

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	11 February 2010
Subject:	Roxbourne First School Nursery Class
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director Schools and Children's Development
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Anjana Patel, Portfolio Holder for Schools and Children's Development
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	Annex A – Decision Makers Guidance

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Statutory Proposals were published in November 2009 to extend the age range of Roxbourne First School to establish a nursery class. No objections have been received during the representation period. Cabinet approval is sought to establish the nursery class with effect from 1 September 2010.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to agree the statutory proposals to extend the age range of Roxbourne First School to establish a school with an age range of 4 years (Reception) to 7 years (Year 2) with attached nursery class from 1 September 2010 the effect of which is to lower the age to 3 years.

Reason: (For recommendation)

A nursery class would establish the full Early Years Foundation Stage Profile at Roxbourne First School. This would provide continuity and secure higher attainment for those children entering the nursery and then being admitted to the Roxbourne First School reception classes and, in particular, continuity would be provided and be of significant benefit to the majority of children who have English as an Additional Language.

Section 2 – Report**Introductory paragraph**

1. There is demand in the area of Roxbourne First School for 3 year old nursery provision. This is arising through an increase in birth rates, but also because of changes to other provision in the area. The birth rate is predicted to continue to increase, and recent experience has shown that the numbers of children have exceeded the predictions. Building works on the site of the two Roxbourne schools provide an opportunity to locate a nursery class at the school. This nursery class provision, and a children's centre that is planned to open on the school site in March 2011, would increase opportunities for local services to support children and families in the community.

Options considered

2. It is proposed to establish a 60 place nursery class for 3 – 4 year olds at Roxbourne First School from September 2010. The nursery class would offer 30 part-time places in the mornings and 30 part-time places in the afternoon. The sessions would be for 3 hours. Over time the nursery would offer a range of provision to provide parents with increased choice in line with the flexible offer entitlement.
3. The statutory consultation was held from 25 September 2009 until 23 October 2009. This consultation met the requirements of the DCSF School Organisation and Competitions Unit guidance on making changes to schools.
4. At its meeting on 12 November 2009, Cabinet considered the outcome of the statutory consultation and the recommendation from the governing body of Roxbourne First School in favour of establishing a nursery class at the school. Cabinet agreed to publish statutory proposals that if approved would establish a 60 place nursery class for 3 – 4 year olds at Roxbourne First School from September 2010.

Statutory Notices

5. On 30 November 2009, statutory proposals were published to establish a school with an age range of 4 years (Reception) to 7 years (Year 2) with attached nursery class from 1 September 2010 the effect of which is to lower the age to 3 years.
6. The local authority received one representation during the 6-week representation period from the London Diocesan Board for Schools, which noted the proposals and has no comments to make.

Determination of statutory proposals

7. In its role as the Decision Maker, Cabinet must have regard to the statutory and non-statutory guidance, provided by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, when determining statutory proposals. The guidance has been provided to all Cabinet Members, and is available as background papers. Annex A provides Cabinet with commentary on the salient points contained in the Decision Makers' Guidance.
8. The Director of Schools and Children's Development recommends that Cabinet agree the statutory proposals to establish the nursery class at Roxbourne First School with effect from 1 September 2010.

Legal comments

9. The Local Authority has a statutory entitlement under ss.15 and 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, to issue statutory proposals in respect of school reorganisation. The statutory proposals were published following the decision made by Cabinet on 12 November 2009. Cabinet must determine the proposals within two months of the representation period, which ended on 11 January 2010, or the matter is referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator for determination. Cabinet must have regard to the Secretary of State's guidance when reaching its decision, and should consider the representations received during the course of the publication period when making their decision.

Financial Implications

10. The revenue cost of the nursery, including staffing costs, will be funded from Dedicated Schools Grant supplemented by Standards Fund. The school would receive funding for the nursery class as calculated by the Harrow Schools Funding Formula. The funding would provide 15 hours free nursery provision for 3 – 4 year olds in line with the Government's policy.
11. There are no anticipated capital costs because the nursery class would be located in the classroom currently occupied by a reception class.

Performance Issues

12. The proposed nursery class is likely to contribute to a range of performance indicators, in particular the following from the new National Indicator Set. NI 72 – 107 'Enjoy and Achieve' indicators covering Key Stage achievement and progression, narrowing the gap for lower performing and vulnerable groups, attendance, behaviour, special educational needs. These are all areas of priority for Harrow as is reflected in Harrow's results, which are broadly inline with the national picture.

13. Whilst Harrow's performance is currently above national and statistical neighbours' averages at all Key Stages, Harrow's targets, which are set annually for the DCSF, are highly challenging. The table below presents Harrow's performance against its targets and the national averages.

Harrow's 2008 – 09 Results

EYFSP	Actual	Target	National
% children achieving 78 points or more AND at least 6 points in Social & Emotional & Communication, Language and Literacy areas of learning	50%	49.1%	52%
Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the EYFSP and the rest of the Local Authority Area	38.1%	33.96%	33.9%
KS1	Actual	Target	National
Reading L2+	86%	Not set	84%
Writing L2+	83%	Not set	81%
Maths L2+	91%	Not set	89%
Science L2+	88%	Not set	89%
KS2	Actual	Target	National
English L4+	82%	Not set	80%
Maths L4+	81%	Not set	79%
Science L4+	88%	Not set	88%
English & Maths	75%	79%	72%
GCSE	Actual	Target	National
% 5+ A*-C	74.8%	Not set	70.0%
% 5+ A*-C inc English & Maths	60.8%	64%	49.8%

14. This proposal will have a positive impact on efficiency (Use of Resources Assessment) and achievement and inclusion outcomes (Performance Management & Area Assessment) in our schools. There is no anticipated negative Corporate Area Assessment impact.

Environmental Impact

15. Provision of a nursery school on this site may increase the carbon footprint of the school and make it more difficult for the council to achieve its target of reducing carbon emissions by 4% per year. Schools account for 64% of the council's gas consumption and 41% of electricity consumption and therefore have an important role in delivering these targets.
16. The start of the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) in April 2010 will mean significant additional expenditure for the council. Reducing carbon emissions will become increasingly important financially as the CRC scheme develops. It is therefore both financially and environmentally important that carbon emissions are controlled and reduced.
17. The additional carbon cost associated with this proposal should be calculated and investment (in energy saving and low carbon technologies) should be identified to reduce, as a minimum, any increase to zero.

Risk Management Implications

18. Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

19. No significant risk is identified arising from these proposals. Cabinet must have due regard to the Secretary of State's guidance for decision makers in reaching its decisions on school proposals.

Corporate Priorities

20. Harrow's vision is to provide high achieving schools at the centre of community services, and to continue improvement in schools to make education in Harrow even better. In order to further this vision, in October 2007 Cabinet agreed its strategic approach to school organisation.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name:	Emma Stabler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date:	15 January 2010		
Name:	George Curran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date:	12 January 2010		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name:	David Harrington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date:	18 January 2010		

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name:	Andrew Baker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Environmental Services
Date:	12 January 2010		

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Chris Melly, Senior Professional, Transforming Learning Team
020 8420 9270 chris.melly@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Papers of Cabinet 12 November 2009 - Roxbourne First School Nursery Class

DCSF School Organisation and Competitions Unit guidance for decision makers
www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg

Equality Impact Assessment

Call-In Waived by the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NO
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