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**REPORT FOR: CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 September 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	School Organisation Update and School Capital Programme
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes There will be capital expenditure in excess of £1m and two or more wards of the Borough will be affected.
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director People Services
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder Children, Young People & Schools Councillor Adam Swersky, Portfolio Holder, Finance & Resources
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix A: School Roll Projections 2020/2021 to 2032/2032 Report

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report provides an update on the school roll projections for 2020-2032 which informs all school place planning and provides an overview of other School Organisation initiatives. It also outlines the capital programme required to deliver the schools organisation priorities.

## **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Note this update on the implementation of the school expansion programme and the School Roll Projections 2020-2032 Report and the changes in the overall school organisation landscape.
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance & Resources and Children, Young People & Schools to undertake all procurement that is required to deliver the programme. This will include the amalgamation projects set out in paragraph 55.
3. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance & Resources and Children, Young People & Schools to award contracts following each procurement associated with the Schools Expansion Programme.
4. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director People Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Resources and Children, Young People & Schools, to:
  - a. identify schools, including academy schools, to receive capital funding for projects required for SEND education provision in accordance with the SEND Strategy.
  - b. For any maintained/community schools identified, to undertake a procurement process and award the contracts

### **Reason: (For recommendation)**

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

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introduction**

1. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area. Like many boroughs, Harrow has experienced significant growth in the pupil population and has implemented strategies to increase the number of school places. Initially this rise in population was experienced in the primary sector and increasing pupil numbers are now emerging at secondary level as the pupils move from primary phase to secondary.
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 is an update on the implementation of school organisation and highlights the emerging place planning issues as informed by the School Projections Report 2020-2032.
4. To implement the school organisation strategy a school capital programme is required to provide sufficient and appropriate accommodation. To achieve the outcomes required the following options were considered:

Option 1: Do Nothing – this would not a viable option because to implement the changes to school organisation a capital programme is required.

Option 2: Secure delegations from Cabinet to enable the school capital programme to be delivered to provide sufficient accommodation.

## School Organisation

### Overview

5. Additional school places have been created in Harrow in phases to meet increased demand as it arises. The local authority has delivered three phases of primary expansions, increased secondary places through an age range extension, the government free school programme and individual school increases in places. The special school places have been increased through school expansions and creation of provision at mainstream schools. The increase in school places has been delivered through the expansion of existing schools and the opening of new places through the government's free school programme.

## Changes to the school organisation landscape

### Harrow Council's School Amalgamation Policy

6. Harrow's amalgamation policy aims to establish combined primary schools with continuity across the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The policy requires that governing bodies of all separate infant and junior schools are required to amalgamate the two schools when one or more circumstances arise unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to. The Headteacher of Stag Lane Junior School resigned and triggered the Council's Amalgamation Policy. The schools amalgamated on 1 April 2020 and became Stag Lane Primary School. There is one remaining infant and one junior school, yet to be amalgamated in accordance with the policy.

## **Community School Admission Arrangements and Published Admission Numbers**

7. All Harrow Resident pupils who applied for a place at a primary school for September 2020 have been offered a place with sufficient capacity meet the demand and surplus places available.
8. Due to the change in projected demand in the primary phase the council has worked with schools where the demand for places has fallen on an informal basis for several years. In order to support schools where the demand for places had remained low and with the agreement of the governing body at the school, we have reduced the number of places at a number of schools. The agreement with schools is that should the need arise the capacity will be put back into operation as the schools will still have the physical capacity to take additional pupils.
9. For September 2019 the Published Admissions Number (PAN) for two schools was reduced formally from 90 to 60 via the Office of the Schools Adjudicator and officers are working with a number of other schools to informally lower PANs:
  - The Welldon Park Academy
  - Cedars Manors School
10. For September 2020 following a formal consultation the PAN for Weald Rise Primary School was also reduced from 120 to 60.
11. For September 2021 we consulted and determined to lower the PAN for 4 Schools:
  - Longfield Primary School from 120 places to 90 places in Reception class
  - Roxbourne Primary School from 90 places to 60 places in Reception class
  - Kenmore Park Infant School from 120 places to 90 places in Reception class
  - Kenmore Junior School from 120 places to 90 places in Year 3
12. The Council did receive a formal objection in relation to reductions determined for September 2021/22, which has been considered by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The Objector felt that by removing these places that there would not be enough school places and limit parental preference. Officers stated that based on the school roll projections there would be sufficient places and although we were reducing the PAN we were not removing the capacity, therefore if the places are required we can reinstate the places quickly and without the need for consultations.
13. The Schools Adjudicator considered the objection did not uphold it, therefore the reductions in PAN will go ahead as planned and the need for places will be monitored.

