

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	31 January 2006
Subject:	Harrow 14–19 Strategy
Responsible Officer:	Lorraine O'Reilly, Executive Director, People First
Contact Officer:	Geoff Wingrove, Director of Strategy, People First (0208 424 1513)
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Bill Stephenson (Education and Lifelong Learning)
Key Decision:	Information only
Status:	Public

### **Section 1: Summary**

The Harrow 14-19 Strategy has been developed by all the key partners in Harrow. The strategy incorporates the vision and strategic framework for 14-19 developments in Harrow, and states the strategic aims.

The strategy is necessarily a dynamic document, which will evolve further as developments are progressed. An Action Plan will be finalised when the outcome of the bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund is known.

Formal agreement by all key partners is being sought early in 2006. Cabinet approved the Harrow 14-19 Strategy in principle at its meeting on 12 January 2006. The final draft of the Harrow 14-19 Strategy is attached as Appendix A.

A bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund is being prepared by the local authority for post 16 capital development on high school sites, and the strategy will be attached to

the bid. This bid to establish the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate is the subject of a separate paper to the Education Consultative Forum.

### **Decision Required**

#### **FOR INFORMATION**

That the Education Consultative Forum notes the report.

1.

### **Reason for report**

Harrow needs a strategy agreed by all partners covering 14-19 provision.

As part of that strategy there is an opportunity to bid for capital funds to improve the range of provision and choice at post 16, as well as achieve coherence across the 14-19 age range. This opportunity is dependent on an agreed approach by the key partners in Harrow to achieve co-ordinated and comprehensive provision across Harrow. The Harrow 14-19 Strategy provides the vision and framework for achieving this goal. The strategy will be attached to the bid to LWLSC.

### **Benefits**

- An agreed framework among key partners for development of 14-19 provision
- Meet parental preferences, and increase choice for parents and students
- Increase provision and quality, and achieve coherence of provision across 14-19
- Increase attainment and achievement
- Increase participation, particularly level 1
- Will reduce the flow of students out of Harrow at the end of Year 11 and also Year 6

## Cost of Proposals

- Capital cost of post 16 developments in high schools will be met from a successful bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund
- LWLSC is making available £30,000 to assist the development of the bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund
- The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for capital and revenue funding of post 16 provision
- Schools will need to be able to contain capital and revenue costs within the funding provided by the Learning & Skills Council

## Risks

Without an agreed framework there is the risk of providers making their own individual plans in a competitive environment. This could lead to

- duplication
- gaps in provision
- constraints on student choice
- fragmentation of school system
- loss of collaborative working with colleges and other partners
- loss of opportunities for external funding

There are constraints on the level of development possible on high school sites. The delivery of a comprehensive and co-ordinated learner offer to students is dependent on agreement being reached among providers.

There is a risk that schools will not be able to contain costs within the funding allocated by the Learning & Skills Council

## Implications if recommendations rejected

No recommendations – for information only.

The absence of an agreed framework for 14-19 developments will jeopardise the development of

- choice for students
- comprehensive and co-ordinated provision to meet all needs in Harrow
- a successful bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund

There will be the potential for fragmentation of the current system built on partnership and collaboration, and potential to lose opportunities for external funding. There will be implications for the forthcoming Joint Area Review.

## **Section 2: Report**

### Brief History

In July 2003, Cabinet resolved to establish a cross-party steering group to oversee the development of options for consultation on increasing choice at post 16. Cabinet also approved the establishment of a 14-19 Advisory Group of representatives of key partners to progress the development of a 14-19 strategy and to advise the steering group on options to increase choice at post 16 and the consultation process

In March 2004 Cabinet considered a report summarising the progress of work on 14-19 provision, which included the development of three school and college groupings, plans to establish a Skills Centre in Harrow, the outcome of a stakeholder survey, and criteria to assess models for post 16 provision. Cabinet approved a proposal to establish a Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate that formalises the collaboration with the schools and colleges. The collegiate would be a strategic provision, and the three school and college groupings would be required to work closely together to ensure maximum opportunities and to avoid duplication.

The development of the Harrow 14-19 Strategy has taken account of the London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) Strategic Area Review (StAR) process in 2004, and the Self Assessment exercise in 2004. It has also taken account of national and local policy developments.

### National policy developments

In 2004 the Government published its Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners white paper. This has been followed by further policy documents including: Every Child Matters implementation documents; 14-19 Education and Skills white paper in February 2005; Youth Matters green paper in July 2005; and Better Schools, Higher Standards in October 2005. These policy documents set the framework for the 14-19 landscape up to 2015 and beyond.

### Local policy developments

Following the school organisation debate in 2002 the Council has adopted a twin track approach to the achievement of 11+ Transfer and increasing choice in post 16 provision. Several bids for capital funding to achieve these developments have been submitted, and numerous representations have been made to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The necessary capital funding has not been forthcoming, and there may not be the opportunity to bid further for Building Schools for the Future funding before 2011. However, there is now the opportunity to submit a bid by 31 January 2006 for 16-19 Capital Fund monies to increase post 16 provision through capital development on Harrow high school sites.

## 16-19 Capital Fund

See the separate report to the Education Consultative Forum on the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate.

## Options considered

The options considered have been outlined in previous Cabinet reports, and led to Cabinet approving the establishment of a Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate.

Discussions were held with DfES earlier this year with a view to a possible 16-19 Virtual Academy being developed. However DfES decided not to take this proposal further.

## Consultation

This strategy has been developed with the full involvement of all the key partners, and included a stakeholder survey.

The Harrow 14-19 Advisory Group agreed the strategy at its meeting on 20 January. The strategy now needs to be approved by the governing bodies of all partners.

## Financial Implications

There should be no financial implications to the Council of providing post 16 provision as the funding for post 16 is provided by the Learning and Skills Council. However there is a risk that the revenue costs to schools may be higher than the funding allocated and if this is the case then schools will need to find this from within their existing school budget shares. Before post 16 provision is implemented within each school a business case should be prepared by the school to ensure that sufficient revenue funding is available.

## Legal Implications

None

## Equalities Impact

The Harrow 14-19 Strategy, together with the 16-19 Capital Fund bid, will enable comprehensive and inclusive provision in Harrow. This includes provision for levels 1 and 2, and provision for those Not in Employment Education or Training.

### Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

The application of this strategy to achieve inclusive and comprehensive 14-19 provision will ensure that the Council is fulfilling its statutory obligation to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area.

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

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A – final draft Harrow 14-19 Strategy

#### **List other background papers that are available on request**

See the report on the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate