

**REPORT FOR: Education Consultative Forum**

---

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Date:</b>                            | 28 June 2010  |
| <b>Subject:</b>                         | School Place Planning Strategy<br>2010/2013                         |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>                    | No  |
| <b>Responsible Officer:</b>             | Heather Clements, Director of Schools<br>& Children's Development   |
| <b>Portfolio Holder:</b>                | Councillor Brian Gate, Portfolio Holder<br>for Schools and Colleges |
| <b>Exempt:</b>                          | No  |
| <b>Decision subject to<br/>Call-in:</b> | No  |
| <b>Enclosures:</b>                      | Annexe A - Summary of Temporary<br>Reception Classes                |

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report provides Education Consultative Forum (EdCF) with an update on the School Place Planning Strategy on planning for September 2011 and September 2012 that will provide sufficient school places in Harrow.

**Recommendations:**

Education Consultative Forum is requested to consider the report and feedback any comments from constituent groups.

**Reason: (For recommendation)**

To provide Education Consultative Forum members the opportunity to consider the progress of the implementation of the Strategy and for their comments to be noted accordingly to inform the continuing implementation.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

1. The local authority has a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places for its area. EdCF considered the School Place Planning Strategy at their meeting January 2010. Cabinet agreed the Strategy in March 2010. This report provides an up-date on the implementation of the School Place Planning Strategy with particular reference to September 2010 and planning for September 2011 and September 2012.

### **Options considered**

2. Extensive work has been completed by officers across directorates to collate data and analyse the range of information that is relevant to school place planning. The options to manage the number of places have been developed by officers in accordance with the Strategy and discussions are happening with schools. These options and other progress are outlined in the following sections.

### **Current situation**

#### Demographic Data and Roll Projections

3. Harrow Council commissions the GLA to provide roll projections. These are prepared on an annual basis and take into consideration the current available data including population mid-year estimates and PLASC data.
4. Revised projections are being prepared based on 2009 population estimates and 2010 data for pupils on Harrow school rolls. This information will be included in the revised School Place Planning Strategy that will be presented to EdCF and Cabinet in Spring 2011.

#### Reception Places for September 2010.

5. In July 2010, in the light of the experience in September 2009 when an additional 5 reception classes were opened and the increasing demographic projections, discussions were held with 5 schools to open additional reception classes. The schools were asked to consider opening an additional bulge class in September 2010, if required, on the basis that the temporary additional classes were located within existing accommodation on the school site. The classes are funded through the Additional Class Funding Formula as agreed by the Schools Forum.
6. All schools confirmed that they were willing to take an additional class. These additional classes were used in the allocations for September 2010.

#### Reception Places for September 2011.

7. Planning for temporary additional places is underway for September 2011. 6 schools have been identified where there is expected to be greatest demand for places and approached to open additional classes if required. Schools are currently considering these proposals.

### Reception Places for September 2012

8. Based on the pupil projections it is indicated that additional capacity will be required in reception classes across Harrow in 2012 as well. To avoid providing ad hoc bulge classes, initial discussions with some schools have started about the potential for permanent expansion from 2012.
9. An indicative timeline has been drafted and it is proposed that officers work with the schools to complete the planning for these potential places. Within this proposed timeline, Cabinet would make decisions on permanent expansions by March 2011. This would ensure that there is clarity for schools and a lead in for planning. It is suggested that the schools establish an Implementation Planning Group with support from officers to complete the process.

