

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

Page no:

<b>Meeting:</b>	School Organisation Committee
<b>Date:</b>	18 September 2003
<b>Subject:</b>	School Organisation Plan 2003 -08
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	Executive Director – People First
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning
<b>Status:</b>	Part 1
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Draft School Organisation Plan

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Cabinet with the draft School Organisation Plan for 2003-08.

### 2. Recommendations

- That School Organisation Committee Members:
- 2.1 Consider the draft School Organisation Plan and comment as appropriate.
- 2.2 Agree the School Organisation Plan for publication.

**The School Organisation Plan is published by the end of September 2003 in line with DfES Statutory Guidance.**

### 3 Consultation with Ward Councillors

- 3.1 Following consultation with Ward Councillors no comments or clarifications were raised in preparing the draft plan.

#### **4 Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 The DfES have published a document “New Guidance on Preparing and Agreeing a School Organisation Plan”. The draft Plan has been prepared in accordance with new Regulations. Additional information required as part of the Guidance has been included within the existing format outlined in paragraph 6 below.

#### **5 Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The School Organisation Plan is an integral element in the LEAs approach to raising school standards. It has close links with the Education Development Plan, Asset Management Plan, Lifelong Learning Plan and Early Years Development and Child Care Plan. The Education Services Strategic Plan has a target to maintain a surplus capacity of places across all sectors of schools at 10%. The School Organisation Plan will be central to achieving this target.

#### **6 Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1 This is the fifth draft School Organisation Plan prepared by Harrow. It covers the period 2003-2008 and is informed by a review of the 2002-2007 Plan. Other previous Plans provide background and additional information.

- 6.2 The Plan is presented in 5 Sections:

6.3 *Section 1 The Organisation of School Places in Harrow*

This section describes the organisation of school places in Harrow and outlines those factors that influence place planning. It also summarises how planning is undertaken in Harrow.

6.4 *Section 2 Principles for Guiding Place Planning in Harrow.*

Planning places needs to be complementary to school improvement and to meeting other Council objectives. Proposals for change need to be based on consistent and objective criteria. This Section details criteria that will be considered both in general terms but also specifically in relation to increases and reductions in the number of places.

6.5 *Section 3 Demographic Information to Support Changes in Provision*

Managing the supply of school places needs to be informed by robust evidence of future demand for places. This information is derived from various sources. This section explains how data is collected and analysed.

6.6 *Section 4 Analysis of Demographic Information and its Impact on Place Planning in Harrow*

Section 4 combines the most recent information on demographic trends in Harrow with an analysis in terms of the planning implications.

6.7 *Section 5 Conclusions and Areas for Action over the Life of the Plan*

This section draws together the information and analysis from Section 4 with the developments that have been implemented during 2002 –2003 as well as those that are nearing completion or issues that are arising within the Borough that will need to be considered during the life of this Plan. This section, to some extent, indicates the expected role of the School Organisation Committee during 2003-04.

**7 Consultation**

7.1 The draft School Organisation Plan 2003-2008 was published on 15 May 2003 and closed on 1 August. Copies were sent to a wide range of organisations including:

- Headteachers
- Chairs of Governing Bodies
- Diocesan Boards and the United Synagogue
- Colleges
- Neighbouring LEAs
- Harrow Early Years Development and Childcare, and Lifelong Learning Partnerships
- Members of Parliament
- Harrow Teachers' Consultative Committee
- Education Consultative Forum
- Harrow Association for Disabled People
- Social Services and Health Authority
- Harrow Council for Racial Equality
- Harrow Youth Forum
- Connexions
- Admissions Forum
- Members

7.2 No comments or objections were received. Issues and comments raised by Cabinet on 9 September 2003 will be reported verbally at the School Organisation Committee meeting.

**8 Finance Observations**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this Report.

**9 Legal Observations**

9.1 It is a statutory obligation to draft, publish and finalise a School Organisation Plan. Section 26 (amended) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 sets out this requirement. New regulations include provisions to deal with the manner in which the authority will secure:

- 1) The raising of standards
- 2) Improved outcomes for all pupils

- 3) Greater diversity in the type of schools in the authority's area.
- 4) Increased collaboration between schools
- 5) Greater community cohesion.

## **10 Background Papers**

10.1 School Organisation Plans 1999-2004, 2000-2005, 2001-2006, 2002-2007.

## **11 Author**

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