

Report for: Cabinet

Date of Meeting:	21 October 2021
Subject:	School Organisation Update and School Capital Programme
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director People Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Robson, Portfolio Holder Children, Young People & Schools Councillor
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A: School Roll Projections 2021/2022 to 2033/2034 Report Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides an update on the school roll projections for 2021-2033 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 changes to school place provision and the School Roll Projections 2021-2033 Report and the changes in the overall school organisation landscape.
2. Note the schools where additional SEND provision will be established including the associated Capital programme.
3. Note changes to School Place Planning Areas that will be applied following a review of the current planning areas to ensure that they are compliant with the new DfE guidance. The updated planning areas will incorporate any changes to ward boundaries which will be implemented in May 2022.

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. The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area. Like many boroughs, Harrow experienced significant growth in the pupil population and 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. The current projections show that pupil population for primary schools is now declining across Harrow and London.
2. The management of school places 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 strategy and highlights the emerging place planning issues as informed by the School Projections Report 2021-2033.

4. To implement the school organisation strategy and SEND 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: To implement the schools capital programme to provide suitable and 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. The focus is now on managing the supply of primary school places and increasing special education provision.

Changes to the school organisation landscape

Harrow Council's School Amalgamation Policy

6. There is one remaining infant and one junior school, yet to be amalgamated in accordance with the policy.
7. Stag Lane Primary School amalgamated on 1 April 2020 and Pinner Park Primary School on 1 April 2019. Pinner Park Primary School amalgamation works are under way. The amalgamation works required for Stag Lane Primary School were delayed and being rescheduled.

Community School Admission Arrangements and Published Admission Numbers

All Harrow Resident pupils who applied for a place at a primary school for September 2021 have been offered a place with sufficient capacity to meet demand with surplus places available. The number of applications received for Reception places has fallen in Harrow and many other London boroughs have had a similar experience. Officers have continued to work with schools to manage the number of school places.

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. Since September 2019 the following reductions in Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) have been implemented for Reception classes.

Academic Year	School	Original PAN	New PAN	Reduction
2019	The Welldon Park Academy	90	60	30 (1FE)
	Cedars Manor School	90	60	30 (1FE)
2020	Weald Rise Primary School	120	60	60 (2FE)
2021	Longfield Primary School	120	90	30 (1FE)
	Roxbourne Primary School	90	60	30 (1FE)
	Kenmore Park Infant School	120	90	30 (1FE)
	Kenmore Junior School	120	90	30 (1FE)
	Cannon Lane Primary School	120	90	30 (1FE)

10. For September 2021, an in-year variation was sought by the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) to reduce the PAN for Cannon Lane Primary School on 25 June. The OSA agreed the request on 23 July 2021. This request was unforeseen as the previous year the school offered up to its PAN of 120. Harrow Council received 180 less on time applications for Reception across the borough which was not in line with the GLA projections. It is assumed that this is an outcome of Brexit as well as the Covid-19 pandemic. It is noted that many other London boroughs have received fewer applications than projected. The impact on Cannon Lane Primary School was significant hence the application for the in-year variation.
11. For September 2022 following a consultation the PAN for Stanburn Primary school has been determined at 90 places in Reception class, a reduction from 120.

Other primary school changes

12. 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. In the interim arrangements were made for pupils from Moriah school to be taught at Hertsmere School from September 2020. The Regional Schools Commissioners have confirmed that the school formally closed on 31 August 2021. An independent special school called Gesher School has opened on the Moriah site. This is an

Orthodox Jewish all through special school for pupils from the age of 4-16.

13. Officers will continue to work with schools to manage school places in order to support schools during this period of change whilst ensuring that the Local Authority continue to have sufficient capacity to meet any demand for places.

Secondary schools

14. 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.
15. Secondary Schools are continuing to work with the Local Authority to support the Council to ensure every Harrow Resident applicant has an offer of a school place and Officers will continue their discussions with Secondary Heads to discuss options of how to meet future demand.
16. For September 2021, five schools agreed to open bulge classes to ensure that the Local Authority had sufficient places for National Offer Day. Every Harrow Resident applicant had an offer of a school place. Following the movement that follows after the first round of offers, it was determined that these additional places were not needed.

School Admissions Code 2021

17. The Government have amended the School Admissions Code which came into effect on 1 September 2021. The main purpose of the changes to the Code 2021 is to improve the in-year admission process, in particular for vulnerable children. The changes include:
 1. introducing more detail on the process for managing in-year admissions;
 2. changes to improve the effectiveness of Fair Access Protocols;
 3. giving children adopted from state care outside of England equal admissions priority as children who were previously looked after in England;
 4. clarification of which address to use for the admission of service or crown servant children. There are also further minor clarification changes.