### **Other primary school changes**

14. In April 2020 the Regional Schools Commissioner agreed the opening of the Hujjat Primary School. The school will open in September 2020 and will be a two-form entry school. It will open in September with 2 Reception classes and will increase year on year until September 2026 when it will have classes up to Year 6. For place planning purposes Hujjat places will be factored into the VA Planning Area. Due to Covid-19 there have been delays in the construction work at Hujjat's school site. Due to these delays, The Hujjat Primary School will open on a temporary basis at Weald Rise Primary School.
15. Moriah Jewish Day School consulted on closing from September 2020 due to the fall in numbers on roll at the school. The Trust proposed to merge with Hertsmere School in Hertfordshire which is a Jewish School in their Trust. The Regional Schools Commissioners decision is pending. In the interim arrangements have been made for pupils from Moriah school to be taught at Hertsmere School from September 2020.

### **Secondary schools**

16. Secondary school place planning is more susceptible to changes within neighbouring boroughs and wider areas. For example, there is an established pattern of Harrow pupils travelling to access grammar, independent or faith schools not located in Harrow.
17. For September 2020 in discussion with Secondary Heads, three schools offered to open bulge classes to meet the demand for places for National Offer Day. On 1 March all Harrow residents were offered a school place. Out of the three bulge classes only one will open for September 2020. Secondary Schools are working with the Local Authority to support the Council to ensure every Harrow Resident has an offer of a school place. Officers will continue their discussions with Secondary Heads to discuss options of how to meet the future demand.

## **Demographic School Roll Projections and Implications**

### **Overall projections**

18. Harrow, along with the majority of other London boroughs, commission school roll projections from the Greater London Authority's (GLA) School Roll Projections Service. A range of data is used to project school rolls, including: the underlying population projection base incorporating births, migration and housing development, and: school factors including applications and pupil numbers on roll.
19. The GLA provides the baseline projections to which local knowledge is applied to make reasonable adjustments in line with pressure at Reception, Year 7 and other school year groups. The School Roll Projections 2020/21-2032/33 are presented at Appendix A.
20. The 2020 GLA pupil projections continue to indicate a change to the trends of the last 5 years when the trend has been an increase in

primary pupil numbers followed by a plateau. The Reception projections last year indicated a plateau over the period covered in the report. The Reception projections for 2020 fluctuate over the first five years and then increase slightly each year until the end of the period. The Year 7 projections in 2020 are relatively stable until 2026/27 and then are projected to increase for the remainder of the period covered.

### **Housing development and School Place Planning**

21. Harrow's increasing pupil population has been attributable to changes in demography, increases in birth rates and migration, rather than the availability of new homes. A key variable for school roll projections is the impact of new housing development. The housing landscape of Harrow is already beginning to change with developments underway, nearing completion and occupied for example the former Zoom leisure site Kodak West. This transformation will continue over the next decade especially with the Harrow's Regeneration programme Build a Better Harrow. This is the next challenge in terms of school place planning.
22. The school roll projections are informed by Harrow's housing trajectory which includes information on the number of new dwellings completed, permissions granted and schemes in the pipeline. Annexe 4 of the School Roll Projections explains the use of the housing data and presents the housing developments over 50 units by School Planning Areas. This is important information because it allows the assessment overtime of the possible impact of the developments on local schools.
23. Some of the possible impacts that officers will monitor overtime will be the:
  - Impact on the birth to reception class conversion rate. The rate dropped from 88% in 2017/18 to 85% in 2018/19 but reverted back to 88% in 2019/20 and is projected to stay between 88-92% over the next five years. A change may arise affecting demand which is not attributed to a change in birth rate but generated by families with small children moving into Harrow or born in Harrow and leaving before school age – both Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic may affect future retention rates;
  - New families moving into Harrow with siblings across school years;
  - Effect of existing families moving into new homes and impacting on established local admission patterns;
  - Impact of new schools, including VA schools now and in the future, both in Harrow and on its borders, on established local admission patterns;
  - The impact of Brexit, migration and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Please note further details about the above can be found in the annexes, particularly 'Annexe 5: Affordability of Housing in Harrow'.

