

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 21 November 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 the Stag Lane schools was conducted from Monday 24 November to Tuesday 16 December 2014. The consultation responses and outcomes (see 'Views submitted during the expansion consultation' section below) were reported to the interim Corporate Director People Directorate when making the decision to publish statutory proposals.

Statutory proposals to expand the Stag Lane schools were published on 24 August 2015 for a four week representation period which closed on 21 September 2015. 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 2015 88% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding', compared to 86% in London and 82% 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, two Roman Catholic high schools and an all-through inclusive Hindu faith-designated free school. Primary sector schools are organised as combined and separate 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. An academy primary school has extended its age range to include secondary provision and expanded to become an all-through 4-18 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 the Stag Lane schools indicated agreement with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow. 69% of respondents agreed with the Council's approach to creating additional school places in Harrow and only 15% of respondents disagreed with the approach. Almost two thirds of respondents agreed with the Council's proposal to expand the Stag Lane schools and under one third disagreed.

The consultation responses and outcomes are summarised in the 'Views submitted during the expansion consultation' 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 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 schools is at liberty to consider conversion to academy school status regardless of whether the schools are 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. Many London Boroughs use this service. Pupil projections provide the best estimate of the number of pupils that will require a school place in Harrow in the future. Harrow's school expansion programme aims to increase the number of school places in line with the expected growth in pupil numbers.

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 housing development.

In Harrow's primary sector schools from September 2015 there are a total of 3,330 available permanent Reception places. In order to ensure sufficient school places to meet the predicted increased demand by September 2016, we need to increase the number of permanent Reception places by at least a further 210 places to a total of 3,540. The Phase 3 proposals,

that include the Stag Lane schools, aim to ensure sufficient school places at the right time and in the right location to meet the increased demand up to 2016/17.

The updated 2015 primary school projections indicate that pupil numbers entering Reception classes in Harrow will continue to increase, though at a slightly lower trajectory than predicted in last year's projections. This lower trajectory does not change the overall projection of significant increased numbers of children entering Reception classes in Harrow until 2022/23, at which point Reception numbers are projected to plateau. However, the updated projections are indicating different levels of increase and stability in the Primary Planning Areas.

Reception numbers in the South East Primary Planning Area, within which the Stag Lane schools are located, are predicted to be higher than previously forecast. The most recent projections presented to Cabinet in July 2015 indicated that there would continue to be growth in this planning area and that an additional 4 forms of entry will be required by September 2016. Full information about the projected demand for school places and the planning to increase school places across Harrow can be viewed in the 14 July 2015 Cabinet papers (item 227 School Expansion Programme Cabinet report and Appendix B) at

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=62717&Ver=4>

The expansion of the Stag Lane schools would contribute to the increase projected. There are 7 primary schools in the South East Primary Planning Area: 5 community schools; one voluntary aided school, and; one academy school. From September 2015, 4 of the 5 community schools will have been expanded and the academy school has also increased its size by one form of entry.

The Stag Lane schools attract children from the local area. Over 90% of September 2014's Reception intake into Stag Lane Infant and Nursery School live within half a mile of the school. The September 2014 Reception intake was 120 pupils because of a temporary additional (bulge) Reception class and was therefore at the level of intake that would apply if the school was expanded permanently.

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. If approved for expansion the Stag Lane schools would be four forms of entry primary schools, which would be the tenth in Harrow.

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. The Stag Lane schools are community schools that draw pupils from their local area and the admission arrangements of the schools 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.

The Stag Lane schools follow 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 Assessments have been undertaken on the proposals to permanently expand the Stag Lane schools. The conclusion of these assessments is 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. The assessments have not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and conclude 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.

These are community schools which draw pupils from their local area and the pupil profiles reflect the ethnicity of their area. The May 2015 School Census data demonstrates that the schools have 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 across directorates to work with schools and local residents. Transport Assessments at schools approved for expansion 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 on the issues and to seek to bring about change in people's behaviour in delivering and collecting children. (See the section below on 'Traffic congestion and parking' for more detail)

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, the Stag Lane schools 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 would be progressed to develop design proposals and develop costings. This feasibility work would ensure that any necessary interim accommodation requirements could be made for the intake of additional children in September 2016.

