

Meeting:	School Organisation Committee
Date:	3 November 2005
Subject:	Review of School Organisation Plan 2003-2008
Responsible Officer:	Executive Director, People First
Contact Officer:	Madeleine Hitchens
Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

## **Section 1: Summary**

This report provides the School Organisation Committee with an up-date on the School Organisation Plan for 2003-08 and advises of a change in status to the School Organisation Plan.

### **Decision Required**

#### **School Organisation Committee Members are requested to:**

- ❑ Consider the Review of the School Organisation Plan and comment as appropriate.
- ❑ Agree the Review of the School Organisation Plan is circulated to all stakeholders
- ❑ Consider the role of the SOC in light of the non-statutory nature of the SOP.

### **Reason for report**

To update Members of the SOC on school organisation issues and to advise them of the repeal of the SOP and its replacement by the Children & Young People's Plan (C&YPP). A report on the C&YPP is on the Agenda for this meeting.

## **Benefits**

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement for a SOP, there is still a need for the LA to set out its strategic vision and to show how developments in school place provision will raise standards and improve outcomes for all pupils in its area and promote good community relations.

## **Cost of Proposals**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **Risks**

Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to prepare and publish a SOP, there is still a need for the LA to set out its strategic vision and to review the organisation and provision of school places in order to secure:

- 1) The raising of standards.
- 2) Improved outcomes for all pupils.
- 3) Greater diversity in the type of schools in the authority's area.
- 4) Increased collaboration between schools.
- 5) Greater community cohesion.

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

The LA will not have a mechanism for reviewing and evaluating school organisation proposals as an integral element of Harrow Council's approach to raising school standards.

## **Section 2: Report**

### Brief History

Under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Local Authorities (LAs) were required to prepare School Organisation Plans (SOP). This Act also established School Organisation Committees. The key purpose of the SOP was to set out clearly how the LA plans to meet its statutory responsibilities to secure sufficient education provision within its area in order to promote higher standards of attainment.

The School Organisation Plan was one of seven statutory plans repealed by the Children Act 2004. As from 1 March 2005 there is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a SOP. The Children Act also requires Children's Services Authorities to prepare and publish a Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

This is the second review of the SOP 2003-2008. The first review was agreed by SOC on 22 March 2004. There are two sections to the review:

- Section One: Changes to the status of the School Organisation Plan and role of the School Organisation Committee.
- Section Two: Up-date on key school organisation issues

### Future of the SOP and role of the SOC

Despite the change in status of the SOP, there is still a need for the LA to set out its strategic vision and to review the organisation and provision of school places in its area.

Members of the SOC will wish to consider their role in light of the non-statutory nature of the SOP and the requirement for the LA to have a process for dealing with:

- Individual statutory proposals.
- Provision of school places to meet the LA's statutory responsibility to secure sufficient education provision within Harrow.
- Factors affecting the demand for provision of school places and establishing a framework for assessing their impact.
- Reviewing demographic information in order to support decision making on changes in the organisation of provision, within the context of improving educational standards.

### Options considered

N/A

### Consultation

There is no legal requirement to consult or publish this review of the School Organisation Plan 2003-2008. Copies will be sent to all schools and governing bodies and partner organisations for information.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Legal Implications

None

### Equalities Impact

The School Organisation Plan is an integral element in Harrow Council's approach to raising school standards. It has close links with other plans for children and young people and is central to raising standards, improving outcomes for all pupils and promoting good community relations

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

Background documents:

School Organisation Plans 1999-2004, 2000-2005, 2001-2006, 2002-2007, 2003-2008