24. The headline details for primary and secondary school place planning as informed by the Reception and Year 7 projections are outlined below.

### **Reception Projections and School Place Planning**

25. Harrow's demographic profile of children entering its primary schools has shown an increasing trend over the past ten years since 2005-06. The increases in numbers of primary age children have been very significant and have posed challenges for the local authority and schools to ensure sufficient school places for all children.
26. However, this picture changed from 2015/16 and is still changing. The projections for 2020 as per the last few years are lower however there is steady increase projected over the next 10 years. The main reasons for these changes are:
- This year's birth to reception retention rate of 88% is based on 3,509 births in 2014/15 converting to 3,079 reception children in Harrow's schools in 2019/20. Births from 2015/16 increased from 3,661 to an all-time high in Harrow of 3,655 in 2017/18, however they dropped to 3,543 in 2018/19. The birth projections are indicating a drop over the next 5 years, but then are projected to increase slightly for a few years and then remain quite steady into 2030 and beyond.
  - The Reception baseline projections have a slightly higher starting point of 3,182 (Baseline) and 3,246 (+2%) for 2020/21, with a slight increase from 2026/27 onwards. As per the last few years the continued sharp increases into the next decade, which have been predicted during the past few years, are no longer projected.
  - Fewer than expected children have entered Reception classes in Harrow in 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19. Most recently there has been a drop of 36 less children entering Reception - from 2018/19 to 2019/20. The small increases that have been seen over recent years are insignificant in comparison to the increases in previous years. There was a 4-year trend of increases ranging between 122 and 221 additional children in Reception classes between 2011/12 and 2014/15.
27. Following the expansion programme and free schools in September 2016 there are 3,450 permanent reception places. There are vacancies in reception classes which are concentrated in a small number of schools. Given the significant increase in school places to meet rising demand there needs to be a period of time for the situation to settle and be monitored. Where there are instances where a reduction in number of places would be beneficial to a school to manage mobility and fluctuations Officers have engaged with the schools on an individual basis.

28. The position in the Primary Planning Areas varies in respect of the actual number of pupils on roll and future demand. Overall there are sufficient places available compared with the projections. There is a surplus of places (Forms of Entry – FE) in the following Planning Areas: North East (2 to 3 FE), South West (1 to 2 FE) and Faith Schools (1 to 3 FE) between 2020/21 and 2032/33. However, there is a deficit of places in the North East (up to 1FE), the South East (1 to 2 FE) and as per last year the Central Planning Area (1 to 8 FE).
29. The Central Planning Area is the only planning area that is indicating a significant shortfall of places overtime. Both the Baseline and +2% projections suggest the beginning of a shortfall of places in 2020/21, with a shortfall of 1 form of entry (Baseline and +2%) in 2021/22. This deficit is projected to continue increasing; reaching a shortfall of 4 forms of entry (Baseline and +2%) in 2025/26 and peaking at 7 to 8 forms of entry deficit by 2031/32. Current admissions offers for a Harrow school place in September 2020 are suggesting a very small amount of capacity in this planning area.
30. The Central Primary Planning Area projections and places include the 48 new community places at St Jerome's and pupils. The remaining 12 faith-based places and pupils are included in the VA Planning Area
31. This Central Primary Planning Area has the majority of housing development planned and the increase in projected pupils is aligned with the estimated timescale for the developments to come forward. Two new school sites have been identified within this area. Harrow View Primary School is planned to have 3 forms of entry or 90 places per year group and discussions have taken place with The Harrow Academies Trust with regards to possible specialist provision. The school site on the Poet's Corner regeneration site is planned to provide a further 2 forms of entry or 60 places. These two schools will provide school places for the demand expected to come directly from the housing developments.
32. Over the medium and long term given the volume of housing development the situation will be kept under review because it will be important to bring forward places with demand arising from the developments and avoid surplus provision over the short term. The impact of the developments included in Harrow's 2018/19 trajectory is not expected to be immediate and surveys are likely to be needed to ascertain the occupancy and therefore potential impact on school places in the mid to long term future.
33. The data for each Primary Planning Area is provided in Appendix A Section 4.
- Year 7 projections**
34. The 2020 projections for Year 7 places are overall in-line with the 2019 projections. The actual number of pupils on roll has risen from 1,932 in 2012/13 to 2,534 in 2018/19 and even further increased to 2,670 in 2019/20.



