

REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	15 March 2018
Subject:	School Organisation
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Interim Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Wards affected:	Harrow on the Hill and Edgware Wards
Enclosures:	Annexe A - Consultation Document Roxeth Primary School and Hillview Nursery School and consultation responses.

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out proposals to change the age range of Roxeth Primary School, increase capacity at Hillview Nursery School and Woodlands School

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Consider the consultation responses and to publish statutory notices for the following:

2. (i) change the age range at Roxeth Primary School to close the nursery class;
(ii) increase capacity at Hillview Nursery School by 16 full time equivalent (FTE) places.
3. Delegate authority to Interim Corporate Director of People, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People, to determine the notices for Roxeth Primary School and Hillview Nursery School.
4. Delegate authority to the Interim Corporate Director of People, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Young People, to publish the notices for Woodlands School following consideration of the consultation responses and subject to such notices being published, to determine the notices.

Reason: (For recommendations)

To implement changes in school organisation.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

1. This report sets out the proposal to change the age range of Roxeth Primary School that will in effect close the nursery class and explains how the provision for nursery pupils will be retained within the local area at Hillview Nursery School. The outcomes from the engagement with parents and local area also provided. The report also sets out a proposal to increase the capacity at Woodlands School on a temporary basis.
2. These proposals support the Council Priorities by providing sufficient high quality school places for children in Harrow, including those with special educational needs, close to where they live.

Options considered

5. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area and to make changes to schools. To fulfil this duty it is able to propose changes to schools through the publication and determination of statutory notices.
6. In exercising these duties Harrow Council has considered whether to make any changes and in this instance is proposing linked changes to Roxeth Primary School and Hillview Nursery School and a change to Woodlands School. The proposals are presented below.

Roxeth Primary School and Hillview Nursery School Current Situation

7. Hillview Nursery currently has 26 FTE places plus 6 FTE for SEND. Roxeth Primary School commissions its nursery places (16 FTE) at Hillview Nursery School.
8. Hillview Nursery School provides nursery education for 60 2, 3 and 4 year olds and 12 pupils with special educational needs in a most inclusive environment. It offers parents morning or afternoon sessions for a total of 15 hours a week and 5 30 hour funded places. This includes Roxeth pupils.
9. This provision is managed and organised as an integrated setting with all children and staff from both schools together. The staff work together to ensure that there is good quality provision for the children who benefit from integrating care, early education and family support services through the close partnership with Hillview Children's Centre Hub.

Proposal

10. It is proposed that the Roxeth Nursery Class is closed and that from September 2018 the capacity at Hillview Nursery School is increased by 16 FTE so that all pupils will be registered at Hillview Nursery School.
11. There will not be any change to the number of children physically attending at Hillview Nursery School; the proposal is to change the admission numbers so that all nursery pupils will be on the roll of Hillview Nursery School. There will continue to be good relationships with Roxeth Primary School. Many children attending Hillview Nursery School are admitted to local primary schools including Roxeth and it will be important that this relationship continues. There is insufficient space at Roxeth Primary School for a nursery class.
12. Any family that has applied for a place at Roxeth Nursery Class from September 2018 will be offered a place at Hillview Nursery School.
13. Children attending Hillview Nursery normally transfer at reception age to local primary schools. There is no priority given to children attending a nursery class in a primary school and therefore the proposed change does not affect the likelihood of children being admitted to Roxeth Primary School at reception age. As is currently the case, parents with pupils who attend Hillview nursery will need to apply for a place at Roxeth Primary School or any other preferred schools. Admissions for reception and nursery will follow Harrow Council's admissions arrangements for relevant schools.

Consultation

14. A consultation was undertaken with parents and stakeholders from Wednesday 21st February to Friday 2 March 2018. A copy of the consultation paper is provided at Annexe A.

Consultation Responses and Officer Comments

15. 21 responses were received from the consultation and 2 letters one from Roxeth Primary Governing Body and one from Hillview Governing Body. The responses are at Annex A. Both Governing Bodies support the proposals. The table below presents the views of the respondents.

Response category	Number
Strongly Agree	7
Agree	8
Disagree	3
Strongly Disagree	2
No response	1
Total	21

16. Overall the majority of respondents 15 either strongly agreed or agreed with the proposals. 2 comments were included by these respondents that referred to the number of places for pupils including SEND and maintaining the quality of teaching.
17. 5 respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed. Three of the respondents not supporting the proposal referred to their concerns about space for all the children and referred to financial implications.
18. The proposals will retain the same number of places and there will not be an effect for mainstream or SEND pupils. There are no proposals to change the space and accommodation. Hillview Nursery School is required to set a balanced budget for 2018/19. There are financial challenges for all maintained Nursery Schools and Hillview is no exception. The school is working towards setting a balanced budget and Officers will continue to work with the Governing Body to ensure that the School is financially sustainable on an ongoing basis.