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 2021/22-2033/34 are presented at Appendix A.
20. The 2021 GLA pupil projections continue to indicate a change to the trends of the last 5 years when the trend had 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 2021 increase for the first year, followed by a slight dip that then plateaus until the end of the period. The Year 7 projections in 2021 increase for the first year, followed by a slight dip, which starts to increase from 2025/26 and peaks in 2029/20 and then drops 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. The rate dropped in 2020/21 to 84% and is projected to stay between 86-88% 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.
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 previously shown an increasing trend over a ten-year period 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 Reception projections for 2021 as per the last few years are lower with a slight decrease projected over the next 10 years. The main reasons for these changes are:
- This year's birth to reception retention rate of 84% is based on Harrow's highest ever birth rate of 3,661 births in 2015/16 converting to 3,089 reception children in Harrow's schools in 2020/21. Harrow's highest level of births of 3,661 in 2015/16 have dropped to 3,506 in 2019/20. The birth rate is projected to continue dropping over the next 6 years, followed by a steady increase into 2030 and beyond.
 - The Reception baseline projections have a slightly lower starting point of 3,118 (Baseline) and 3,180 (+2%) for 2021/22, with a slight increase in 2022/23 followed by a steady decline. 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.
 - The small increases in Reception children 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. Fewer than expected children have entered Reception classes in Harrow in 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 (3,189 pupils), with an even lower number on roll in 2018/19 and 2019/20 (3,079 pupils). There is a very small increase in 2020/21 – 3,089,
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. Based on the Baseline projections there is a surplus of places (Forms of Entry – FE) projected in the following Planning Areas: North East (1 to 2 FE), the South East (1 to 2.5 FE), South West (1 to 5 FE) and Voluntary Aided Schools (1 to 2 FE) between 2021/22 and 2033/34. However, there is a deficit of places in the North West (up to 1 FE) from 2021/22 to 2023/24, and as per last year the Central Planning Area (1 to 4 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 2021/22, with a shortfall of 1 form of entry (Baseline and +2%) in 2022/23. This deficit is projected to continue increasing; reaching a shortfall of 2 forms of entry (Baseline and +2%) in 2025/26 and peaking at 4 forms of entry deficit by 2029/30. Current admissions offers for a Harrow school place in September 2021 are suggesting a small amount of capacity in this planning area.
30. The Central Primary Planning Area projections and places include the 48 community places at St Jerome's and pupils. The remaining 12 faith-based places and pupils are included in the Voluntary Aided 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 2019/20 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 2021 projections for Year 7 places are slightly lower than the 2020 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, however they dropped slightly to 2,623 in 2020/21.
35. The projections are overall set to continue increasing over the period covered in the report (2021/22 to 2033/34). 2,668 (Baseline) and 2,721 (+2%) places are projected for 2021/22, followed by fluctuating numbers over the whole period. Based on the Baseline SRP there is projected to be a surplus of places from 1 FE in 2021/22 which increases to 7 FE by 2033/34. Based on the +2% SRP, there will be a shortfall of up to 1 form of entry in 2021/22 and 2022/23, followed by a surplus of places, and then another shortfall of up to 2 FE in 2028/29 and 2029/30. At this time there are just under 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.

SEND Strategy

Special Educational Needs Provision

37. Harrow's SEND Strategy 2019-2024 outlines the current context for SEND nationally and locally, sets out the guiding principles and four strategic priorities.
38. In line with the key priority, to reduce out borough placements, Harrow is progressing 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 96 to 102 places from September 2021.
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 2022 to September 2025 Harrow will require on average 8-14 additional new SLD special school places.

The LA is working collaboratively with the four special schools in Harrow, two of which are designated MLD, to explore and progress how best SLD provision can be expanded across a 'Whole System Shift' model and subsequently how MLD provision can be expanded and developed within mainstream schools. The engagement and commitment of the MLDs schools and mainstream schools to develop ARMS provision, to the 'Whole System Shift' model is critical to the LA's SEND Strategy and key priority to increase the number of SLD places. To further support the System Shift, it is necessary that the range of special educational need met in the two MLD schools widens, to include more pupils with complex needs. Since September 2020, both Alexandra and Shaftesbury Schools have admitted approximately 15 pupils with more complex needs who would previously not have been considered, including several pupils from Woodlands School. This creates additional capacity in the two schools designated as for pupils with severe Learning Difficulties (SLD).

45. 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.

