

<b>Meeting:</b>	Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Date:</b>	27 June 2006
<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director of Lifelong Learning
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Heather Clements
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Cllr. Janet Mote – People First
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Status:</b>	Public 1

**Section 1: Summary**

**Decision Required**

For information to note and comment.

**Reason for Report**

To update the Sub Committee about the bid to the Learning and Skills Council 16-19 Capital Fund to establish the borough wide Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate.

## Benefits

The Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate will:

- Meet parental preferences, and increase choice for parents and students
- Increase provision and quality, and achieve coherence of provision across 14-19
- Meet the Government's policy for 14-19
- Increase attainment and achievement
- Increase participation, particularly level 1 and 2 and within specific groups for example those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- Will reduce the flow of students out of Harrow at the end of Year 11 and also Year 6

## Cost of Proposals

The Learning and Skills Council is responsible for the capital and revenue funding of post 16 provision. The Local Authority is responsible for the funding of 14-16.

Capital cost of post-16 developments in high schools will be met from a successful bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund. The bid is for £17.1m. Included in this bid is the cost of securing planning consents. In addition, Schools will contribute to the capital investment on their sites.

Schools will need to be able to contain capital and revenue costs within the funding provided by the Learning & Skills Council.

## Risks

If the Capital Bid is unsuccessful then the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate will not be established, as there are no other capital resources available to secure Borough wide investment.

The project has already been subject to delay because of the prolonged timescale for the LSC decision-making process. An enabling report will be considered by 29 June Cabinet to ensure that, following a favourable decision by the LSC, the programme can be commenced without further delay that will impact on the potential of the Collegiate to deliver a full range of curriculum provision.

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

Not Applicable

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

At the end of January an initial bid was submitted to the London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) in response to their invitation and their outline specification issued in November 2005. The key points to address in the outline specification were: to establish 1000 new learner places in Harrow; to increase choice and opportunities for learners in Harrow, in particular for the NEET group of learners, thereby contributing to the aspiration of 100% post-16 learners staying on by 2010; and to increase vocation courses at entry, level 1, 2 and 3.

The 10 high schools, two special schools and three colleges worked in partnership, and a representative Core Group worked up the bid to address all the LWLSC outline specification. There were two parts to the bid an Educational Case and a capital bid. The capital bid was to secure capital investment on all high school sites for post-16 provision.

One of the requirements from the LWLSC was to publish Statutory Notices to change the age range of schools from 11-16 to 11-18 for the VA schools and 12-16 to 12-18 for the community schools. The Notices were published in February. They will be determined when the capital has been secured to implement the proposals.

The LWLSC assessed the Education Case using a local Stakeholder Panel. Comments and issues were raised and these were addressed within a revised and strengthened bid that was submitted in final in early March. The final bid was reassessed by the Stakeholder Panel. Part of this re-assessment included a presentation from Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate representatives of Heads, Principal and LEA Officers. The Stakeholder Panel, were satisfied that their original issues had been addressed sufficiently and expressed their support to the LWLSC for the Harrow Bid. The LWLSC considered the bid at their council meeting on 24 April. They agreed to support the educational case for the London Borough of Harrow Collegiate and recommend the proposal to the National Capital Committee for capital funding approval to a maximum sum of £17.1 million. The recommendations and the capital bids were referred to the National Capital Committee for consideration and hopefully final approval. The National Capital Committee met on 2 May, and referred the bid to the recently formed London Regional Board. The London Regional Board met on 12 May, and

referred the bid back to the LWLSC to consider the bid in respect of the London Capital Strategy in general, value for money, and London priorities.

The LWLSC Council met on 16 May to consider the bid in the light of the National Capital Committee and London Regional Board actions. The LWLSC have effectively concluded that the bid will fail if presented as it stands, and are asking Harrow to consider possible ways forward. Concerns have been raised about the Management of the Collegiate and, in their view, the need for the management and commitment to the Collegiate to be established within a legally binding framework to reassure about the potential for the schools to break from the Collegiate without such an agreement. Also more work would be needed on the proposals for those Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). Some LWLSC Council members also had some concerns about the impact on neighbouring boroughs.

### Current position

Following the LWLSC Council meeting on 16 May, LWLSC officers are considering with us how to progress the bid in respect of the National Capital Committee as well as possible alternative routes for Harrow to pursue to secure funding. A positive message is that the case for something to be done in Harrow appears to have been made. LWLSC are under pressure to hold a competition round for LSC funding that Harrow could enter, but it is unlikely to be successful given our successful schools and staying on rates. It should be noted that the LSC are being re-organized and there are a number of new appointments.