35. The projections are overall set to continue increasing over the period covered in the report (2020/21 to 2032/33). 2,657 (Baseline) and 2,710 (+2%) places are projected for 2020/21, with a slight dip in 2023/24 and 2024/25, but are suggested to continue slowly increasing until the end of the period, with projections of 2,830 (Baseline) and 2,887 (+2%) by 2032/33. Based on the Baseline SRP there is projected to be a shortfall of places by 2021/22 which increases to a shortfall of 1 form of entry by 2022/23, which will peak at a deficit of 7 forms of entry by 2029/30, followed by 5FE and then 4FE shortfall until the end of the period. Based on the +2% SRP, there will be a shortfall of 2 forms of entry by 2021/22, which will increase to 4 forms of entry in 2025/26, and continue increasing until the end of the period, with a peak of 9 forms of entry suggested in 2029/30. At this time there are just over 2 forms of entry Year 7 places available, this is due to vacancies that are concentrated in a small number of schools.
36. It is proposed that the situation in relation to secondary places and demand is monitored and that once there is greater clarity, we will develop local solutions to meet the growing need with the Secondary Schools.

## **Other updates**

### **Special Educational Needs Provision**

37. Harrow's SEND Strategy 2019-2024 outlines the current context for SEND nationally and locally, sets out the vision and guiding principles and four strategic priorities.
38. In line with the key priority, to reduce out borough placements, Harrow has 2 main strands of development:
  - A 'Whole System Shift' model
  - Further expansion of the additional resourced mainstream school (ARMS) provision
39. A 'Whole System Shift' is a strategic and cultural approach across all Harrow's special and mainstream schools to develop the education provision on offer in Harrow as a continuum of provision so the finite numbers of special school places are prioritised for children and young people (CYP) with the greatest complexity of need.
40. The Local Authority has carried out projection modelling for pupil planning purposes to identify requirements for SEND provision and the most cost-effective provision model. These will be updated on an annual basis once the sequential September phase transfers are confirmed.
41. Analysis of data on primary categories of need and projection modelling has shown that there are now greater numbers of CYP in

Harrow with SEND who have increasing levels of need such that they will be identified as having severe learning difficulties (SLD). Based on actual pupil numbers of CYP who required SLD provision, between 2015 and 2019, and projections of pupil numbers and need, the projections show that, 25 new children each year will require SLD special school provision.

42. Projection modelling confirms that the immediate and significant pressure is for secondary phase SLD special school places from September 2020. To accommodate this immediate place pressure Harrow has expanded Kingsley Special School, to its full capacity, from 90 to 96 places for September 2020.
43. Analysis of SEND data and trends indicate that there will continue to be growth in demand for primary SLD special school places. Prior to 2020, the growth in numbers has been largely accommodated in primary through two expansions at a primary SLD special school (Woodlands School) and the development of a primary SLD resourced provision in a mainstream school (Belmont School). These developments have managed demand in the primary sector but as pupils roll through will create pressure in the secondary sector.
44. From September 2021 to September 2026 Harrow will require on average 12- 15 additionally new SLD special school places.
45. In order to achieve an increase in SLD places it is proposed that the 2 moderate learning difficulties (MLD) schools review their designation of MLD to include SLD and offer SLD provision. Discussions are in progress with our schools to discuss the 'Whole System Shift' model and to develop and shape the proposals and with our mainstream schools to further increase ARMS provision in Harrow. The engagement and commitment of the special schools and mainstream schools to the 'Whole System Shift' model is critical to the Local Authority's SEND Strategy and key priority to increase the number of SLD places.
46. This approach will reduce the pressures on the High Needs Block (HNB) created by expensive out of borough placements thus enabling spend to benefit the development of Harrow's school provision for Harrow pupils. In addition, this approach will secure diversity in the provision of schools and increase choice for parental preference.
47. With the establishment of a 'Whole System Shift' model, pathway projections determine that approximately, 43 secondary and 29 primary ARMS places will need to be developed by 2026 to meet capacity of demand for MLD pupils who would have previously been offered an MLD special school place.
48. Officers will continue to review needs and consider all site options as site and opportunities to bid for Free School programmes become available.