The budget for the school expansion programme, including the Phase 3 expansion schools, through to 2018-19 is £124.944m. The current construction market in the UK and in particular in London is extremely buoyant with many construction firms working to capacity and with full order books. Because of this, the cost of construction related materials, labour and professional services are at a premium. In order to ensure sufficient funds are available to deliver the Phase 3 projects, including the Stag Lane schools if approved for expansion, on 17 September Cabinet approved a virement to the Capital Programme transferring £5.465m of funding from the as yet uncommitted Phase 4 School Expansion Programme to Phase 3 to fund these increasing costs from within the overall approved capital programme. The financial risks to the school expansion programme are 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 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 the Stag Lane schools was held between Monday 24 November and Tuesday 16 December 2014. Information about the consultation was sent by the schools to all parents/carers and staff. Harrow Council arranged for 300 letters to be

delivered to residents at properties adjoining the school site and in approach roads. The letters were delivered by a distribution company on Friday 28 November 2014. The distribution area included addresses in: Collier Drive; Constable Gardens; Millais Gardens; Leighton Close; Cotman Gardens; Hogarth Road. Officers attended open consultation meetings for parents with children attending the schools (on Tuesday 9th December) and for local residents (on Thursday 4th December) at the schools about the expansion proposal to give a presentation and answer questions.

Consultation responses

186 responses were received to the consultation via the Harrow Council website 'Your Say' consultation portal and through completed response forms. Respondents were primarily parents/carers, residents and staff. A number of comments were included with the responses and the five main themes are summarised below together with officer response to the themes. The comments received are provided 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 the Stag Lane schools?"

Both questions offered the option to respond 'Yes', 'No', or 'Not Sure'. Opportunity was given for comments to be added after each question if the respondent wished to do so. The comments received are provided in Background Papers. The main themes from the responses are summarised below together with officer response.

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	129	69.35%
No	29	15.59%
Not Sure	26	13.98%
No Response	2	1.08%
Total	186	100.00%

The overall responses to Question 2 were:

Question 2: "Do you agree with the proposal to permanently expand the Stag Lane schools?"

Response	Number	Percentage
Yes	117	62.91%
No	53	28.49%
Not Sure	15	8.06%
No Response	1	0.54%
Total	186	100.00%

Responses by respondent type

The response to the statutory consultation questions by respondent type is as follows:

Numbers Overall	
Harrow Resident	20
Parent/Carer	124
Pupil	2
School Staff	29
School Governor	2
Other	4
Blank	5
Total	186

The responses by respondent type for the first consultation question were as follows:

Do you agree with the approach to creating additional school places in Harrow?	Harrow Resident	Other	Parent / carer	School Staff	Pupil	School Governor	Blank	Total
Yes	11	3	97	11	2	2	3	129
No	4	1	11	13	0	0	0	29
Not Sure	5	0	15	4	0	0	2	26
No Response	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	20	4	124	29	2	2	5	186

The responses by respondent type for the second consultation question were as follows:

Do you agree with the proposal to permanently expand the Stag Lane schools?	Harrow Resident	Other	Parent / carer	School Staff	Pupil	School Governor	Blank	Total
Yes	3	3	93	12	0	1	5	117
No	15	1	19	15	2	1	0	53
Not Sure	2	0	11	2	0	0	0	15
No Response	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	20	4	124	29	2	2	5	186

Monitoring information

When completing their responses to the consultation, respondents were invited to provide information about how they perceive their social identity to assist with monitoring the effectiveness of the consultation outreach. Anonymous information was requested under the

The response level of 186 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.

