

Considerations about the proposal in relation to the Decision-Makers Guidance

The decision maker for these statutory proposals is the local authority, and this report presents the proposals to Cabinet for determination. If the local authority fails to decide proposals within two months of the end of the representation period the local authority must forward proposals, and any received representations, to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for decision. This two month period will end on 1 February 2015.

Decision Makers are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State when they take a decision on proposals. New school organisation regulations and associated guidance came into force on 28 January 2014. The guidance documents are available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-organisation-maintained-schools>.

'Annex B: Guidance for Decision-makers' sets out some the factors that decision-makers should consider when deciding a proposal. These factors are not exhaustive and the importance of each will vary depending on the type and circumstances of the proposal. All proposals must be considered on their individual merits.

The format of this Appendix follows the framework of the Annex B guidance. The text in italics at the start of each section contains extracts from the guidance to assist members to understand the context. The text beneath the extracts in each section contains officer comment in relation to the factors.

Consideration of consultation and representation period

The decision-maker will need to be satisfied that the appropriate consultation and/or representation period has been carried out and that the proposer has had regard to the responses received. If the proposer has failed to meet the statutory requirements, a proposal may be deemed invalid and therefore should be rejected. The decision-maker must consider all the views submitted, including all objections to and comments on the proposal.

Consultation about the proposal to expand Grimsdyke School was conducted from Tuesday 16 September to Monday 20 October 2014. The consultation responses and outcomes (see 'Views submitted' section below) were reported to the Corporate Director for Children and Families when making the decision to publish statutory proposals.

Statutory proposals to expand to expand Grimsdyke School were published on 3 November 2014 for a four week representation period which closed on 1 December 2014. In order to make the nature of the proposals explicit and clear for all stakeholders, the brief notice and the full proposal stated as full information as possible. It is considered that all necessary information was provided and made available for stakeholders and interested parties to see.

The brief notice and full proposal were developed with close reference to the Government guidance. It is considered that the published brief notice and full proposal comply with the statutory requirements.

Education standards and diversity of provision

Decision-makers should consider the quality and diversity of schools in the relevant area and whether the proposal will meet or affect the aspirations of parents, raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps.

The decision-maker should also take into account the extent to which the proposal is consistent with the government's policy on academies as set out on the department's website.

Quality of schools

Schools in Harrow perform well in comparison to national and statistically similar local authorities. The vast majority of primary schools and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by OfSTED. As at 31st March 2014, 90% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding', compared to 85% in London and 80% nationally (Source: Ofsted Data View).

Diversity of schools

There is a range of schools in Harrow offering diversity to parents both in terms of ethos and size. Harrow has a Church of England primary school, a Hindu primary school, a Jewish primary school, six Roman Catholic primary schools and two Roman Catholic high schools. Primary sector schools are organised as separate and combined infant and junior schools and have a range of planned admission numbers from one to four forms of entry.

Harrow is committed to securing greater autonomy, flexibility and scope for schools to drive their own agendas within a collaborative whole-borough framework. Harrow's success in this approach is demonstrated through the Harrow School Improvement Partnership and the Harrow Collegiate.

The community of Harrow schools has a tradition of collaboration and cooperation and is confident to develop and embrace innovative solutions. Within this context the local authority, in partnership with schools, will continue to explore routes that provide creative and innovative solutions for challenges faced by individual schools and groups of schools, and provide a means to secure school improvement.

Two primary schools established an academy trust to drive improvements in education attainment. Another primary school joined an academy trust with a high school.

Aspirations of parents

The responses to the consultation undertaken on Phase 2 school expansion proposals in September – October 2013 indicate broad agreement with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow. Over 60% of respondents agreed with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow.

The responses to the consultation undertaken on the proposal to expand Grimsdyke School indicate agreement with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow. 50% of respondents agreed with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow and only a quarter of respondents disagreed with the approach. Over half the respondents to the second consultation question disagreed with the Council's proposal to expand Grimsdyke School and 29% agreed.

However, 57 responses were received to the consultation about the proposed expansion of Grimsdyke School. This response level of 57 needs to be viewed in the context of some

hundreds of response forms distributed to parents, staff and local residents. Also the publicising of the online consultation response portal on the Harrow Council website.

The consultation responses and outcomes are summarised in the 'Views submitted' section below.