### **Free School Programme**

49. At this time the next wave of the governments free school programme has yet to be announced. When details are available, Officers will engage with proposers of free schools and with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) about the establishment of free schools in Harrow. The priority for Harrow will be new special free school. All the free schools in Harrow are encouraged to maintain a focus on their local communities and to be mindful of the needs of local residents including those not directly associated with the schools.
50. The Regional Schools Commissioner signed the Funding Agreement for the Hujjat Primary School, which opens in September 2020.
51. Officers are in discussion with the ESFA regarding the opening of the Harrow View Primary School.
52. There are two schools included within the Harrow Regeneration Programme. Harrow View Primary School on the Kodak development and a site within the Poet's Corner Scheme (Civic Centre site). These schools have been included on the basis of child yield from the developments as well as contributing as a focus for the community. The opening of the schools will be planned to align with the completion and occupancy of the developments. There has to be flexibility in the timing because there is potential for original timescales to change which has been the experience to date of the opening of the Harrow View Primary School. Free school places are not included into the available school places until there is a Funding Agreement in place, although they are notionally planned or assumed in the assessment of need for future places.
53. The Government has recently announced a programme of investment for schools and when details are available Officers will explore opportunities for Harrow.

### **School Capital Programme 2020-2025**

54. To implement the school organisation strategy a school capital programme is required to provide sufficient and appropriate accommodation. Over the course of the next 5 years the school capital programme will include projects covering amalgamations, SEND and secondary schools.

#### **School Amalgamation Policy**

55. Projects to support the implementation of the Council's School Amalgamation Policy at Pinner Park and Stag Lane have been developed and will be delivered by Harrow Community Directorate. Kenmore Park Infant and Kenmore Park Junior Schools are the only remaining separate schools but in accordance with the Amalgamation Policy will at some point amalgamate and a capital project will be required to support the operation of a single school.

### **SEND Strategy**

56. The SEND Strategy includes a priority to increase local provision. The plan is to increase the number of ARMS (Additional Resourced Mainstream Schools) over the next 5 years or so in primary and secondary schools.
57. The solutions for each ARMS provision will be developed with the relevant schools. The indicative costs for primary and secondary provision will be based on an area requirement informed by the DfE Building Bulletin Guidance. The actual cost will be dependent on the school specific schemes. At this time, the specific schemes have not been agreed but an indication of the delivery of the projects is provided in the table below:

Phase 1 September 2021	1 Secondary 1 Primary
Phase 2 September 2022	1 Secondary 1 Primary (Nursery Provision)
Phase 3 September 2023	1 Secondary 1 Primary

58. The timescale is very likely to be revised given the current challenges with COVID and the priority focus on the re-opening of schools for September 2020. Where the ARMs are created in academy schools it is proposed that there is a formal agreement with the Trust and local authority that enables the academy to deliver the scheme with an agreed capital sum from the local authority. There is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between ARMs and the local authority that confirms the details of the ARMS provision including number of places, SEND need and revenue funding.

### **Secondary**

59. There is a projected shortfall for secondary places which is currently being managed through temporary bulge classes. Currently there are no permanent expansion proposals. From previous work undertaken on the school expansion programme permanent expansion of secondary schools is complex in terms of the nature of the school sites and the costs are unaffordable from the DfE Basic Need Grant. There will need to be detailed discussion with secondary headteachers to inform the details of any specific schemes.
60. Given that with the exception of one secondary school they are all academies, it is expected that where schemes are developed there would be an agreement with the council and school/trust to enable the school to deliver the schemes and funded by the Council. When appropriate there will be a further report to Cabinet outlining the schemes.

### **Performance Issues**

61. 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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, 92% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' (48%) or 'outstanding' (44%), in line with 93% in London (62% Good, 31% Outstanding) and above 86% nationally (67% Good, 19% Outstanding) (Source: Ofsted Data View).

62. 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.
63. 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.
64. 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**

65. 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.
66. Harrow Council passed a motion to declare a climate emergency on 18 July 2019, with the aim to make Harrow carbon neutral borough by 2030. This is a very challenging ambition and Harrow Schools are expected to adopt a more proactive approach to minimise their energy wastage and carbon footprint in line with the borough and central government's carbon reduction targets and objectives. Reducing emissions from schools is therefore a vital component in meeting the Council's target.
67. 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.
68. 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**

69. Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes  
Separate risk register in place? Yes

70. The directorate and corporate risk management implications for the Council arising from school place planning are included on the directorate and corporate risk registers.
71. 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. Controls are in place to ensure that funding for schemes is agreed by Capital Forum and programmes are delivered according to time and cost plans.