46. With the establishment of a 'Whole System Shift' model, pathway projections determine that approximately, 48 secondary and 36 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.
47. Officers will continue to review needs and consider all site options as site and opportunities to bid for Free School programmes become available.
48. Three primary schools and one secondary school are working with the Local Authority to create additional ARMS provision.

1. Grange Primary School
2. Pinner Wood School
3. Stanburn Primary School
4. Canons High School

Name	Need	Number of places
Grange Primary School	MLD	12
Grange nursery	Complex needs	12 part-time places (6 FTE)
Stanburn Primary School	MLD	12
Pinner Wood	MLD	12
Canons High School	MLD	12

49. All places in these provisions will be above the existing school's planned admission numbers (PAN) and will be opened in a phased manner over the next two years, starting in September 2022.
50. For each of these schemes, consultation will be undertaken as part of the process to develop proposals and complete the statutory process to increase SEND provision in accordance with the SEND Strategy.
51. These additional ARMS places will create capacity in the special schools for pupils with more complex needs.
52. Shaftesbury School - For Sept 2021 the school is increasing commissioned numbers to 180. The school will be taking 5 pupils whose school pathway previously would have been Kingsley. In line with the System Shift and if we wish to harness the potential of the site at Shaftesbury and increase the school to max capacity of 200 places. Internal works are being scoped and planned be implemented by September 2022 to ensure that the school is able to accommodate 200 pupils.

School Capital Programme 2020-2025

53. To support the SEND expansions the following schools will have a Capital projects to ensure that there is suitable and sufficient accommodation. This is funded DfE's School Capital Grant

1. Grange Primary School
2. Pinner Wood School
3. Stanburn Primary School
4. Canons High School
5. Woodlands
6. Shaftesbury

With the exception of Canons High School, the council will be delivering the Capital Programmes. As an Academy Canons High School will commission and manage its- own Capital programme funded by the Council.

54. The majority of works for the primary schools is refurbishing existing areas.
55. Woodlands – The Capital Programme will secure permanent modular accommodation replacing temporary buildings and Canons High School will create new accommodation incorporated within their master site development plan.

SEND Strategy and HNB

56. The SEND Strategy is designed to improve outcomes for children and young people across Harrow. It is essential that the Strategy also reduces pressure on the high needs budgets and funding systems. Over recent years, significant pressures on the high needs budgets have resulted in many local authorities accruing deficits on their Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), this includes Harrow.
57. A number of actions are being taken by the government, including the SEND review that is currently underway. Alongside this, officers are evaluating the strategy's effectiveness against the five key areas considered essential to deliver a sustainable high needs funding system.
58. The five key areas are:
1. Early intervention - In order to ensure children and young people's needs are appropriately identified and met from an early stage, colleagues from early years, education, care and health will review existing working practices to ensure support is available early and partners know where to access this. This will include representation from parent groups. During the pandemic, teams worked creatively and collaboratively to ensure support was available quickly for children in need, and this learning will inform future strategic work on this area. Recently, increased early support has been possible

through evaluation and restructure of a number of panels to allow membership from a broader range of professionals.

2. Increased SEN support offer – A working party has been set up which will be led by schools to review the SEN support offer. This will include colleagues from across health and care, and will review the current offer of support available, allowing children to receive high quality support without requiring an EHC plan. This will include CPD and outreach work between settings.
3. Review EHCP assessment process and thresholds – the SEN assessment process is being reviewed to ensure that it runs effectively and in a sustainable way, whilst remaining in line with the SEND legislation. The SEN panel process has been recently altered to allow for targeted representation from the most appropriate colleagues. An audit of the quality of EHCPs has also started. Officers also consider feedback provided through the mediation and tribunal process.
4. Culture change and work with school leaders – School leaders have been engaged with the SEND Strategy and Whole System Shift and are in agreement with its rationale. School leaders are included at all stages of reviewing the SEND Strategy.
5. Appropriate and thorough provision mapping, with potential development of more local provision – As described above, council officers work continually to predict the required provision for the coming years. A key element of the SEND Strategy is ensuring adequate provision and is described above.

Free School Programme

59. 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 a 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.
60. The Hujjat Primary School opened in September 2020.
61. Officers continue discussions with the ESFA and the School Trust regarding the opening and of the Harrow View Primary School.
62. 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.

63. The Government has recently announced a programme of investment for schools and when details are available Officers will explore opportunities for Harrow.

Secondary

64. 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.
65. 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 Government school capital grants allocated to the Council. When appropriate there will be a further report to Cabinet outlining the schemes.