Next Steps

19. It is proposed that statutory notices are published in accordance with legislative requirements and DfE Guidance on making prescribed changes to schools. The notices will be published for four weeks and there is the opportunity for comments and representations to be submitted.
20. At the end of the statutory notice period, it is proposed that the notices are determined taking into consideration the comments and representations received.
21. It is proposed that authority is delegated to the Interim Corporate Director, People Services in consultation with Portfolio Holder to determine the notices.

Woodlands School Current Situation

22. In Harrow there is provision for pupils with special educational needs in a range of settings including mainstream schools, additionally resourced mainstream school settings, and special schools. Some

pupils also attend schools outside of Harrow. Harrow is experiencing a growing and changing population and there is increasing pressure on the current provision for primary pupils with severe and complex special educational needs. A shortfall of local provision increases the costs of placements at provision outside the borough.

23. The total number of pupils with a special educational need statement or Education Health Care Plan in Harrow has increased by 340 or 30% between January 2012 and January 2017. In addition, the percentage of children with a statement placed in a special school (Harrow maintained, academy/free school, non-maintained, or independent special schools) has increased from 489 to 589 during the same period. This represents continued pressure and demand for more special school places. (Source: DfE sfr14-2012la & SFR22-2017)
24. The factors contributing to this increasing demand include:
 - rising overall demography;
 - increase in premature baby survival rate with the consequent greater percentage of children with severe and complex needs;
 - growing number of children with significant learning difficulties moving in to the borough.
25. Woodlands School is a special school for pupils aged 4-11 with severe and complex needs some with autism. There are currently 121 pupils attending (2017-18), this number was increased from 96 pupils in 2013 as part of the school expansion programme.

Proposal

26. There is an increase in the number of primary school aged pupils with severe and complex needs and with autism in Harrow requiring a place in reception class in September 2018. The educational provision at Woodlands Primary School can meet these needs and if pupils were to attend Woodlands Primary School they would remain at a school within Harrow.
27. It is proposed that Woodlands School is expanded by 12 reception places from September 2018.
28. To accommodate more pupils accommodation is required on the school site. It is proposed that this will be provided as modular buildings and will be subject to planning permission.
29. This expansion will be for an interim period whilst the local authority develops options to increase permanently the provision within Harrow. Strategic Priority 1 in the SEND Strategy is to increase provision in Harrow to meet growing need.

Consultation

30. A consultation is currently being undertaken with parents and stakeholders. The analysis of consultation responses will not be ready in time to inform Cabinet and as such it is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Interim Corporate Director, in consultation with

the Portfolio Holder, to consider these responses and make a decision to publish a statutory notice is appropriate.

Next Steps

31. It is proposed that the full responses and officer comments will be considered by the Interim Corporate Director to determine if statutory notices are published to expand Woodlands School.
32. If the Interim Corporate Director decides to publish a statutory notice in accordance with legislative requirements and DfE Guidance on making changes to schools, the notices will be published for four weeks. During this time there the opportunity for comments and representations to be submitted.
33. At the end of the statutory notice period, it is proposed that delegated authority is given to the Interim Corporate Director, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to determine the notice taking into consideration the comments and representations received.

Performance Issues

34. 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 August 2017, 98% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' (50%) or 'outstanding' (48%), compared to 94% in London (62% Good, 32% Outstanding) and 89% nationally (68% Good, 21% Outstanding) (Source: Ofsted Data View).
35. 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.
36. 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.

Environmental Implications

37. 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. There are no planned building works to Hillview Nursery School or Roxeth as part of these proposals.