### High School Places

10. As part of the Harrow School Reorganisation, Year 6 and Year 7 pupils will transfer to high schools into Year 7 and Year 8 respectively. The number of applications for Year 8 places is in line with previous years. There is no comparable data for applications to Year 7 although the number is less than the Year 8 applications. This maybe for a number of reasons for example, successful grammar school entry, proposed and actual Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, (the previous government's school investment programme) and academy developments.
11. As part of the school reorganisation proposals 90 additional places were opened in Year 7 in September 2010. The proposals to increase the capacity of the three schools. Park High School, Whitmore High School and Rooks Heath College for Business and Enterprise were included in the consultation documents and the Statutory Proposals. The impact of the change in the age of transfer coupled with the embedding of the sixth form provision was unpredictable and the increase was to ensure that there would be sufficient accommodation for all applicants.
12. The final number of pupils on roll in the high schools will not be clarified until the Autumn Census. The situation will be monitored and adjustments to the planned admission numbers will be proposed accordingly.

### Voluntary Aided Sector

13. There has been some dialogue with voluntary aided schools with regard to capacity, and there are no current plans for expansion.

### Academies

14. The new coalition government announced the Academies Bill which includes provision for schools judged by OfSTED as 'outstanding' to be fast tracked to Academy status, with the first schools being established as soon as September 2010. The local authority would need to consult Academy Schools with regard to school place planning issues.

### **Implications of the Recommendation**

15. The views of the Education Consultative Forum will help officers develop the implementation of the School Place Planning Strategy.

### Financial Implications

16. The Department for Education (DfE) allocates DSG based on pupil numbers, therefore an increase in pupil numbers results in additional grant funding. Schools experiencing an increase in pupil numbers will receive a corresponding increase in funding.

17. Whether schools have suitable accommodation is a key factor when determining which schools are suitable for an increase in places. This, coupled with the change to the age of transfer creating spare capacity in the primary sector, should minimise the need for capital expenditure. A permanent school expansion is more likely to require capital expenditure and this would have to be considered as part of agreeing the future capital programme. The Department for Education is expected to announce the capital allocations for the next three financial years in autumn 2010.

### Risk Management Implications

18. Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

19. Separate risk register in place? No

### Equalities Implications

Was an Equalities Impact Assessment completed? No (If no, state why)

20. An Equalities Impact Assessment was not completed at this time. If proposals for permanent expansion are brought forward then there will be Equalities Impact Assessment on specific proposals.

### Corporate Priorities

21. The School Place Planning Strategy contributes to the corporate priority to Build Stronger Communities by increasing the role of schools at the heart of the community.

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

|                     |                                     |   |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name: Emma Stabler  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the<br>Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: 16 June 2010  |                                     |   |
| Name: Sharon Clarke | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the<br>Monitoring Officer      |
| Date: 16 June 2010  |                                     |   |

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Johanna Morgan, Head of School Organisation Strategy, 020 8736 6841.

**Background Papers:** EdCF Report 27 January 2010

**Summary of Increases in Reception Classes September 2009 and 2010, and Proposals for September 2011, 2012 and 2013**

| Planning Area                 | 2009<br>Schools with reception<br>bulge year groups and<br>other agreed changes | 2010<br>Proposed Reception bulge year<br>groups if required and other<br>agreed changes | 2011<br>Possible Options<br>If required | 2012<br>Possible Options<br>If required |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Planning Area 1<br>North East |   | Weald Infant School (bulge)   | 30 places                               | 30 places                               |
| Planning Area 2<br>North West | Cedars Manor School<br>(bulge)  | Pinner Wood School (bulge)<br>Longfield Infant School (bulge)                           | 30 places                               | 30 places                               |
| Planning Area 3<br>South East | Glebe (Increase PAN by<br>8 to 60)  | Kenmore Park Infant School<br>(bulge)   |   |   |
| Planning Area 4<br>South West | Grange First School<br>(Bulge)<br>Welldon Park First School<br>(Bulge)          | Roxeth Primary School (Agreed<br>increase PAN by 4 to 60)                               |   | 30 places                               |
| Planning Area 5<br>Central    | Belmont School (Bulge)<br>Elmgrove First School<br>(Increase PAN by 8 to 90)    | Norbury School (Bulge)  | 60-90 places                            | 60-90 places                            |
| Planning Area 6<br>VA Schools | St Georges (bulge)  |   |   |   |