planning applications.
 - To ensure that the Councils strategy to meet educational need is reflected within the corporate Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) delivery programme

11. The objectives for the schools will depend on the aspirations of the school governing bodies and existing planning constraints. For some schools it may be to increase or reduce their school size, for others it maybe to propose new schools. It is expected that the strategy will inform the development plans so that where Governing Bodies are considering decisions that affect the size of the school; these are done so in the strategic context of the need for places in Harrow and site capacity constraints.

12. In addition, if Governing Bodies are considering capital investment these decisions can be considered in the context of the need for places and whether there can be greater value for money if proposals are implemented jointly and with combined funding streams.

13. Changes to school buildings including those for expansion are subject to the granting of Planning Permission. The planning constraints and temporary permissions affecting schools need to be considered alongside the challenges facing the schools in meeting future need. Within the document, that reflect the Council's planning policies. For example, seeking to consolidate the building footprint on school sites, to replace temporary accommodation with permanent etc.

Proposed Scope of the Secondary School Place Planning Strategy

14. The main focus will be on proposals to manage the growth arising from increased cohorts currently in primary schools as they progress into the secondary sector. The Secondary School Place Planning Strategy will cover the following:
 - analysis of Secondary School roll projections;
 - consideration of future housing growth proposals on local demand and impacts

- Consideration of existing school buildings against the Council's obligations on carbon reduction commitment/liabilities
 - guiding principles to increase provision, and;
 - an action Plan to manage provision over the next 3-5 years
15. The Strategy will also link with the Primary School Expansion Programme and the Special School and SEN placements Planning Framework.

Timelines and Next Steps

16. It is proposed that a representative working group of headteachers from secondary schools and primary schools with officers is convened with the remit to:
- develop the scope of the Strategy;
 - undertake further analysis of pupil projection data;
 - outline a series of actions in response to the data analysis, including where appropriate options to increase capacity;
 - plan a stakeholder engagement strategy including all governing bodies, parents and young people, local communities;
 - implement the engagement strategy, and;
 - consider the responses and comments and make recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families on the action plan.
17. A report will be presented to Cabinet during the Summer that will provide a draft Secondary School Place Planning Strategy including an action plan.
18. A timeline to develop the strategy is outlined as follows:
- Representative Headteacher group established - February 2013
 - Strategy development completed - end of March 2013
 - Engagement Strategy April – May 2013
 - Report to Cabinet - July 2013

Legal Implications

19. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 makes it a duty for local authorities to secure sufficient schools for primary and secondary education to meet the needs of their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.
20. The section also requires local authorities to exercise their functions with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.
21. Under s.14(6), local authorities shall in particular have regard to the need for securing that primary and secondary education are provided in separate schools (not applicable to special schools) and the need for

securing that special educational provision is made for pupils who have special educational needs.

22. Section 15ZA of the Act also places duties on local authorities to secure that enough suitable education and training is provided to meet the reasonable needs of persons in their area who are over compulsory school age but under 19 (and those who are aged 19 or over but under 25 and are subject to learning difficulty assessment). Compliance with this duty can be met by securing provision of education or training outside a local authority's area.

Financial Implications

23. At this stage, there are no financial implications to the Council but any secondary school expansion programme will inevitably have significant financial implications. School revenue budgets are funded from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). As the Department for Education (DfE) allocates DSG based on pupil numbers, any increase in pupil numbers results in additional revenue funding. This additional revenue funding, through the Harrow Schools' Funding Formula, will provide the revenue funding for any secondary expansion programme.

A secondary expansion programme will require additional capital spend. Until the expansion programme is developed it is not possible to quantify the cost. The Council receives funding from the DfE for the provision of school places through the Schools Basic Need funding. However this funding is for all state funded schools and historically was not adequate to fund the primary expansion programme.

In developing the expansion proposals officers will seek to mitigate the financial impact by maximising the benefits from government policies and new housing development. For example, the contribution of Free Schools to school provision and Section 106 contributions to mitigate the impact of new housing developments within Harrow. The capital cost of delivering a secondary school expansion would need to be considered as part of setting the Council's future Capital Programme.

Risk Management Implications

24. Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
25. Separate risk register in place? No
26. The key risk is that there are insufficient secondary school places. In developing the strategy in partnership with schools, this risk is expected to be reduced as a strategic approach will be adopted and individual schools will be able to make decisions in the context of a borough wide strategy.
27. A further risk is of insufficient capital funding. One of the objectives of the Strategy is to inform the Council's DfE capital allocation to basic need projects. Where schools are proposed for expansion, basic need funding will be allocate to support the expansion.

Equalities implications

28. Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No
29. Equalities Impact Assessments will be carried out on any options developed to increase capacity.

Corporate Priorities

This report contributes to the 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: 15 January 2013		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 14 January 2013		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Johanna Morgan, Education Professional Lead, 020 8736 6841

Background Papers:

Primary School Expansion Programme Report to Cabinet June 2012
Special Schools and SEN placement Planning Framework Report to Cabinet October 2012.