Risk Management Implications

38. Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
39. Separate risk register in place? No

40. The key risk for the proposal to change the age range of Roxeth Primary School and increase the capacity at Hillview is that there will be objections from parents and local community. To mitigate the risks there has been careful consultation with parents and stakeholders by both Hillview Nursery School and Roxeth Primary School and the Local Authority.
41. Information has been provided to parents to explain the proposals. No pupils will be displaced as a result of these proposals because pupils attending Roxeth nursery class during the academic year 17/18 will be leaving at the end of the summer term and starting reception in September 2018. Any families that have applied for a nursery place at Roxeth from September 2018 will be offered a place at Hillview Nursery School.
42. The key risks for the proposal for Woodlands School are:
 - Insufficient special school places – provision will need to be commissioned from schools in other boroughs and Harrow.
 - Lack of support from the school and stakeholders and capital and revenue funding. To mitigate the risks there has been engagement with parents and stakeholders by Woodlands School and the Local Authority to explain the proposals.
 - Insufficient capital and revenue funding. It is proposed that the accommodation required for the expansion will be funded by SEND Capital Funding allocation in 2018/19. The revenue funding will be from the High Needs Block which has two elements – a place element and top-up funding.

Legal Implications

43. 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.
44. There is a statutory process for changing the age range of maintained schools and increasing the capacity beyond a certain limit. Proposals to increase capacity at Hillview and Woodlands require the statutory process to be followed. This process includes preliminary consultation and the publication of proposals with a formal representation period. The statutory requirements contained in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and associated regulations will be followed when progressing any proposals for an individual school.
45. Cabinet must take account of all consultation responses when deciding whether to publish statutory proposals. It should also bear in mind that some responses may be related to issues that should properly be considered as part of the planning process, such as traffic and highway matters. Whilst these issues can still be taken into account, it is for the

planning committee to determine the appropriate response to these matters when determining the planning application. When considering consultation responses, the Council must take into account the number of responses, including the number for and against the proposals as well as the detailed comments, where relevant to the proposal. However, even if there is a strong response against proposals, the Council can still decide to proceed if it has proper policy reasons for doing so.

46. When making public law decisions, the Council must take account of all relevant information, including consultation responses, equality implications, crime and disorder concerns, financial implications and its statutory duty to provide school places.
47. The statutory guidance on changing the age range of community schools confirms matters which should be taken into account by local authorities when determining proposals. This will be a matter for the Interim Corporate Director People Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, to consider when determining the proposals. However, for completeness, it includes the need to deliver excellence and equity in school place planning, the need to include parents in decisions around provision of schools, the need to maintain and increase local standards of education, diversity of provision, options for extended services, journey times and travel options for pupils attending the school and that land, premises and capital are in place to implement the proposals.

Financial Implications

48. Funding for 3 and 4 year old nursery provision is provided through the Early Years Single Funding Formula from the Early Years Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. Funding is adjusted termly based on participation as recorded on the Early Years Censuses. There will be no change to the funding requirement because the same number of children will be accessing provision under the new arrangements.
49. The SEND nursery places are funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant on a place plus basis, combining a fixed place element for all commissioned places and a top-up for filled places. This is within the budget for the High Needs Block.
50. Hillview Nursery School is required to set a balanced budget for 2018/19. There are financial challenges for all maintained Nursery Schools and Hillview is no exception. The school is working towards setting a balanced budget and Officers will continue to work with the Governing Body to ensure that the School is financially sustainable on an ongoing basis.
51. Woodlands Special School places are also funded from the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant on a place plus basis. The additional 12 places will be at an estimated cost of £179k for 2018-

19 for a part financial year starting September 2018 and up to £307k on a full year basis. This will be funded from the DSG. The cost of the places at Woodlands is £25k per place which is more cost effective than out of borough placements which are likely to be in excess of £30k per place, plus the cost to the council's general fund budget for SEN Transport for home to school transport from Harrow to schools outside of the borough.

52. There is a capital cost to the increased provision at Woodlands estimated at £355,000. This will be funded from SEND DfE capital funding for provision for pupils with EHC Plans. The special provision fund allocations announced on 4 March 2017 are to support local authorities to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision. The LA will receive £1.863m over three years.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

53. An initial EqIA has been undertaken and there are no negative impacts on the nine protected characteristics. It is anticipated that the proposals will have a positive impact on children with special educational needs and a disability as the proposal to expand Woodlands will create additional capacity, albeit on an interim basis, to allow children to be educated closer to their home. This will be further reviewed with data collected through the consultation activity.

Council Priorities

54. By increasing capacity at Woodlands, maintaining nursery provision in Hillview Nursery School and developing the provision in partnership with Roxeth Primary School and Hillview early Support Hub, the proposals in this report contribute to the Council's vision: *Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow* and contribute to the following Council Corporate priorities:
- Making a difference for the vulnerable
 - Making a difference for communities
 - Making a difference for families.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 23 February 2018		
Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 23 February 2018		

Ward Councillors notified:	YES
EqIA carried out:	YES
EqIA cleared by:	S.Wilson and A.Dewsnap

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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

Background Papers: EqIA.

