
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	13 October 2016
Subject:	School Expansion Programme
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Chris Spencer, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	No, as the Recommendation is for noting only
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides a quarterly update to Cabinet on the implementation of the school expansion programme.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Note this update on the implementation of the school expansion programme.

Reason: (For recommendations)

To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. This is the eleventh quarterly report to Cabinet on the School Expansion Programme. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area. Like many boroughs, Harrow is experiencing significant growth in the pupil population and is implementing its strategies to increase the number of school places.
2. The school expansion programme supports the Council Priorities by providing sufficient high quality school places for children in Harrow close to where they live.

Options considered

3. Previous reports have set out the strategies agreed by Cabinet to increase provision across primary, secondary and special schools to meet pupil growth. This report updates Members and outlines progress on the planned programme implementation.

School Expansion Programme Implementation

Overview

4. Additional school places are being created in Harrow in phases to meet increased demand as it arises. Three phases of primary school expansions, one phase of secondary expansions and an initial phase of additional special educational needs places have been implemented.

Primary

5. In September 2016, 26 additional permanent Reception forms of entry have been created through the expansion of existing schools, which is over half of Harrow's primary schools; 4 additional permanent Reception forms of entry have been created through the opening of free schools in Harrow.
6. In addition to the permanent additional school places created, temporary additional classes (bulge classes) have also been opened since 2009 as needed to meet increased demand, including in primary year groups other than Reception.

Secondary

7. Seven additional permanent Year 7 forms of entry have been created through the expansion of two existing schools. 12 additional permanent Year 7 forms of entry have been created through the opening of free schools in Harrow.

Special Education Needs

8. 151 additional special educational needs places have opened in six schools. These include expansions of special schools and new additional resourced provision in primary schools.
9. At this time the demand for primary and secondary school places is being monitored in the context of the projections published in July 2016. The SEND Strategy identified the need for an additional all age special school.

School Admissions in September 2016 Reception and Year 7 Places and Applications

10. There are sufficient places in reception classes in primary schools and Year 7 in secondary schools for September 2016 for all pupils who have applied. There are vacancies in both sectors which will accommodate in year applications. However, these vacancies are concentrated across a small number of schools.

Applications for Other Year Groups

11. Applications for school places are received throughout the year and summer holiday period. They are processed by the School Admissions Service so that pupils are able to start school as soon as possible and in particular at the beginning of the academic year. The DfE Pupil Census is completed on the first Thursday in October and it is important that as many pupils are on roll as possible because this return is the basis of school funding.
12. When it is not possible to offer a pupil a place at a school where there are vacancies, the application is considered by the School Placement Panel in the accordance with the Fair Access Protocol. The Panel has considered over 300 applications for a place in primary schools during the summer period where it has not been possible to offer a place. The Panel will continue to meet during the year to place pupils.
13. At this stage, the number of applications for one year group in a specific area has not been sufficient to open an additional class. However, this will be monitored and if there is such demand then proposals will be developed with relevant schools.

School Expansion Programme Delivery Primary Phases 1 and 2

14. The majority of the Phase 1 (SEP1) and Phase 2 (SEP2) construction projects have been carried out by Keepmoat, the Council's Framework Partner. Most of the projects have reached Project Completion and the schools are occupying their new accommodation.
15. The Children's Capital Project Team is working to resolve a number of building issues with Keepmoat including defects and outstanding works. There are some contractual issues that are being addressed with Harrow and Keepmoat.

Primary Phase 3

16. There are four school expansions in Phase 3. Planning applications for three of the school expansion projects were approved by Planning Committee in February 2016. Completion dates for the projects are planned during the Autumn Term 2016 at Welldon Park Infants and Spring Term 2017 for Grimsdyke and Longfield.
17. The further projects for Stag Lane Infant School and Stag Lane Junior School, and Welldon Park Junior School are on a later timeline with a view to Planning Committee decisions in late Autumn 2016 and Spring 2017 with completions dates during the Summer 2017 and Autumn 2017 terms respectively.