A meeting of High School Heads, Principals and LEA officers on 17 May heard this feedback, and agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Harrow's two MPs and Lord Andrew Adonis to galvanize political support for the Harrow Collegiate proposals. In addition the LWLSC concerns i.e. NEET provision and Governance/Management would be addressed and strengthened in the bid.

A meeting was held in Westminster on 25 May, which was attended by Geoff Wingrove, Director of Strategic Services, with representative headteachers and college principals. The representative group met with Lord Andrew Adonis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools, Gareth Thomas, Harrow West MP, David Hughes, Regional Director of London Region LSC, and the 14-19 lead officer from the Department for Education and Skills. Tony McNulty, Harrow East MP, was unfortunately unable to attend because of commitments arising from his change of ministerial portfolio.

The meeting was extremely positive. Excellent representations were made by all attenders. It was agreed that Harrow's bid will be considered by the LSC National Capital Committee at its meeting on 13 July. Harrow is to resubmit the bid, having further addressed the issues raised about governance and NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) provision. Harrow is to work with

London West and London Region LSC officers on its resubmission. Lord Adonis made it clear that he wants to be personally involved, and he wants the revised bid to be sent to him.

There is important work that needs to be progressed in order to resubmit our bid by the end of June. Geoff Wingrove will lead on the governance issues. Contact is being made with LSC officers to clarify what would be considered by them to be an acceptable legal approach to governance, and Harrow Council legal advisers will assist with this work. Heather Clements is leading on the NEET and new/displaced learners issues.

We have achieved a very positive outcome from our representations, which reflects well on our collaborative working and the continued commitment and hard work of all. The Schools and Colleges remain fully committed to the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate and planning is underway to establish the Collegiate across the Borough in September 2007. The Central Consortium will begin their franchise arrangements with Harrow College in September 2006. Without capital investment the accommodation will not be available on all school sites to offer the courses and develop the 14-19 curriculum in line with Government Policy. If the funding is agreed the timescale for completing the capital work will have to be reviewed as several months have now been lost.

## **2.2 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 and to the submission of the bid to the LSC 16-19 Capital Fund.

## **2.3 Consultation**

The 14-19 Strategy was developed with the full involvement of all the key partners, and included a stakeholder survey.

Statutory consultation and notices about the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate and the change in age range of the schools occurred from January until April 2006. This consultation included all stakeholders in Harrow including students, parents, staff, work based providers as well as neighbouring Boroughs and Schools in accordance with DfES Guidance. The proposals will be considered by the School Organisation Committee when the outcome of the bid to the LSC 16-19 Capital Fund is known.

## **2.4 Financial Implications**

There should be no financial implications to the Council of providing post-16 provision as the revenue funding for post-16 is provided by the Learning and Skills Council.

A capital bid for £17.1m has been submitted. The Council is required to obtain planning consents to secure the LSC funding. June Cabinet will consider an enabling report to ensure that the implications of the delays are minimised. When the LSC funding is released, the cost of obtaining the planning consents will be reimbursed to the Council. No expenditure will be committed until a favourable LSC decision is received.

Schools have agreed to contribute to the capital investment on their sites.

## **2.5 Legal Implications**

The School Organisation Committee will be required to determine the Statutory Notices only if objections are received. The SOC will meet in 19<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to consider the proposals, the objections and the responses to them. It will be unable to determine the Notices if the financial situation remains uncertain. SOC will be able to make a decision if the financial provision is made 'in principle' if only subject to the SOC decision.

Further legal advice maybe required once definite proposals for the governance arrangements have been identified.

## **2.6 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 Education Employment or Training.

## **2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations**

A high quality comprehensive and inclusive 14-19 phase will make positive contributions to the reduction of crime and disorder amongst young people.

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

Cabinet Report 12 January 2006

Cabinet Report 16 February 2006

Consultation Guidance for 16-19 Competitions (published 15 December 2005)

16-19 Capital Fund Guidance: 2006-07 Onwards (published 15 December 2005)

LWLSC Outline Specification for Expanding Post-16 Provision in the London Borough of Harrow dated 15 November 2005, and the cover letter from Peter Pledger, Executive Director LWLSC.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8420 9270.