

REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 2003 - 2008

Introduction

- 1.1 This is the first review of the School Organisation Plan 2003-2008. The Review aims to provide members of the School Organisation Committee with information on the issues identified in the Section 5 of the School Organisation Plan 2003-2008.
- 1.2 There are two Sections to Review. Section One Planning Data for Harrow, provides information on the revised planning areas and the work of the London Challenge Team on projections. Section Two Up-date on Key Issues, provides information where appropriate on those areas identified for action over the life of the School Organisation Plan.

SECTION 1: PLANNING DATA FOR HARROW

- 2.1 Since the publication of the School Organisation Plan 2003-08, further developments have been undertaken in respect of the Planning Areas and the work of the DfES London Challenge Team.

Review of the Planning Areas

- 2.2 For the purposes of school place planning, Harrow is divided into five planning areas. The formation of these planning areas is determined by linking electoral wards in ways which as far as possible reflect pupils' home addresses.
- 2.3 The pupil projections used to inform future demand are based on population projections prepared by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and pupil numbers as collected through the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC). For the 2004 projections, the GLA is using the 2001 Census data and the new Ward boundaries. This is the first time that the projections have been based on the new Boundaries.
- 2.4 Now that the new Wards are being used by the GLA the Council has taken the opportunity to review the existing planning areas. As a result of this review a few minor amendments have been made to the boundaries of the planning areas.

London Challenge Pan London Place Planning Seminar

- 2.5 The DfES London Challenge Team is developing a model of secondary school place planning across London to inform planning for new schools in London. The new schools will aim to increase confidence of local schools in areas where there are high levels of pupil movement out-borough. A model has been developed by the DfES in partnership with the GLA. Two Groups for London LEAs have been established, one for Councils North of the River and one for the Councils South of the River. Harrow has attended these sessions.

SECTION TWO UP-DATE ON KEY ISSUES

Place Planning and Pupil Projections

- 3.1 The Council has a target to maintain a 10% surplus of school places. During the life of the School Organisation Plan 2003-08 the supply of school places will continue to be monitored and proposals developed to address issues of over and under provision accordingly. The General Principles and Specific Principles for Expansion and Reduction in the School Organisation Plan will be applied in drawing up proposals.
- 3.2 The roll projections are still awaited from the GLA but it is not expected that there will be major changes to the trends and patterns of over subscription and provision reported in the School Organisation Plan 2003-08. A further report will be presented to School Organisation Committee when the information is available.

Consultation on Admission Arrangements 2005/2006

- 3.3 An extensive consultation on Admission Arrangements for September 2005 was undertaken during the Autumn and Spring Terms. The consultation included:
- Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes (primary and high school),
 - Equal Preference System
 - Replace Priority Roads with distance from home to school as main determinant for primary admissions
 - Change Tie Breaker ,
 - Single Reception In-Take
 - Deferred entry to reception.
- 3.4 This consultation was undertaken on the recommendations from the Harrow Admissions Forum.
- 3.5 From September 2005 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) will co-ordinate admissions for pupils starting secondary education in September 2005. Co-ordinated admissions mean that Harrow parents will complete one application form on which they can list schools within Harrow as well as schools in other areas. LEAs will share information to ensure that applicants receive only one school offer. Because pupils transfer to Harrow high schools at 12+, there will be two different schemes for transfer to secondary school:
- An 11+ scheme for Harrow parents applying for Harrow voluntary aided schools and schools outside the borough where the age of transfer is 11.
 - A 12+ scheme for parents applying for Harrow community high schools.

- 3.6 There will be a national offer day when the outcome of all applications for secondary school places will be posted to parents. The national offer day is 1 March.
- 3.7 Harrow will also be co-ordinating applications for all the primary schools in Harrow. The Harrow scheme of co-ordination will cover all its community and voluntary aided (i.e. Church of England, Jewish and Roman Catholic) primary schools. Primary co-ordination is different from secondary in that Harrow will not co-ordinate admissions for schools outside Harrow. Parents who live in Harrow but who wish to apply for a primary school in another LEA will apply direct to that LEA.
- 3.8 The Harrow Admissions Forum considered a report on 1 March 2004 that detailed the outcome of the consultation. As a result the Forum have made recommendations to the Cabinet which will be considered on 16 March 2004. The recommendations are:
- i To adopt the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes as agreed by the Harrow Admissions Forum (subject to any change recommended by the Pan-London Executive and agreed by other London admission authorities).
 - ii To make the following changes to admission arrangements for Harrow community schools, effective from September 2005:

PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- iii To adopt an equal preference system.
- iv To use distance measured in a straight-line (“as the crow flies”) as the tie-breaker.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

- v To replace the priority roads system with distance from home to school.
- vi To authorise schools involved in a one year pilot project to admit children to Reception in a single intake in September.
- vii To allow parents to defer their child’s entry to Reception in agreement with the school concerned, subject to consultation on funding arrangements (see 2.3 below). The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child’s fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which admission is sought.
- viii To consult on funding for deferred entry to Reception class during Autumn 2004 as part of the 2005/2006 financial year formula funding consultation. Any such changes to be reviewed after the first 12 months of operation.

