

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	3 July 2006
Subject:	Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate
Responsible Officer:	Lorraine O'Reilly, Executive Director, People First
Contact Officer:	Geoff Wingrove, Director of Strategic Services Department, People First (0208 424 1513)
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Janet Mote People First
Key Decision:	No – information item
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

The borough wide Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate is being developed for implementation from September 2007, subject to securing capital funding. A bid to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) 16-19 Capital Fund has been prepared by the local authority for post-16 capital development on high school sites. The bid presented the educational case for the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate and the case for £17.1m capital. The bid was submitted in its final form at the end of March 2006. The London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) considered the bid on 24 April and agreed to recommend the bid to the LSC National Capital Committee. Final decision by the LSC National Capital Committee is expected in July.

The Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate will have post-16 students at all high schools and will require the change in the age range of community schools from 12-16 to 12-18 (11-16 to 11-18 for the voluntary aided schools). The statutory notices will be determined by the School Organisation Committee if funding is secured.

Decision Required

FOR INFORMATION

That the Education Consultative Forum notes the report.

Reason for report

At its meeting in January 2006 the Education Consultative Forum received a report on the invitation from the London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) to bid for capital funding for 1000 post 16 places at Harrow High Schools. The Forum also received a report on the Harrow 14-19 Strategy, which was to be attached to Harrow bid.

Harrow is committed to increasing choice and raising attainment and participation levels for post-16 learners. This is in the Harrow 14-19 Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan. This is also in line with Government Policy as detailed in the 14-19 Implementation Plan and the LWLSC Strategic Area Review Action Plan.

The Harrow 14-19 Advisory Group established the Post-16 Collegiate Core Group to develop the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate model and prepare the Capital Bid to the LSC. A successful bid will secure funding for appropriate accommodation across all high schools for some post-16 provision.

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 NEETs
- Will reduce the flow of students out of Harrow at the end of Year 11 and also Year 6

Cost of Proposals

Capital cost of post-16 developments in high schools will be met from a successful bid to the 16-19 Capital Fund. 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.

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

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

Risks

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. At its meeting in August, Cabinet will receive an enabling report to ensure that 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. The report to Cabinet will request approval for reserves to be used on a temporary basis to enable work on planning consents to secure the LSC funding. No expenditure would be committed until a favourable LSC decision is received.

Implications if recommendations rejected

No recommendations – for information only.

The capital investment is essential to establish the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate on all high school sites with effect from September 2007.

Failure to secure the LSC funding will have a negative impact on the 14-19 provision in Harrow.

There will be the potential for fragmentation of the current system built on partnership and collaboration, and potential to lose opportunities for external funding. The Objectives in the 14-19 Strategy will not be achieved and Harrow 14-19 provision will not be in line with Government Policy. There will be implications for the forthcoming Joint Area Review.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

On 15 November 2005 the London West Learning and Skills Council (LWLSC) decided that the work already done in Harrow meant that the specification for applications to the 16-19 Capital Fund should not be opened up to the competition process in the London West region. The LWLSC agreed an Outline Specification for Expanding Post-16 Provision in Harrow, and invited Harrow to make a proposal. This was submitted in its final form at the end of March 2006. The proposal had two parts. Part One is a response to the LWLSC Invitation and Outline Specification. Part Two is a completed application form for the 16-19 Capital Fund

The LWLSC Council met on 24 April and considered the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate report. The LWLSC Council agreed to support the educational case for the London Borough of Harrow Collegiate and recommended the proposal to the National Capital Committee for capital funding approval to a maximum sum of £17.1 million.

The Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate proposal has been on the agenda of further LSC meetings prior to final decision being made by the LSC National Committee in July. The LSC National Committee met on 2 May, and referred the bid for consideration by the newly formed LSC London Regional Board. The LSC London Regional Board met on 12 May and referred the bid back to the LWLSC for consideration in the context of the London Regional Capital Strategy in general, and in respect of value for money and London priorities. On 16 May the LWLSC Council met and requested that LSC officers work with Harrow to further develop the proposal and to address the concerns that had been raised at these meetings. These concerns include: the strength of governance arrangements; the detail about arrangements to meet the needs of those Not in Education, Employment or Training; value for money. Work is in hand to strengthen the bid, which will be submitted to the LSC National Capital Committee for final decision.

2.2 Options considered

The options considered have been outlined in 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. £1.7m from reserves will enable this to happen. Cabinet will be asked to give approval for reserves to be used on a temporary basis to enable work on planning consents to secure the LSC funding. When the LSC funding is released, the cost of obtaining the planning consents will be reimbursed to the Council. DfES funding would be released during this financial year, and the gap is not likely to be longer than 4-5 months following a favourable LSC decision. 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

In order for each school within the Collegiate to provide a sixth form provision, a formal decision making process must be followed as required by the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Each school has given statutory notice of the intention to provide sixth form education. If an objection to the proposal is received, the decision rests with the School Organisation Committee (SOC) which will meet once the LSC has made its decision on the capital bid. The decision may be made by the local education authority if no objections are made. The SOC may not be in a position to make a decision if there is uncertainty about the capital funding for the proposal.

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

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

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Background Documents:

Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate - report to Education Consultative Forum dated 31 January 2006

Harrow 14-19 Strategy - report to Education Consultative Forum dated 31 January 2006

Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate – Statutory Process report to Cabinet dated 16 February 2006

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