Secondary Phase 1

18. Expansion construction projects have been completed at Bentley Wood High School and Whitefriars School. Canons High School is increasing its Year 7 intake by a form of entry from September 2016.

Priority School Building Programme 1 (PSBP1)

19. Seven school expansions are being delivered within the PSBP1 rebuild projects being delivered by the Education Funding Agency. The first project at Marlborough Primary School is complete and the school has occupied the new building since June 2016. Construction work is progressing at the other schools with a view to project completions by Summer 2017.
20. The financial implications section of this report sets out the position on costs for the overall capital programme.

Free School Programme

21. Free schools provide an important contribution to meeting the demand for school places and add to the diversity and choice of school provision in the borough. Harrow's schools have made three successful applications to establish free schools in Harrow to meet the needs of its residents developing local solutions for local issues. This September two new free schools have opened:
 - St Jérôme Church of England Bilingual School opened at the former Wickes office building in Station Road.
 - Pinner High School opened in the former Heathfield School site in Pinner with a site sharing agreement with Avanti House School.
22. Harrow View Primary School is due to open in September 2018 on part of the Kodak site.
23. Mariposa Primary School opening has been deferred to September 2017 while a site is secured. The Education Funding Agency have announced that the Hujjat Primary School has progressed to the pre-opening stage. The opening date will not be determined until a site is confirmed and assessment has been made of the time needed to

obtain planning permission and complete necessary building works or refurbishment.

Performance Issues

24. 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 December 2015, 93% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding', compared to 89% in London and 84% nationally (Source: Ofsted Data View).
25. The Education Act 2011 maintains a focus on driving up standards in schools, and places more of the responsibility with the schools directly for their improvement. The role of the Local Authority in measuring performance and driving improvement has changed significantly and is reduced from its previous level.
26. The Local Authority continues to monitor key education indicators. The indicators are used locally to monitor, improve and support education at both school and local authority level. They are also used within information provided to the Department for Education.
27. There is a complex interrelationship between a number of other performance issues such as traffic congestion, road safety, traffic and parking enforcement and travel plan performance, and all these considerations are taken into account in assessing school expansion proposals.

Environmental Implications

28. The Council's over-arching climate change strategy sets a target to reduce carbon emissions by 4% a year. Schools account for 50% of the council's total carbon emissions. Reducing emissions from schools is therefore a vital component in meeting the Council's target. However there is a significant risk that the expansion programme will increase emissions rather than reduce them. Phase 3 of the School Expansion Programme will have an impact on carbon emissions that will need to be carefully considered in this context.
29. The RE:FIT Schools Programme will be available to retrofit existing school buildings to improve their energy efficiency. For new-build schools, the design standards will need to ensure that they meet high energy use efficiency standards. Of particular importance will be the use of low carbon technologies – particularly for space heating – and these will need to be thoroughly investigated during the design phase.
30. For many of the projects in the school expansion programme, planning applications are required and part of the application is a school travel plan. Through this process and the development of the solutions for the schools, the impact of the additional pupils and their travel modes will be addressed.

Risk Management Implications

31. Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes
Separate risk register in place? Yes
32. The directorate and corporate risk management implications for the Council arising from school place planning are included on the directorate and corporate risk registers. A Programme Risk Register is reviewed by the Programme Board.
33. The risks for delivery of the school expansion programme have been reported in detail to Cabinet in the previous quarterly update reports. The highest priority risk for this programme is financial in respect of the programme or individual projects being unaffordable and thereby incurring additional costs to the Council. Control actions to mitigate against this risk include:
- Capital strategy brings together the Government's school funding streams: Basic Need; Capital Maintenance; Targeted Basic Need Programme; and building programmes e.g. Priority School Building Programme.
 - School expansion feasibility designs aligned to the Department for Education guidance on spaces and areas for schools.
 - Indicative costs calculated from feasibility studies to inform programme budget.
 - Programme contingency has been included in the programme budget.
 - Robust financial and programme monitoring through the Programme Board, Capital Forum and Cabinet reports.
 - Exploring how the Government's Free School Programme for new schools (programme funded directly from government) may be supported in Harrow.
 - Reviewing the projected demand for places and assessing the requirements for future expansion phases.

