

Meeting:	Education Consultative Forum
Date:	13 September 2007
Subject:	Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director of Schools and Children's Development
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Christine Bednell Schools and Children's Development
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Annexe A – Update Annexe B – Summary of capital allocation Annexe C – Summary of consultations Annexe D – Decision Makers Guidance

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Harrow has been allocated £24.8million from the Learning and Skills Council for capital build on high school sites to establish the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate. This report informs the Education Consultative Forum of the planned distribution of spend at the high schools, and the process for determination of the statutory proposals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Education Consultative Forum is requested to:

- consider the contents of this report
- recommend that Cabinet agree the statutory proposals to make prescribed alterations to community high schools and Salvatorian College and Sacred Heart Language College by changing the age range of the schools up to 18 years by the addition of sixth forms from 1 September 2008.

SECTION 2 - REPORT

1. On 29 March 2007, the National Capital Committee of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) allocated £24,785,634 for capital build on high school sites to establish the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate. This capital allocation is based on places for 1,000 additional post-16 learners being created across all Harrow's high schools. An update on the background to this bid and a note about collegiate provision is attached as Annexe A.

Distribution of spend at the high schools

2. A summary of the capital allocation to the high schools is attached as Annexe B. The number of places at each high school was agreed collectively by the headteachers when preparing Harrow's bid. The local authority calculated the capital investment figures for each school using the LSC guidance. The method is transparent and is based on sixth form accommodation needs and the number of Year 12 and Year 13 places in each school. The special schools are not eligible for capital investment through this particular funding stream.
3. The allocation is considerably higher than the original bid last year. An uplift of 10% has been granted by the LSC, and money for 2007-2008 for temporary accommodation. Additional vocational provision is funded for two schools, and the element for Information Technology has been increased.

Determination of the statutory proposals

4. School Organisation Committees have been abolished from 25 May 2007 under changes introduced by the Education & Inspections Act 2006. New arrangements have been introduced for local authorities to decide all statutory proposals (other than new school competition proposals where the local authority puts forward proposals). Cabinet has the constitutional authority to be the decision maker under the new arrangements introduced by the Education & Inspections Act 2006.
5. Under regulations the decision maker cannot determine proposals unless it is satisfied that the necessary capital funding is available in order to implement the proposals. The decision of the National Capital Committee of the Learning and Skills Council means that Harrow's statutory proposals can now be determined.
6. In February 2006 a consultation occurred prior to the publishing of statutory notices to make prescribed alterations to high schools by changing the age range of the schools up to 18 years by the addition of sixth forms. This consultation occurred between 10 February and 24 February 2006 because of the LSC requirement for the statutory notices to be published by the end of February 2006.
7. The comments received from this consultation were reported to the Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning, who was authorised by Cabinet to consider comments received during the consultation and to determine whether to publish statutory notices. On 27 February 2006, the portfolio holder decided to publish statutory notices.

8. Statutory notices were published on 28 February 2006. Harrow Council published statutory notices for the following eight community high schools: Bentley Wood; Canons; Harrow; Hatch End; Nower Hill; Park; Rooks Heath; and Whitmore. The governing bodies of Salvatorian College and of The Sacred Heart Language College published statutory notices on the same date and using the same form of wording. A six week representation period, up to 11 April 2006, followed the publishing of these notices during which any person may object to or make comments on the proposals by sending in their representations.
9. One objection was received by the Clerk to the School Organisation Committee during the representation period and was registered as a formal objection to the statutory notice published by the governing body of Salvatorian College.
10. Between 21 February 2006 and 16 August 2007, Harrow Council received sixteen written communications about the proposals. A full list of these is included in Annexe C. Seven express support or no objection. Eight express reservation or objection. One requests further information.
11. On 25 June 2007, a letter was sent to interested parties. This letter advised interested parties it was planned that Harrow Cabinet will be asked to determine the statutory proposals at its meeting on 20 September 2007. The letter also stated that the planned date of implementation will be from 1 September 2008 (rather than 1 September 2007 as stated on the statutory notices). Recipients were advised that any comments at this stage should be sent by Friday 3 August 2007, and would be summarised in an annexe to the Cabinet report. The comments received are included in Annexe C.
12. The date for Cabinet to determine the statutory proposals has been changed to 20 September 2007 to enable the Education Consultative Committee to consider the proposals and state a recommendation.

Response to the written communications received by Harrow Council

13. Harrow Council received no formal objection during the six week representation period following the publication of its statutory notices. However, various written comments were received during the consultations on Harrow's proposals. All of these will be reported to Cabinet and are being reported to this forum.
14. Annexe C summarises the consultation that has occurred, lists all the written communications received and provides an officer response to the issues raised by those who have written to Harrow Council.
15. The governing body of Salvatorian College will respond to Cabinet about the formal objection to its notice. In May 2006, the Headteacher met and corresponded with the residents who stated their objection, and he gave assurances that he believes address their concerns. On 24 May 2007, the Headteacher of Salvatorian College wrote again to the authors advising them it was planned that Harrow Cabinet will decide about the statutory notice.

The Headteacher repeated his assurances in relation to the concerns the residents had raised, which he hoped addressed their concerns sufficiently, and offered to meet with them again to share information about the proposed Sixth Form and answer any questions they might have. On 25 June 2007 Salvatorian College received a telephone call from one of the signatories speaking on behalf of the residents confirming that their concerns had been fully addressed.

Decision Makers Guidance

- 16. Decision Makers are required to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State when they take a decision on proposals. Cabinet will need to consider the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate proposals in relation to the factors in this guidance.
- 17. Annexe D sets out the relevant extracts from the Decision Makers Guidance, together with evidence to illustrate how the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate proposals meet the factors Cabinet must have regard to in reaching a decision.
- 18. It is considered that the Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate proposals meet the requirements of the Decision Makers Guidance, and it is proposed that Cabinet agree the statutory proposals to make prescribed alterations to community high schools and Salvatorian College and Sacred Heart Language College by changing the age range of the schools up to 18 years by the addition of sixth forms from 1 September 2008.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Bharat Jashapara
		Date: 3 August 2007
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Helen White
		Date: 30 July 2007

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Chris Melly, Senior Professional,
Project Management & Policy Team, People First
020 8420 9270

Background Papers:

Decision Makers Guidance for Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form – A guide for Local Authorities and Governing Bodies. Published by DfES School Organisation Unit on 5 June 2007.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg/data/guidance_Documents/ExpansionGuide%20ODM%20ONLY%202007-05-24.doc

Written communications about the statutory proposals received by Harrow Council between 21 February 2006 and 16 August 2007.

Prescribed Information for each school.

Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate - report to Education Consultative Forum dated 3 July 2006.

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.

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

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

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