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NOT APPLICABLE <i>[Call-in applies]</i>
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Hillview Nursery School and Roxeth Primary

School

Consultation 2017/18

19 February 2018 – 2 March 2018

Asking for public views on proposed changes at:

Hillview Nursery School and Roxeth Primary School

**This consultation is available to fill out online
via Harrow Council's consultation webpage
<https://consult.harrow.gov.uk/consult.ti>**

Alternatively, you can complete the attached form and hand it in to
Hillview Nursery School or Roxeth Primary School

Closing date 12 noon on Friday 2 March

Introduction

Roxeth Primary School has been working with Hillview Nursery School and Harrow Council to review its current nursery provision arrangements.

Harrow Council is seeking your views on proposals to change the current arrangements at Roxeth Primary School and Hillview Nursery School. The proposals do not seek to change the total number of places available.

Current Arrangements

Hillview Nursery School provides nursery education for 60 3 and 4 year olds as well as 12 pupils with special educational needs and 8 2 year olds in a most inclusive environment. It offers parents morning or afternoon sessions for a total of 15 hours a week and 5 30 hour funded places.

Roxeth Primary School commissions its nursery places at Hillview Nursery School.

This provision is managed and organised as an integrated setting with all children and staff from both schools together. The staff work together to ensure that there is good quality provision for the children who benefit from integrating care, early education and family support services through the close partnership with Hillview Children's Centre Hub.

Proposals for Hillview Nursey School and Roxeth Primary School

It is proposed that the Roxeth Nursery Class is closed and that from September 2018 all pupils will be registered at Hillview Nursery School. There will be no reduction in total places – the two Nurseries will simply be combined.

There will continue to be good relationships with Roxeth Primary School. Many children attending Hillview Nursery School are admitted to local primary schools including Roxeth and it will be important that this relationship continues. There is insufficient physical space at Roxeth Primary School for a nursery class.

Admissions will follow Harrow Council's admissions rules for nursery places.

How to respond

We would like to hear your views and would ask that you complete the attached form and return it by **Friday 2 March 2018** to Hillview Nursery School or Roxeth Primary School.

Alternatively, the consultation is available to fill out online via Harrow Council's consultation webpage <https://consult.harrow.gov.uk/consult.ti>

As part of this consultation, the governing boards invite you to attend drop in sessions where you can discuss and ask further questions about the proposal.

If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact:

- **Sonny Peart**, Chair of Governors at Roxeth Primary School via office@roxeth.harrow.sch.uk;
or
- **Claudia Calogero**, Chair of Governors at Hillview Nursery School via hillviewnurseryoffice@roxeth.harrow.sch.uk

We look forward to receiving your views on this proposal.

Closing date 12 noon on Friday 2 March

Next Steps

All responses will be presented to Harrow Council's Cabinet in March 2018. Cabinet will consider the proposal and the responses and decide whether to publish Statutory Notices that will close Roxeth nursery class. Notices are published for one month and there is further opportunity to make comments. The Notices will then be determined which is the final stage in the decision making process. The governing bodies will be informed of the decision in early May.

**Hillview Nursery School and Roxeth Primary School
Consultation Questionnaire**

- 1. Do you agree in principle to the closure of the nursery class at Roxeth Primary school and its formal merger into Hillview Nursery School? (Please tick one)**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

- 2. Do you have any other comments?**

Equality monitoring questions

This section is to be completed by the parent or carer completing this form

Harrow Council has a legal responsibility to promote and advance equality. To help us to do this, it is important that we have a good understanding of our communities, how our services are being accessed and who is using or would like to use our services. With up-to-date and accurate information we are able to:

- Better understand our service users / residents and shape services to meet their specific needs
- Identify and address any barriers / issues individuals may experience when accessing our services (including information about our services)
- Ensure our policies and services are accessible to everyone who uses them

The information will also enable us to monitor our progress with regards to addressing inequality and allow our employees and service users see how we are performing on equality.

Data Protection: It is your choice whether you provide this information. Your replies will not be used in a way that identifies you.

Age

Under 16

25 – 44 years

65 & over

16 – 24 years

45 – 64 years

Disability – Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months?

No

Yes, affecting hearing

Yes, a learning disability

Yes, another form of disability – please specify

Yes, affecting mobility

Yes, affecting vision

Yes, mental ill-health

Marriage or Civil Partnership

Are you married?

Are you in a Civil Partnership?