Raise local standards and narrow attainment gaps

A key principle identified by officers and representative primary headteachers in the work to develop expansion proposals was the maintenance of high quality education standards, and all schools with council support as necessary will work to ensure high education standards are promoted through the expansions. The governing bodies and senior leadership teams of the schools will ensure appropriate structures are in place to manage the increased numbers of pupils and deliver the curriculum.

Suitable accommodation and facilities will be provided to accommodate the increased pupil numbers. Revenue funding is based on pupil numbers and the funding for increased numbers of pupils can enable opportunities for schools to be creative in use of resources to promote pupils' learning.

Closing the Gap is a fundamental part of Ofsted's school inspection process, and accordingly, the Local Authority monitors the attainment of identified groups of pupils in its schools.

Government policy on academies

The Government's policy on academies is not directly applicable to this expansion proposal. The proposal does not create a new school which is when the 'academy presumption' applies. The governing body of the school is at liberty to consider conversion to academy school status regardless of whether the school is expanded or not.

Demand

In assessing the demand for new school places the decision-maker should consider the evidence presented for any projected increase in pupil population (such as planned housing developments) and any new provision opening in the area (including free schools).

The decision-maker should take into account the quality and popularity of the schools in which spare capacity exists and evidence of parents' aspirations for a new school or for places in a school proposed for expansion. The existence of surplus capacity in neighbouring less popular schools should not in itself prevent the addition of new places.

Reducing surplus places is not a priority (unless running at very high levels). For parental choice to work effectively there may be some surplus capacity in the system as a whole. Competition from additional schools and places in the system will lead to pressure on existing schools to improve standards.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) prepares the pupil projections for Harrow Council. The GLA uses a range of information and data to prepare the projections including the number of births, number of pupils in Harrow schools, migration to Harrow and new housing development. Across London the population is growing, and the main reason for this is increasing birth rate.

The demand for Reception class places (for pupils reaching 5 years of age) in Harrow schools is increasing:

- In January 2006 there were 2,224 Reception aged pupils in Harrow schools;
- In January 2013 there were 2,879 Reception aged pupils in Harrow schools;

- In January 2014 there were 3,030 Reception aged pupils in Harrow schools;
- In January 2016 it is projected there will be 3,463 Reception aged pupils in Harrow schools.

To ensure sufficient school places to meet the increased demand, temporary additional Reception classes have been opened since 2009. In order to meet the actual and predicted increased demand in the next few years there is a need to increase the number of permanent school places, in the primary sector initially and in the secondary sector in due course. Additional places are also required to meet increased demand for provision to meet special educational need.

In September 2012 there were a total of 2,550 permanent Reception class places in Harrow's primary sector schools. Phase 1 of the primary school expansion programme was implemented in September 2013 with 8 schools in the borough permanently increasing their Reception intakes. In September 2015, when all the Phase 2 schools are expanded, there will be 3,240 permanent Reception places.

In order to ensure sufficient school places to meet the predicted increased demand by September 2016, Harrow needs to increase the number of permanent Reception places by at least a further 300 places to a total of 3,540. The Phase 3 proposals, that include Grimsdyke School, aim to ensure sufficient school places at the right time and in the right location to meet the increased demand up to 2016/17. Full information about the projected demand for school places and the planning to increase school places across Harrow can be viewed in the 17 July 2014 Cabinet papers (item 21 School Expansion Programme Appendix B) at <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=62354&Ver=4>

The total number of parental preferences in applications for Reception places at Grimsdyke School increased this year, and the first preference numbers are at the proposed expanded admission number.

School size

Decision-makers should not make blanket assumptions that schools should be of a certain size to be good schools, although the viability and cost-effectiveness of a proposal is an important factor for consideration. The decision-maker should also consider the impact on the LA's budget of the need to provide additional funding to a small school to compensate for its size.

Harrow's school expansion programme is very significant and is expected to involve all schools in opening additional classes on either a permanent or temporary basis. Over half the primary schools in Harrow will be permanently expanded by the end of the school expansion programme.

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 for the expanding school. The revenue funding is allocated to schools based on the Harrow Schools' Funding Formula. School budgets are based on pupil numbers in the October prior to the start of the financial year, so there is always a funding lag when schools increase their pupil numbers. To ensure that schools who agree to an additional class are not financially penalised, the Harrow School Funding Formula provides 'Additional Class Funding' for the period from September to the end of March, following which the mainstream funding formula will take effect. This ensures that schools have adequate funding for at least the average costs of a teacher.

Proposed admission arrangements (including post-16 provision)

In assessing demand the decision-maker should consider all expected admission applications, not only those from the area of the LA in which the school is situated.

Before approving a proposal that is likely to affect admissions to the school the decision-maker should confirm that the admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code. Although the decision-maker cannot modify proposed admission arrangements, the decision-maker should inform the proposer where arrangements seem unsatisfactory and the admissions authority should be given the opportunity to revise them.

No changes to admission arrangements arise from these proposals. Grimsdyke School is a community school that draws pupils from its local area and the admission arrangements of the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code.

No changes to post-16 provision arise from the proposals.

National Curriculum

All maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum unless they have secured an exemption for groups of pupils or the school community.

Grimsdyke School follows the National Curriculum and no changes to this arise from these proposals.

Equal opportunity issues

The decision-maker must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) of LAs/governing bodies, which requires them to have 'due regard' to the need to:

- *eliminate discrimination;*
- *advance equality of opportunity; and*
- *foster good relations.*

The decision-maker should consider whether there are any sex, race or disability discrimination issues that arise from the changes being proposed, for example that where there is a proposed change to single sex provision in an area, there is equal access to single sex provision for the other sex to meet parental demand. Similarly there should be a commitment to provide access to a range of opportunities which reflect the ethnic and cultural mix of the area, while ensuring that such opportunities are open to all.

Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the proposal to permanently expand Grimsdyke School. The conclusion of this assessment is that the implications are either positive or neutral in that the expansion of the school will help to ensure sufficient school places for the increasing numbers of children in Harrow. The assessment has not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and concludes that all opportunities to advance equality are being addressed.

Harrow's schools are successful, 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.

Community cohesion

Schools have a key part to play in providing opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to learn with, from and about each other; by encouraging, through their teaching, an understanding of, and respect for, other cultures, faiths and communities. When considering a proposal, the decision-maker must consider its impact on community cohesion. This will need to be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the community served by the school and the views of different sections within the community.

This is a community school which draws pupils from its local area and the pupil profile reflects the ethnicity of its area. The October 2014 School Census demonstrates that the school has an ethnically diverse pupil population.

Travel and accessibility

Decision-makers should satisfy themselves that accessibility planning has been properly taken into account and the proposed changes should not adversely impact on disadvantaged groups.

The decision-maker should bear in mind that a proposal should not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs, or result in too many children being prevented from travelling sustainably due to unsuitable walking or cycling routes.

A proposal should also be considered on the basis of how it will support and contribute to the LA's duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport to school.

Schools that are proposed for expansion are located around the borough so that additional school places are available locally to where the children live. This approach minimises distances that children and parents have to travel to school and serves to promote accessibility. This helps to limit the need for car use by parents at the beginning and end of the school day. As far as possible, it is believed the schools chosen for expansion would be a popular choice amongst parents wishing to secure a place at their local schools.

The schools proposed for expansion, as is the case at many schools in Harrow, already have a degree of traffic and congestion issues from the current school intake and the expansions will exacerbate the problems if no mitigating measures are taken. To minimise the impact of the additional pupils a cross-council approach has been adopted to bring officers together from the Children & Families and Environment & Enterprise directorates to work with schools and local residents. Transport Assessments at schools approved for expansion and Transport Statements at additional special educational needs place provision are undertaken and are submitted as part of the planning application for building work at the schools. Particular emphasis is being given to School Travel Plans as a means of focusing attention of the issues and to seek to bring about change in people's behaviour in delivering and collecting children.

Capital

The decision-maker should be satisfied that any land, premises or capital required to implement the proposal will be available and that all relevant local parties (e.g. trustees or religious authority) have given their agreement. A proposal cannot be approved conditionally upon funding being made available.

Where proposers are relying on the department as the source of capital funding, there can be no assumption that the approval of a proposal will trigger the release of capital funds from the department, unless the department has previously confirmed in writing that such resources will

be available; nor can any allocation 'in principle' be increased. In such circumstances the proposal should be rejected, or consideration deferred until it is clear that the capital necessary to implement the proposal will be provided.

If these statutory proposals are approved, Grimsdyke School would require building work to be undertaken to provide appropriate accommodation for the additional children.

Initial site scoping work has been undertaken by architects and has indicated how the additional school places could be accommodated through a combination of new build and remodelling of the existing school accommodation.

Detailed feasibility work and surveys will be undertaken to develop design proposals and develop costings. This feasibility work would ensure that the necessary building work could be completed by September 2016 and any necessary interim accommodation requirements could be made for the intake of additional children in September 2015.