- ix To request the Harrow Admissions Forum to establish a Working Group in order to:
- oversee a pilot project that enables schools to admit children to Reception class in a single intake in September and allows parents to defer their child's entry to reception
 - take account of the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership recommendations in developing arrangements for single intake and deferred entry
 - ensure systems are in place to monitor single intake and deferred entry and to assess the impact of such changes on pupils, Harrow nursery class admissions and other pre-school providers
 - receive and analyse termly updates on single intake and deferred entry and to report to the full Admissions Forum with recommendations as appropriate.

Increasing Post 16 and 14-19 Opportunities

3.9 One of the outcomes of the debate on School organisation in Harrow was the need to increase opportunities for post 16 students. In September 2003, Cabinet agreed that a Stakeholder Survey would be undertaken to gather views on the preferred model of organisation for 14-19 and post 16 provision. The Stakeholder Survey included four possible models and asked Stakeholders to identify their preferred model of provision. Cabinet will consider a report on 16 March 2004. The recommendations are summarised as follows:

- A Harrow Sixth Form Collegiate will be established that formalises the collaboration with the Schools and Colleges with effect from September 2005. The Collegiate will incorporate 14-19 provision in Schools, Colleges and the Skills Centre. It is intended that there will be limited provision available with effect from September 2004, focussing on 14-16 opportunities, 'at risk' pre and post 16 groups and possibly some advanced courses of study for post 16 provided on school sites.
- There will be some provision on school sites for post 16. Across the Collegiate pupils will be able to access a wider range of curriculum and pathways than available presently in any single setting.
- Further work on the development of the Collegiate will be undertaken by the 14-19 Advisory Group, School and College Groupings within the context of the developing 14-19 Strategy.

School Re-Organisation to transfer at Age 11

- 3.10 A bid was submitted to the DfES as part of the Government's Building Schools for the Future initiative. This bid would secure capital funding to implement a change in the age of transfer and included funding for a new secondary school and to increase opportunities at 14-19. The first wave of projects was announced in February 2004. Harrow was unsuccessful in this wave. Initially waves two, three and beyond would be announced in March 2004. However, the Government has now decided that further announcements will be made in the Autumn after the Spending Review.
- 3.11 It is unlikely that Cabinet would undertake a consultation on options to implement a change in the age of transfer until capital funding support has been confirmed from the Government.

Developments in Neighbouring Boroughs

- 3.12 The School Organisation Plan for the London Borough of Brent outlines a series of evolving changes with schools. Namely the new Capital City Academy opened as planned in September 2003, two independent faith schools are seeking VA status, Kingsbury High School has increased its admission number to 315, and Fryent, Kingsbury Green, Roe Green Junior and Oliver Goldsmith Primary Schools will become feeder schools in September 2004.
- 3.13 The West London Academy opened in the London Borough of Ealing this replaces the Compton School. This is being re-built and will include the Northolt Primary School and a special school when completed. Ealing are undertaking further analysis of pupil projects for the Borough but also working with Hillingdon on the potential yield from the Taylor Woodrow development.
- 3.14 In the London Borough of Barnet, the DfES has approved the establishment of a City Academy at Edgware High School specialising in Business Studies and Technology. The proposals have been approved and will take effect from 31 August 2004.
- 3.15 Proposals for a new voluntary-aided Jewish Primary School have been approved by the LEA (in principle) and on the condition that the promoters receive the required capital funds from the DfES. The proposals relate to Akiva Primary school which is currently an independent school.
- 3.16 The London Borough of Hillingdon are experiencing increases in demand in the North East (Northwood) and an expansion of one form of entry (30 places) is required to meet projected demand. Expansions at Firthwood and Newnham Primary Schools are planned to meet increased demand.
- 3.17 Statutory Notices have been approved to establish a City Academy to replace John Penrose School in Harefield. Proposals to close Evelyns Community School and establish a City Academy will be implemented with effect from September 2004.
- 3.18 The Secretary of State approved the planning application to build a new high school in Ruislip in October 2003. The school will take its first intake of Year 7

pupils in September 2005. Guru Nanak Sikh Secondary School in Hayes will be expanded permanently with effect from September 2005.

Capital

- 3.19 Good progress is being made with developing the schools Asset Management Plan. Two successful appraisals on the robustness of condition and suitability data have been undertaken by the Department for Education and Skills. The result of the appraisal on the Local Policy Statement and Statement of Priorities is to be made available to the Council towards the end of March 2004. If the Council passes the appraisal it will continue to have autonomy for capital spending.