Governing Body response to the consultation

At its meeting on 14 July 2015 the Governing Body recognised the need for the Local Authority to provide additional school spaces in this area and accepted that expansion would take place on the Stag Lane schools site. They recognised the inadequacy of some of the present buildings. They asked that Harrow Council, the architects and contractors would make every effort to work closely with the staff of both schools taking into account their knowledge, expertise and commitment to the best interests of the children including those children attending the school now. They asked that Harrow Council also took into account the concerns of the wider local community. (See the main report paragraph 7 for the Governing Body response to the statutory proposals)

Consultation comments

Opportunity was given for comments to be added after each question if the respondent wished to do so. The comments in the consultation responses are provided in Background Papers.

The five main themes in consultation comments and responses relate to:

- Build new schools or expand other schools
- The expansion would benefit the children in the local area
- Not enough space at the school for expansion
- Impact on pupil learning and safety
- Traffic congestion and parking

Officer response to these main themes is given below.

Officer response to the consultation comments

Build new schools or expand other schools

There are very limited options for new schools because Harrow has not got the sites. Also, experience shows it is not easy to deliver new schools when there are sites identified. Nevertheless, all options for new schools are pursued. The Jubilee School has opened. Avanti House School has been in the borough for two years, though the final site for the secondary phase is not secured yet. Other free schools have been announced by the Government: Harrow View Primary School; St Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School; Pinner High School; The New School for Harrow.

Other schools around the Stag Lane schools are already expanded or approved for expansion: Camrose Primary School with Nursery; Krishna Avanti Primary School; Glebe Primary School; Kenmore Park schools; Priestmead Primary School and Nursery; Whitchurch Primary School; Stanburn Primary School.

The expansion would benefit the children in the local area

The Stag Lane schools attract children from the local area. Over 90% of September 2014's Reception intake into Stag Lane Infant and Nursery School live within half a mile of the school. The September 2014 Reception intake was 120 pupils because of a temporary additional (bulge) Reception class and was therefore at the level of intake that would apply if the school was expanded permanently.

Not enough space at the school for expansion

Careful consideration and planning is made when identifying schools to propose for expansion and throughout the consultation and design processes. This work is done in close collaboration with schools. Harrow has a good track record of successfully bringing forward and seeing through design proposals to expand schools.

When expanding schools, the sites are looked at holistically to enhance the sites and help school standards. Also, we seek to address condition and other issues through the building work as far as possible.

Architects have already been working with the Stag Lane schools to draw up site scoping options for how the additional children may be accommodated if it is decided they will expand. The whole schools' site is being considered to identify the optimum solution for the expanded schools. Alternative use of some areas and perhaps some internal reconfiguration would be considered to suite the year group classes in close proximity to each other. Also, it may be possible to reprovide the accommodation in the mobile units so they could be removed to optimise external hard play space. Outside play space could be reconfigured to maximise its use for the children in nursery, infant and junior phases.

Impact on pupil learning and safety

The concerns expressed relate mainly to: perceptions of inadequate space at the schools for the children causing pressure and stress; extra strain on school resources and staff, and; concerns about the safety of children on the approach roads.

These concerns will be addressed through the design work for the expanded Stag Lane schools (see above) and the actions on traffic congestion and parking summarised below. A key principle for the council and schools in the expansion proposals is the maintenance of high quality education standards. All schools, with council support as necessary, work to ensure high education standards are promoted through the expansions. Schools expand incrementally over a 7 year period which allows time to plan and embed structures and arrangements to deliver the curriculum. The governing body and senior leadership teams of the schools, with support as necessary, would ensure appropriate structures are in place to manage the increased numbers of pupils and to deliver the curriculum. The schools would have more funding generated by the additional children, which can enable opportunities to be more creative in use of resources to promote pupils' learning. Larger schools have been able to strengthen their broad curriculum offer through opportunities for joint working in larger teams and the deployment of staff and volunteers to a wider variety of extended curricular activities.

The headteachers and senior management teams would need to consider a range of matters to ensure that the schools run smoothly. For example, the play time arrangements, assemblies, lunchtime, after school clubs, etc. There is considerable experience of expansion at schools in Harrow that can be drawn on. If the Stag Lane schools are expanded they would be the tenth four forms of entry schools in Harrow.