Performance Issues

66. 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 March 2021, 91% of Harrow's primary and secondary schools are judged 'good' (48%) or 'outstanding' (43%), in line with 91% in London (48% Good, 43% Outstanding) and above 86% nationally (67% Good, 19% Outstanding) (Source: Ofsted Data View).
67. 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.
68. 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.

69. 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

70. 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.
71. 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.
72. 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.
73. 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.

Data Protection Implications

74. There are no data protection implications with this proposal.

Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **Yes**

Separate risk register in place? **Yes, there will be a risk register for each capital project which will be developed when the programme is implemented.**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below.
n/a

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

Risk Description	Mitigations	RAG Status
The School Roll Projections are under or overstated	The Council has used the GLA roll projections and they have been reliable	Green
Overspend of HNB by £27m by 2025	There are number of reasons why this overspend is projected e.g. historic under funding, please see paragraph 81 point 6 for further details	Red
Breach of s14 of the Education Act 1996 if insufficient school places on offer	The Council has currently sufficient places to meet demand.	Green

Procurement Implications

75. 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. Delegated authority to commence procurement and approve award(s) of contracts was agreed at the Cabinet meeting of September 2020.

Legal Implications

76. 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.
77. 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.
78. 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.
79. 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.
80. Parents can appeal the allocation of a school place through the Schools Admission Appeals process, and for children and young

people with an EHC Plan, through the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (First Tier Tribunal).

Financial Implications

Capital Funding

81. The relevant elements of the Schools capital programme for 2021-2023 is £24.949m which includes slippage from previous years. This is set out below.

Scheme	Budget 2021-3£'000
School Expansion/Basic Need Funding	£14,997
SEND Expansion	£5,501
School Amalgamation	£654
School Capital Maintenance	£3,245
Bulge Classes	£552
Total Schools Capital Programme	£24,949

The initial costings for the identified projects (prior to procurement of a contractor) is set out as follows, in accordance with the delegations by Cabinet in September 2020 the schools subject to capital projects are detailed below. These schemes were agreed by the Council's Capital Programme by Cabinet in February 2021.

Scheme	Projected Cost £'000
Woodlands	£305
Pinner Wood	£236
Shaftesbury	£1,500
Stanburn	£450
Grange	£590
Canons High	Tbc
Total	£3,081

The £3.081m will be committed from the SEND Expansion capital programme which totals £5.501m.

Revenue Funding

The DSG is a ring-fenced grant of which the majority is used to fund individual school budgets in maintained schools, academies and free schools in Harrow. It also funds Early Years nursery free entitlement places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds in maintained council nursery classes and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries as well as provision for pupils with High Needs including those with Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) in special schools and special provision and mainstream schools in Harrow and out of borough. The DSG is split into blocks: schools block, early years block and high needs block

1. There is a projected overspend on the High Needs Block of £712k in 2021-22 which added to the cumulative deficit of £3.730m brought forward from 2019-20 and 2020-21 will take the total deficit at the end of March 2022 to £4.442m.
 2. 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. This is a temporary arrangement until 2022-23 beyond which LAs must demonstrate they have sufficient reserves to cover the deficits.
 3. 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.
 4. The DfE will require a report from any LA that has a cumulative DSG deficit of more than 1% at the end of the financial year. The 1% calculation will be based on the latest published DSG allocations for 2021-22 compared with the deficit shown in the authority's published draft accounts.
 5. The final deficit at the end of 2020-21 of £3.730m represents 1.55% of the overall DSG allocation (including academy funding). The recovery plan has been drafted however and discussed with Schools Forum. However, the following points should be noted
 6. Despite the significant proposals and measures planned over the next ten years, this will not mitigate the deficit. 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
82. 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 £27m by 2025.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

83. 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.
84. 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.
85. Equalities impact assessment has been carried out and there are no negative impacts arising from these proposals.

Council Priorities

86. 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

Statutory Officer: Jo Frost

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 4 October 2021

Statutory Officer: Sharon Clarke
Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 4 October 2021

Chief Officer: Paul Hewitt
Signed off by the Corporate Director
Date: 11 October 2021

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta
Signed off by the Head of Procurement
Date: 4 October 2021

Head of Internal Audit: Susan Dixon
Signed off by the Head of Internal Audit
Date: 11 October 2021

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqlA carried out: YES

EqlA cleared by: Johanna Morgan

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Rajeshree Parmar, Head of School Organisation, Admissions and Attendance, 020 8416 8286

Background Papers: Annexe 1 - Child Population Projections; Annexe 2 – Overview of Harrows population and changes; Annexe 3 – GLA School Roll Projections Methodology; Annexe 4 - Harrow's Regeneration Programme and Housing Profile; Annexe 5 - SEND and Early Years

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

NO