

Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 February 2009
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – School Reorganisation including impact of 6th Form reorganisation on colleges
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director Schools and Children’s Development
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder, Schools and Children’s Development
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary

This information report updates the Committee on the work undertaken to progress school reorganisation proposals in Harrow, including the impact of 6th Form reorganisation on colleges.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

1. On 4 September 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an information report on the Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation. The

report presented an update of the work of the School Reorganisation Stakeholder Reference Group and proposals to undertake a statutory consultation to change school organisation and the ages of transfer in Harrow. It also informed the Committee of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) consultation on Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

2. This report updates the Committee on the key school reorganisation initiatives in support of the Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation.

Proposals for school reorganisation in Harrow

3. The School Reorganisation Consultation commenced on 8 September 2008 and ended on 5 December 2008. The outcome of the consultation was reported to Cabinet on 15 January 2009. The consultation outcomes indicate that there is support for the proposals to change school organisation in Harrow. The proposals received cross party support.
4. Cabinet decided to publish statutory proposals that, if approved, would establish infant, junior, primary and secondary schools in Harrow aligned with the National Curriculum Key Stages. It is planned that the statutory proposals will be published in February, and the representations received will be reported to Cabinet on 23 April 2009 when Cabinet would determine the proposals.

Amalgamations

5. In October 2007, Cabinet agreed an amended Amalgamation Policy as part of the Strategic Approach to School Organisation. The Amalgamation Policy requires governing bodies of all separate First and Middle Schools to amalgamate the two schools when one or more of the triggering circumstances arise unless there are compelling and over-riding reasons not to. In October 2008, Cabinet agreed a clarified Amalgamation Policy and Implementation Guidance to support the on-going implementation of the policy.
6. Two schools (West Lodge schools) have amalgamated under the terms of the amended Amalgamation Policy, and four schools will amalgamate in September 2009 (Belmont and Roxeth Manor schools).

Collegiate development

7. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) grant of £22.5m to develop sixth form facilities at all Harrow high schools is well underway with final completion of building targeted for September 2010, with the first Sixth Form Centre being opened at Bentley Wood High School on 29th January 2009 and most of the others in September 2009.
8. The Collegiate has established structures, systems, and protocols under the stewardship of the Partnership Board/Governing Council to enable closer partnership working amongst all stakeholders. Preparations are underway to enhance further partnership working between schools and colleges in

preparation for the transfer of 16-18 funding from the LSC to the Local Authority from April 2010, when the LA will take on additional responsibilities for commissioning 16-18 provision in schools and Further Education Colleges in Harrow, and the provision of 16-18 Harrow learners who choose to study in other boroughs.

9. In 2008, LSC-generated data indicated that Harrow imported 2,136 16-18 learners from other authorities and exported 1,737 16-18 learners resulting in a net gain of 399 16-18 learners into Harrow.
10. From the period of 2005-2008, the combined Level 2 and Level 3 16-18 provision of the Collegiate, Stanmore College, Harrow College and St. Dominic's Sixth Form College has grown from 4,078 full-time 16-18 learners to 4,753 full-time 16-18 learners, a growth in provision of 675 16-18 full time learners within Harrow.
11. The resident cohort of 16-18 learners in Harrow in 2008 is 4,769. With 4,753 learners studying in Harrow, the small differential indicates that 16-18 provision is very closely matched to potential demand.
12. Further dialogue and negotiation, through the 14-19 Strategic Group, is taking place to ensure the full menu of courses is available for 16-18 learners now, and in the future by ensuring curriculum developments reflect the requirements of all stakeholders.

Government capital funding

13. Harrow has submitted a revised Expression of Interest for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding with a view to funds being allocated to Harrow schools at the earliest opportunity. All Harrow's eligible high schools have been allocated into two waves by applying the national and local criteria. The DCSF cost calculator generated a total of £84m for the Wave 1 project and £126m for Wave 2. The DCSF will announce the outcome of the submissions in March 2009 and will confirm when local authorities will receive funding.
14. Harrow's submission for the Primary Capital Programme made in June 2008, received category 1 approval. This approval means that the indicative allocations for 2009-10 of £3.4million and 2010-11 of £5.7million are confirmed. Harrow was one of only 41 local authorities to achieve category 1 approval.

Admission arrangements

15. The annual consultation on admission arrangements for September 2010 is being held from 8 December 2008 until 13 February 2009. In relation to high school admission arrangements, Harrow Admissions Forum decided to consult to remove link school arrangements and use distance from home to school as the final criterion.

Section 3 – Further Information

None.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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Background Papers:

Information report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 'Strategic Approach to School Reorganisation' dated 4 September 2008

Report to Cabinet on 'Proposals for School Reorganisation in Harrow' dated 15 January 2009