

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2007
Subject:	Extended Schools strategy
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan Director of Lifelong Learning and Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Bednell Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning and Cultural Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Extended Schools strategy and updated guidance.

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This report sets out the background to the development of an extended schools strategy for Harrow. The strategy contributes to three corporate priorities; Making Harrow safe, sound and supportive; empowering Harrow youth and giving more choice in sport, leisure and amenities. In addition, the strategy links to the Children's Centre strategy and contributes to achieving targets set out in the Harrow Children and Young People's Plan.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Cabinet is asked to approve the Extended Schools strategy.

**REASON:** (For recommendation - Executive-side reports only)

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

### Brief Background

The Extended Schools strategy provides a framework for the development of extended schools in Harrow. It sets out the Harrow approach to develop the initiative in a way that streamlines provision and develops shared understanding. It makes explicit the link between extended schools and children's centres providing the strategic direction for the development of integrated, extended services in Harrow.

In October 2006 a report was prepared for the Children and Young People Scrutiny sub-committee that provided an update on progress regarding extended schools since the Community Schools Pilot Evaluation in November 2005. The report stated that a draft extended schools strategy had been drawn up and was available for consultation during October to December 2006.

The Extended Schools strategy has been developed in conjunction with the Children's Centre strategy that received cabinet approval in November 2005. The Children's Centre strategy sets out a commitment to work with extended schools to ensure a full range of locally accessible services are available to meet needs identified.

A progress report on Extended School developments was presented at Cabinet in December 2005. The report included an evaluation of the pilot schools and addressed recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review Group Report of July 2004.

The Scrutiny Review group prepared a report on the Community Schools Pilot in July 2004. The report commented positively on developments that had taken place and made some recommendations for the future roll-out of the pilot.

Roll-out options for Extended Schools were approved at a cabinet meeting in July 2004

### Issue to be determined

To approve the extended schools strategy.

### Options considered

Key stakeholders were consulted on the development of the strategy. The draft strategy was circulated widely and feedback was invited. The circulation included all headteachers, chairs of governing bodies, voluntary sector representatives, members of the Early Years and Childcare Partnership, Cluster Co-ordinators, Councillors and senior managers across all council departments. A number of responses were received and where appropriate these were incorporated in to the final document.

### Option recommended

It is recommended that the Extended Schools strategy is approved as it will provide the strategic direction for the further development of this initiative in Harrow.

### Resources, costs and risk associated with recommendation

Delivery of extended schools in 2007-08 is financed through four funding sources; (1) General Sure Start grant of £232,348 (2) Standards Fund £377,00 (3) council funding £294,000 and (4) £75,000 from the Direct Schools Grant.

A risk associated with the recommendation is that grant funding is only confirmed until March 2008.

### Staffing/workforce consideration

A number of staff are currently employed to deliver extended schools. The staff are employed by the Local Authority on fixed term contracts due to the uncertain nature of the funding.

### Equalities impact

The adoption of the strategy will ensure that we can meet the needs of disadvantaged members of the community.

The strategy contributes to the Corporate equalities plan and race equality scheme in a number of ways. The strategy aims to build through extended schools cohesive communities, provide opportunities to succeed, achieve aspirations, provide access to services, combat disadvantage and promote social inclusion.

### Legal and financial comments

Section 27 of the Education Act 2002 gives power to schools to provide services and facilities for the benefit of the community. The governing bodies of the schools will retain responsibility for the control of the school premises, unless agreements to transfer control are entered into.

The strategy includes updated guidance that provides information on matters relating to extended schools including legal and other requirements. The updated guidance reflects information provided by the DfES in its recent publication *Planning and funding extended schools: A guide for schools, local authorities and their partner organisations*.

### Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 considerations

The strategy will enable extended schools to contribute to the Crime, Disorder & Drugs Strategy (2005-2008) Priority Area 4 *Young People and a Safer Harrow*, to develop partnership working with young people and encourage their participation in all Safer Harrow initiatives, including promoting the development of Youth

Inclusion Support Panels, support voluntary sector services and parenting support programmes and encourage increased access to youth services. Developments will also contribute to the cross-cutting theme of support for community cohesion.

**SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE**

Chief Finance Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name:.....Donna Edwards.....
		Date: .....3/4/07.....
Monitoring Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name: ...Helen White.....
		Date: .....29/3/07.....

**SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** Kashmir Takhar, Group Manager Community Development

**Background Papers:**

DfES, Extended Schools: Access to opportunities for all Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 18 October 2006, Update on Extended Schools  
 Cabinet, 15 December 2005, Community (Extended) Schools Roll-Out  
 Cabinet, 10 November 2005, Children’s Centres  
 Cabinet, 29 July 2004, Extension of Community Schools Programme  
 Scrutiny Review Group Report (July 2004), NHP Community Schools Pilot  
 Harrow Children and Young People’s Plan, 2006-09  
 DfES, Planning and funding extended schools: A guide for schools, local authorities and their partner organisations

**IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?**

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	