Yes

Yes

No

No

Pregnancy or Maternity

Have you been pregnant and / or on maternity leave during the past 2 years? Yes

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No

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Sex

Male

Female

Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were assigned at birth?

Yes

No

Sexual orientation

Bisexual

Gay Man

Gay Woman / Lesbian

Heterosexual

Other – please specify

Ethnic origin**Asian or Asian British**

Afghan

Bangladeshi

Chinese

Indian

Pakistani

Sri Lankan

Any other Asian background – please specify

Black or Black British

African

Caribbean

Somali

Any other Black background – please specify

Mixed background

White and Black African

White and Black Caribbean

White and Asian

Any other mixed background – please specify

Other ethnic background

Arab

Iranian

Any other ethnic group – please specify

White or White British

Albanian

English

Gypsy / Irish Traveller

Irish

Polish

Romanian

Scottish

Welsh

Any other White background – please specify

Religion and belief

Buddhism

Judaism

Christianity (all denominations)

Sikh

Hinduism

Zoroastrian

Islam

No religion / Atheist

Jainism

Other - please specify

Consultation Responses Summary

Question: 1. Do you agree in principle to a change in the age range for Roxeth Primary School, to remove...	Question: 2. Do you have any other comments?
Strongly Agree	
Agree	
Strongly Agree	
Disagree	The space in Hillview Nursery School may be insufficient for additional places from Roxeth primary school.
Strongly Disagree	From a financial point, Hillview needs the support from Roxeth to run the nursery. By stopping the integrated setting, the commission funded by Roxeth will stop. breakfast & after school was considered as extra income for Hillview view- this service has also been stopped and taken over by Roxeth! I have used this service for my children for the past 10 years. This service should have continued at Hillview & Roxeth should have provided extra service separately as there is waiting list & demand.
Strongly Disagree	
Disagree	I feel Hillview nursery will become more crowded. staff won't be able to give proper attention to all children. Already this 30 hour funding and 2 year old funding make Hillview very busy. But if extension is made more staff hired then it should be ok.
Agree	Not really, just so long as the quality of teaching doesn't suffer.
Agree	Agree in principle as long as number of places for all children including those with disabilities is not affected.
Strongly Agree	
Strongly Agree	
Agree	
Strongly Agree	
Agree	
Agree	
Agree	
Disagree	If we merge two nursery schools then there would be a lack of space at Hillview nursery to accommodate children of both nursery at one place.
Strongly Agree	
Strongly Agree	
Agree	



ROXETH PRIMARY SCHOOL

BRICKFIELDS
BYRON HILL ROAD
HARROW
MIDDLESEX HA2 0JA

Telephone: 020 8422 1344 Facsimile: 020 8423 9947

E-mail: office@roxeth.harrow.sch.uk

Website: www.roxethschoolharrow.org.uk

Headteacher: Mr. S Deanus

Date: 19th February 2018

Chris Spencer
Corporate Director for People's Services
London Borough of Harrow
chris.spencer@harrow.gov.uk

Dear Chris

Following the discussions involving the head teachers and governors of Hillview and Roxeth, and officers of Harrow Council, I'm writing to you on behalf of the governing body of Roxeth Primary School formally to confirm our intention to close our nursery class at Hillview. We believe that new governance arrangements, with Roxeth providing Reception to Year 6 provision on our site, and Hillview providing Nursery provision, will better enable us to meet the needs of children and parents on a sustainable basis.

We will work with Hillview and the local authority to ensure all statutory measures are taken to ensure a smooth transition, and we believe this can be achieved in time to enable the transition to take place in time for the next academic year.

Naturally, Roxeth governors appreciate the support of Hillview over the many years of our close association, and we look forward to continued close cooperation in the interests of children and parents in our local community.

Yours sincerely

Sonny Peart
Chair of Governors
Roxeth Primary School

Hillview Nursery School

Working in partnership with Roxeth Primary School



HILLVIEW NURSERY SCHOOL
2 GRANGE ROAD
SOUTH HARROW
MIDDLESEX HA2 0LW
Telephone: 020 8422 6492

Johanna Morgan
Divisional Director - People Services Strategy
Harrow Council

Dear Johanna,

Re: **Response to Consultation Hillview/Roxeth**

I write to confirm that the governors of Hillview Nursery School are satisfied with the proposal to formally merge Roxeth nursery class into Hillview Nursery School as the best available way forward to serve our children and their families.

We rely now on your support in promoting and developing Harrow's only maintained nursery school to ensure the continuation of its high quality provision.

Yours sincerely,

Claudia Calogero
Chair of Governors