## **Procurement Implications**

72. The procurement team will support the delivery of all procurement associated with this programme. Procurement will be undertaken consistent with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules.

## **Legal Implications**

73. 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.
74. 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.
75. 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.
76. The Council is the admission authority for community schools. Individual school governing bodies and academy trusts are the admission authority for voluntary aided and academy schools. The Council must determine its own admission arrangements by 29 February each year and this must follow statutory consultation where changes are proposed or every 7 years.

## Financial Implications

### Capital Funding

77. The relevant elements of the Schools capital programme for 2020-2022 is £40.833m which includes slippage from previous years. This is set out below.

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Budget 2020-22 £'000</b>
School Expansion	£29,473
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Capital Fund	£6,586
Amalgamations	£552
Bulge Classes	£554
Capital Maintenance	£3,668
<b>Total Schools Capital Programme</b>	<b>£40,833</b>

### Revenue Funding

78. SEND provision is funded from the High Needs Block of the DSG. There is a projected overspend on the High Needs Block of £3.018m in 2020-21 which added to the deficit of £2.944m brought forward from 2019-20 will take the total deficit at the end of March 2021 to £5.962m.
79. Any deficits an authority may have on its DSG account is expected to be carried forward and does not require to be covered by the authority's general reserves.
80. With effect from 2019-20 the DfE has tightened up the rules under which local authorities have to explain their plans for bringing the DSG account back into balance.
81. The recovery plan is underpinned by the SEND Strategy. It has been drafted and discussed with Schools Forum. However, the following points should be noted that despite the significant proposals and measures planned over the next ten years, this will not mitigate the deficit.
82. This is due to the following contributory factors:
- historical underfunding
  - current budgets being based on historical budgets rather than historical spend
  - extension of age range to include 0-5 and post 19
  - current and projected formulaic funding which does not keep pace with demand
  - significant historical and projected growth in number of EHCPs
  - continued growth in complexity of pupils' needs
  - limitations about creating cost effective provision in borough due to capacity and site limitations

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| <p>83. Even with the significant proposals in the SEND strategy it is anticipated without any further investment in High Needs Funding by the government the cumulative deficit could be £75m by 2030.</p> |
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## **Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty**

84. 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.
85. 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.
86. Equalities impact assessment will be undertaken to inform school specific proposals.

## **Council Priorities**

87. The recommendation supports the Council 5 Priorities as follows:
- 1. Improving the environment and addressing climate change**  
Providing high quality local mainstream and special educational need provision in schools for children close to where they live avoiding the need for excessive car journeys.
  - 2. Tackling poverty and inequality**  
Ensuring Harrow Council fulfils its statutory duties to provide sufficient school places in its area.  
Everyone has access to high quality education to achieve their potential and employment prospects.
  - 3. Building homes and infrastructure**  
Providing a generational investment of some £125m into the existing schools in Harrow for the benefit of its residents.
  - 4. Addressing health and social care inequality**  
Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive.
  - 5. Thriving economy**  
Local opportunities for employment in schools and education.



Contributing to developing a future skilled workforce.

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Jo Frost	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Chief Financial Officer
Date: 19/8/2020		

Name: Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Monitoring Officer
Date: 19/8/2020		

Name: Nimesh Mehta	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Procurement
Date: 18/8/2020		

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 14/8/2020		

<b>MANDATORY</b>	
<b>Ward Councillors notified:</b>	<b>NO, as it impacts on all Wards</b>
<b>EqIA carried out:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>EqIA cleared by:</b>	This is an up-date report and any individual proposals will include an EQIA.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Johanna Morgan, Divisional Director, People Services  
0208 736 6841

**Background Papers:** Annexe 1 - Child projections, Births, Admissions, School Census; Annexe 2 - Harrow's population Projections; Annexe 3 – GLA School Roll Projections Methodology; Annexe 4 - Harrow's Regeneration Programme and Housing Profile; Annexe 5 - Harrow's changing landscape; Annexe 6 - SEND and Early Years Data

<b>Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>NO</b>
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