The budget for the school expansion programme, including primary school expansions in Phase 1 and Phase 2 and three expansions at Phase 3, secondary school expansions and provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) is £89.784m.

Based on current estimates and market conditions it is expected that it is possible to deliver this programme with Education Funding Agency capital grants, without the need for council capital funding. If the programme is not deliverable within the current programme then borrowing may be required. This risk is being monitored closely in consultation with Cabinet Members.

School premises and playing fields

Under the School Premises Regulations all schools are required to provide suitable outdoor space in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely.

Guidelines setting out suggested areas for pitches and games courts are in place although the department has been clear that these are non-statutory.

Government regulations and guidelines are considered in relation to all the schools proposed for expansion in the school expansion programme when undertaking the design work to accommodate the additional pupils. All schools are considered in the same fair and transparent manner when identifying the design for building works. The current school facilities are considered against Building Bulletin 103 to analyse any current and potential shortfalls. Full consideration is given to suitable outdoor and indoor space in order to enable physical education to be provided to pupils in accordance with the school curriculum; and for pupils to play outside safely.

Views submitted during the expansion consultation

Consultation about the proposal to expand Grimsdyke School was held between Tuesday 16 September 2014 and Monday 20 October 2014. Officers attended an open consultation meeting on 14 October 2014 at the school about the expansion proposal to give a presentation and answer questions.

Consultation responses

57 responses were received to the consultation. Respondents were primarily parents/carers and residents. Responses from organisations are set out below under 'Other responses to the consultation'. A number of comments were included with the responses and the three main

themes are summarised below together with officer response to the themes. The comments received are in Background Papers to the Cabinet report.

Two questions were asked in the consultation. They were:

- “Do you agree with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow?”
- “Do you agree with the proposal to permanently expand Grimsdyke School?”

Both questions offered the option to respond ‘Yes’, ‘No’, or ‘Not Sure’ to each question. Opportunity was given for comments to be added after each question if the respondent wished to do so.

The following tables provide overall responses to the consultation questions.

The overall responses to Question 1 were:

Question 1: “Do you agree with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow?”

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	29	50.88%
No	14	24.56%
Not Sure	14	24.56%
Total	57	100.00%

The overall responses to Question 2 were:

Question 2: “Do you agree with the proposal to permanently expand Grimsdyke School?”

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	17	29.82%
No	32	56.14%
Not Sure	8	14.04%
No Response	0	0%
Total	57	100.00%

Analysis of comments received

The responses made to the first consultation question indicate agreement with the Council’s approach to creating additional school places in Harrow with only a quarter of respondents disagreeing with the approach.

Over half the respondents to the second consultation question disagree with the Council’s proposal to expand Grimsdyke School.

The response level of 57 needs to be viewed in the context of some hundreds of response forms distributed to parents, staff and local residents. Also the publicising of the online consultation response portal on the Harrow Council website.

Other responses to the consultation

Governing Body

The formal response by the Governing Body of Grimsdyke School to the statutory consultation is as follows: “The full Governing Body of Grimsdyke School discussed the proposed expansion of Grimsdyke School on Tuesday 14th October. We are in agreement that Grimsdyke School should be expanded to three form entry from 2015 providing that we are provided with a building that will meet the needs of the school as discussed with the Architects. The full Governing Body has some concern around traffic etc. as well.”

Hatch End Association

Hatch End Association responded

- agreeing with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow
- Not sure about the proposal to permanently expand Grimsdyke School.

The Association commented “The Hatch End Association support the expansion of the school on the condition that the traffic congestion problems are solved. The school has single road access through Colburn Avenue with congestion at present but would be unsustainable with a 50% increase in school numbers.”

Four emails were received from residents in the generic email account SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk about the proposed expansion. These emails expressed concerns about the insufficient road infrastructure around the school for the volume of traffic, unsafe driving practices, inconsiderate parking and antisocial behaviour by drivers towards residents. The authors were encouraged to respond to the consultation via the Harrow Council website so all the consultation responses could be collated together.

Officer response to the consultation comments

The three main themes in consultation comments relate to:

- Harrow’s approach should be to create new schools
- school site and building issues relating to an expanded school;
- traffic and congestion issues.

