

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

Page no:

Meeting:	School Organisation Committee
Date:	22 March 2004
Subject:	Review of School Organisation Plan 2003 – 08
Responsible Chief Officer:	Executive Director – People First
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Education and Lifelong Learning
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Review of School Organisation Plan March 2004

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the School Organisation Committee an up-date on the School Organisation Plan for 2003-07.

2. Recommendations

That School Organisation Committee Members:

- 2.1 Consider the Review of the School Organisation Plan and comment as appropriate.
- 2.2 Agree the Review of the School Organisation Plan is circulated to all stakeholders.

3 Consultation with Ward Councillors

- 3.1 No consultation has been undertaken with Ward Councillors.

4 Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

- 4.1 At their meeting in September 2003, the School Organisation Committee (SOC) agreed the School Organisation Plan 2003-2008. The School Organisation Plan

(SOP) was published in accordance with Section 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 in September.

- 4.2 In accordance with revised guidance, the School Organisation Plan is required to be published every three years, if there are no significant changes to the provision of school places. The SOC agreed that an annual review would be considered and made available to all interested stakeholders.

5 Relevance to Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 The School Organisation Plan is an integral element in Harrow Council's 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 In September 2003 the fifth School Organisation Plan was published 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. The School Organisation Committee is now required to publish the SOC on a three year basis. School place planning within the context of raising attainment, the possible consultation to re-organise schools to transfer at the age of 11 and general management of resources in Harrow is an important issue. Therefore, it was agreed that an annual review would be presented to SOC and made available to all interested parties. This is the first School Organisation Plan review.

- 6.2 The review summarises the progress on Key Issues identified in the School Organisation Plan 2003 –2008 and informs the School Organisation Committee of other related developments. The review is in Annexe A.

7 Consultation

- 7.1 There is no legal requirement to consult or publish this review of the School Organisation Plan 2003-2008. Copies will be sent to all schools and governing bodies and partner organisations for information.

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, 2003-2008.

11 Author

- 11.1 Johanna Morgan, Policy Review Manager, 020 8424 7529. Email address: johanna.morgan@harrow.gov.uk