Traffic congestion and parking

The concerns expressed about traffic congestion, parking and road safety in the area of the Stag Lane schools are fully recognised. Should the expansion proposal be approved, the Stag Lane schools would fill incrementally over a 7 year period. This would give time to work at addressing issues on a planned basis before the schools are fully expanded.

School approach. The schools will work, with officer support, to build on the Bronze accreditations they have already been awarded for their School Travel Plans with a view to

achieving Gold level of accreditation (see below) by the time the schools are fully expanded. Current initiative at the infant school includes reinstating a 'walking bus' to ease traffic congestion.

In the site scoping work for the expanded schools, consideration has been given into improving the site access arrangements to the schools to maximise efficient and safe ingress and egress and reduce choke points and congestion in the area. These considerations would be progressed in the detailed design work for the expansion of the schools.

Stag Lane Junior School has put a number of initiatives in place to reduce car journeys to and from school. These include Walk on Wednesdays, cycle training for year 6 pupils and participation in borough-wide initiatives such as walk to school week and month. The school is also planning to keep parents up to date with initiatives through the school newsletter.

The Junior School will also take part in Scooter training later in the year and sign up pupils to become Junior Travel Ambassadors. Junior Travel Ambassadors have a number of tasks to complete during the school year including running competitions and conducting assemblies to promote sustainable travel to school.

The School regularly patrols outside the school at drop off and pick times and will continue to take this forward as part of its Travel Plan.

It is recognised there are existing problems with parents parking irresponsibly on roads surrounding the schools. In order to help alleviate the situation, enforcement activity is being stepped up this half term.

General approach. Traffic congestion and parking issues 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 across directorates to co-ordinate work. Additional resource has been committed to ensure an appropriate profile to all the school expansion projects, in particular:

- Transport Assessments are undertaken at each of the schools proposed for expansion. The assessments provide an independent view of the proposals by reviewing baseline information about current traffic volumes and current issues and make recommendations about any impact as well as setting out any actions required. The assessments take account of the consultation responses already received.
- A Transport and Travel Planner Officer for the expansion projects has been working with schools to develop and implement effective travel strategies in conjunction with the schools. This is a key role in influencing and engaging with all stakeholders to change attitudes to travel through the review and the development of School Travel Plans in order to minimise the use of private car travel to the school, particularly by parents. This role also liaises with the Highways, Traffic Management and Enforcement teams to ensure that any necessary engineering work and enforcement action, including Safer Neighbourhood Teams, is provided in line with the travel plans developed. This officer is also involved in the pre-planning engagement activities and input into the planning applications.
- 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 can include a number of techniques for reducing car use and altering parent behaviour. They are accredited by the Mayor of London, and other expansion schools in Harrow have achieved Gold accreditation, in line with TfL's STARS (Sustainable Travel Accredited &

Recognised) scheme, which signifies a decrease in car use of at least 6% or 90% of pupils travelling sustainably.

- The Transport Assessment and School Travel Plans are submitted as part of the planning applications.
- There is a communication strategy for the expansion projects which includes raising the profile of school travel planning. Additional Communications officer time is commissioned to give communication and engagement work a high profile.
- Parking enforcement officers visit the areas of all schools in Harrow and issue tickets when applicable. Two automatic number plate recognition CCTV cars have been introduced to reinforce enforcement work. They are dedicated to schools exclusively.

This proposal would require a building programme, for which planning permission would be needed. If a planning 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.

Officer response to the Governing Body response to the consultation

The formal response from the Governing Body recognising the need for the Local Authority to provide additional school spaces in the area of the schools and accepting that expansion would take place on the Stag Lane schools site is welcomed. Harrow Council is committed to continue working closely with the schools throughout the expansion project, if it is decided to expand the schools, and to work to address any concerns of the wider local community.

Representations about the statutory proposals

The local authority received two representations in response to the statutory proposals: a statement from the Governing Body, and; a letter from Bob Blackman MP Harrow East. Both representations support the expansion of the Stag Lane schools. The two representations are set out in the main report (paras 7 & 8) together with officer response to the points raised by the governors in the Recommendation section (para 14).