Harrow’s approach should be to create new schools

Sites for new schools in Harrow are very limited and there cannot be enough new schools to go more than a comparatively small way to meet the increased demand for school places. New schools also need to be proposed in the Government’s Free School Programme to establish new state-funded schools which are not in the control of local authorities. Free schools are an important element of the school expansion programme in Harrow and Avanti House and the Jubilee Academy are already open in Harrow, and three further successful applications were announced by the Government on 30 September 2014 to be opening in 2016. Harrow Council will continue to support this programme in the interests of Harrow residents and to help meet the demand for additional school places.

School places are being created as local as possible to where the children live. 90% of Grimsdyke’s increased intake of 90 Reception pupils this September live with 0.75 of a mile of the school.

School site and building issues

Architects will be engaged to undertake school site scoping and survey work to develop design proposals for the school if it is decided it will be expanded. This work will begin with understanding the current school arrangements and identifying an optimum and affordable design solution for the increased size of school. This work will take account of the comments and issues raised during the consultation and will be undertaken in liaison with the school.

The design proposal will be subject to open pre-planning engagement with the school community and local residents so comments can be taken into account and influence the final design that is submitted in the planning application if the expansion of the school is approved.

Traffic and congestion issues

The concerns expressed about traffic congestion, parking and road safety in the area are fully recognised and are the consistent major theme arising from the expansion consultations. To

minimise the impact of the additional pupils attending the schools proposed for expansion, a cross-council approach is being implemented. This approach brings officers together from Children and Families, Enterprise and Environment and Communications to co-ordinate work.

This proposal would require a building programme, for which planning permission would be needed. If an application is submitted, a decision on this will be a matter for the Planning Committee. This committee will consider highways and traffic concerns and the impact of the development on the local area. Residents and parents who believe they are impacted by this decision are entitled to make representations to the planning committee during the statutory planning consent timescales.

Representations about the statutory proposals

70 representations in relation to the statutory proposals were received by Harrow Council by the closing date of the representation period on 1 December 2014. The representations are attached in Appendix 1 to the Cabinet report.

A letter dated 26 November 2014 was received from the Governing Body of Grimsdyke School. The letter is attached as Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report.

Governing Body of Grimsdyke School

The Governing Body supports the proposal to expand the school.

The letter states governors have been made aware of the comments that have been made in the consultation programme and in letters to the school and the council. Governors appreciate the need to deal with the issues raised around traffic and have tasked a committee with developing an updated Travel Plan with officers from Harrow. The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that the expansion does not negatively impact on the teaching and learning for the current pupils.

Representations by email and letter

The following representations by email and letter were received:

- 65 emails to the SchoolReorganisation@harrow.gov.uk email address
- Letter dated 24 November 2014 from The Hatch End Association
- Four letters from local residents

Many representations stated a consultation document had not been received.

The majority of the representations refer to the existing traffic congestion and anti-social driving behaviour in the area of the school and object to the proposed expansion of Grimsdyke School on the basis of the increased traffic congestion issues that will result. Reference is made to a number of issues, including:

the need for traffic management and enforcement; safety of pedestrians; narrow roads; access via Hillview Road is a bottleneck; difficulty for emergency vehicles to access the area quickly at school times; the impact of charging in the car park behind the shops off Grimsdyke Road on parking in local roads through the day; congestion at the junction of Grimsdyke Road and Uxbridge Road; parents ignoring parking restrictions; parents blocking and reversing into driveways, parking in the pavement green areas and parking on the grass within the park.

Comment was also made about the impact of new building at the school on neighbouring properties, the issue of construction traffic access and a suggestion to locate the school on two separate locations.

Officer comment about the representation by email and letter

The representations clearly set out a range of existing traffic issues in the area of Grimsdyke School and resident concerns that these issues will be exacerbated by the proposed expansion of Grimsdyke School. The representations also include some helpful suggestions about possible mitigations for the problems, all of which will be considered.

Consultation document

Extensive efforts were made to bring the expansion proposal to the attention of residents in the area and a view was taken about the distribution of consultation documents accordingly. The following is a summary of the consultation activity undertaken about the expansion proposal.

Consultation about the proposed expansion was held from Tuesday 16 September 2014 to Monday 20 October 2014. The consultation had been scheduled to close on Wednesday 15 October, but was extended until Monday 20 October at the request of the Hatch End Association and attendees at the open meeting to allow more time for responses to be made. Written information about the consultation was sent to all parents, staff and governors of the school. Letters in specially designed envelopes were also distributed during week beginning 22 September 2014 to 350 households in the vicinity of the school. This included all houses around the circumference of the school on Lyndon Avenue, Colburn Avenue and Sylvia Avenue, along with all houses which adjoin the route from the school to the Grimsdyke Road, along Colburn Avenue and Hillview Road. The consultation papers included invitation to an open meeting for parents, staff and residents at the school on Tuesday 14 October at 6.30 – 7.30 pm. Direct invitations were sent to The Hatch End Association and the Hatch End Trade Association. Hatch End Ward Councillors were notified about the consultation and the distribution to residents.