Legal Implications

34. The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 to ensure the provision of sufficient schools for the provision of primary and secondary education in their area.
35. Under s.14 of the Education Act 1996, a local authority shall secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in their area. Sufficient means sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education.
36. In meeting this duty, a local authority must do so with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools and increasing opportunities for parental choice.

Financial Implications

37. The budget for the school expansion programme through to 2019-20 is £140m.

SEP1 and SEP2

38. The Council employs cost consultants to provide valuations of the works carried out by the contractors. Cabinet in June 2016 approved the merger of the uncommitted SEP4 programme budgets, anticipated to be delivered by the Free School Programme, and the SEP2 programme budgets and, based on the current work being undertaken to close the final accounts, there will be sufficient funding to meeting this pressure. However, the account valuations provided by the contractor vary significantly to those provided by the council's cost consultants and this could be a further pressure, and may require council borrowing to fund.

39. The forecasts continue to be monitored and updated as projects are completed and the accounts clarified and agreed with the contractors. Work is being undertaken with Legal Services to support the process of closing the programme with Keepmoat.

SEP3

40. In September 2016 Cabinet approved a virement to move funds from funding identified for secondary school expansion programme to SEP 3 to address the projected shortfall of £1.6m. The position with the school projections reported to Cabinet in July 2016, indicate that the demand for secondary school places is lower than previously expected and there will be a shortfall at a later stage than anticipated, from 2022. The borrowing requirement for the secondary expansion programme will need to be increased by the amount of the virement and this will increase the value of the Schools Capital Programme but this is likely to be beyond 2019-20.

41. The forecasts provided by the council's cost consultants include the three schemes which have been approved by planning, as well as the two schemes at Welldon Park Junior site and the Stag Lane schools which are still subject to planning approval.

42. The Welldon Park Junior and Stag Lane schools schemes are still going through the value engineering process and where possible costs will be driven down. However, as these two schemes are subject to planning approval there could be further works or redesigns required to meet any additional planning conditions could put further financial pressure on this programme. Any pressure on this programme will result in an overspend which would have to be funded from Council borrowing.

43. Weald Rise Primary School, also part of SEP3, is being rebuilt as part of the Priority School Building Programme. However the expansion of the school is in addition to the works being provided by the EFA. Therefore the council has committed to a top up fee in order to deliver

the expansion element of this programme, totalling £2.28m. This is included in the overall budget for the programme.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

44. Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that public bodies, in exercising their functions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other unlawful conduct under the Act, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
45. Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken on Phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme and on each school proposed for permanent expansion. The overall 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.
46. 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. By acting to ensure all children in Harrow have access to a high quality school place, Harrow is promoting equality of opportunity for all children and young people.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision is: **Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow**

47. The Council Priorities are as follows:
- Making a difference for the vulnerable
 - Making a difference for communities
 - Making a difference for local businesses
 - Making a difference for families
48. The Council Strategic Themes are to:
- Build a Better Harrow.
 - Be More Business-like and Business Friendly.
 - Protect the Most Vulnerable and Support Families
49. The recommendation supports these priorities and strategic themes by:
- Ensuring Harrow Council fulfils its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area.
 - Providing high quality local mainstream and special educational need provision in schools for children close to where they live.

- Providing a generational investment of some £125m into the existing schools in Harrow for the benefit of its residents.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 8 September 2016		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 8 September 2016		

Ward Councillors notified:	NO, as it impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	YES Undertaken on the School Expansion Programme during Phase 2
EqIA cleared by:	Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment Quality Assurance Group

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Johanna Morgan, Divisional Director People Services Strategy, 020 8736 6841 johanna.morgan@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None.

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NOT APPLICABLE <i>[Call-in does not apply]</i>
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