All consultation documents were posted on Harrow Council's website and on 'Your Say' for online responses.

Statutory proposals to expand permanently Grimsdyke School were published on 3 November 2014 for a four week representation period. The public notice was displayed on the school gates, in local libraries and in the Harrow Times.

A visit was arranged to Grimsdyke School by both local newspapers (Harrow Times and Harrow Observer) who subsequently published articles raising awareness of the expansion plans. These articles both quoted the School's and the Council's determination to tackle the traffic and parking issues raised at an early stage with residents.

The processes demonstrate that a very wide consultation has begun and, the Council's and school's commitment to addressing local concerns, especially about traffic, as part of the consultation about the expansion proposal. This is exactly in keeping with the Council approach across all 22 school expansion projects now in progress or recently completed.

It is apparent from the representations submitted by email that many were submitted following receipt of written information distributed by road stewards of The Hatch End Association to addresses that included other roads around the school area. This would explain references to the consultation document not being received. Email response was sent on Friday 5 December 2014 to those who emailed their representations explaining the distribution of the consultation document and other activity to bring the proposal to public attention as outlined above. The response included information, as outlined below, about the council's and school's response to the issues of traffic congestion and anti-social driving behaviour that had been raised.

Traffic congestion and anti-social driving behaviour

The traffic congestion issues are recognised and are being addressed within the school expansion programme processes. The approach includes:

- Schools are being expanded across Harrow to provide the additional school places close to where the children live. This approach reduces the need for cars to be used to take children to and from school and reduces car use across the borough. This is demonstrated at Grimsdyke School in that 90% of the September 2014 Reception intake of 90 children live within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the school. Over two thirds live within $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile of the school. The scale of the school expansion programme is huge, with over half of Harrow's primary schools with Reception intake expanded by September 2015 and more will be expanded in Phase 3 of the programme.
- Experience in expanding schools across Harrow has identified a number of tools and solutions which the Council and schools can deploy. Deploying these resources in the right way can contribute to a decline in traffic around expanded schools, even while extra pupils are added.
- Transport Assessments are undertaken at all schools approved for expansion as part of the Planning process. These Transport Assessments are done by independent specialist contractors and include surveys and observations of traffic in the relevant area. The outcomes and recommendations from the Transport Assessments are considered so plans can be put in place to address them. The planning applications include the Transport Assessments and will be consulted upon fully in a separate process that includes opportunities to comment.
- Updated School Travel Plans are submitted as part of the planning application. These travel plans can include a number of techniques for reducing car use and altering parent behaviour. Grimsdyke School Governing Body has tasked a committee with developing an updated School Travel Plan with officers from Harrow. School Travel Plans are a powerful way to influence parental behaviour and have been proven to encourage walking to school and actually reduce car use. They are accredited by the Mayor of London, and other expansion schools in Harrow have achieved Gold accreditation, which signifies a decrease in car use of 6% or 90% of pupils travelling sustainably. Work will be done to achieve Gold level of accreditation.
- For both the Transport Assessment and School Travel Plan work it should be borne in mind that schools expand by admitting an additional Reception intake each year so that the school fills incrementally over a 7 year period. This gives time to work at addressing issues on a planned basis before the schools are fully expanded.
- Parking enforcement activity occurs at all schools. Schools that are increasing pupil numbers receive additional attention, and are targeted for additional enforcement visits by two dedicated CCTV cars. Grimsdyke School is currently visited at least twice weekly by the CCTV cars.
- If Grimsdyke School is approved for expansion, a planning application would be prepared and submitted for the additional accommodation and facilities needed at the school. Distribution of consultation information on the expansion proposal has deliberately included local residents to bring the proposal to early attention in recognition of traffic congestion issues around schools at drop-off and collection times. When design proposals have been developed there will be public engagement activity to help inform the final design proposal. This includes a drop-in event for residents to see work in progress on issues including traffic and design and contribute thoughts and suggestions. Architects, council officers and school representatives would be available at the event, including traffic and travel planning officers.