

REPORT FOR: Education Consultative Forum

Date:	10 November 2010
Subject:	School Place Planning Strategy 2010-2013 - September 2010 Update
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director of Schools, Quality Assurance and Commissioning
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Brian Gate, Portfolio Holder for Schools and Colleges
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	Annexe A Summary of Temporary Reception Classes

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Education Consultative Forum (EdCF) with an update on the School Place Planning Strategy about the position in September 2010 and planning for September 2011 and September 2012, to ensure there are 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. Following EdCF's consideration of the Strategy at its meeting in January 2010, Cabinet agreed the Strategy in March 2010. A report was provided to EdCF in June 2010 on the implementation of the School Place Planning Strategy and this report provides a further update.

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 have been progressed 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 Greater London Authority (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 review of the School Place Planning Strategy that will be presented to EdCF and Cabinet in Spring 2011.
5. Officers are working with the GLA to develop the model for Harrow high schools now that school re-organisation has been implemented. The GLA model requires four years of data to support their trend analysis which is not available currently.

Reception Places for September 2010.

6. 2,875 on time applications for reception places were received by the closing date of 26 February 2010. In accordance with the School Place Planning Strategy, additional temporary classes of 30 places each were opened at 5 schools. The table below provides the number of places at these schools.

	Total Number of Reception Places with Bulge
Kenmore Park Infant School	120
Longfield Infant School	120
Norbury Primary School	60
Pinner Wood Primary School	90
Weald Infant School	120

7. The additional five temporary reception classes have largely filled and are holding their numbers. Officers consider the additional capacity created is appropriate to meet the demand for places while retaining some capacity to meet in-year applications, though the position will continue to be monitored.

Reception Places for September 2011.

8. The School Place Planning Strategy indicates that up to 5 additional reception classes may be required. During the Summer Term 2010, officers identified a selection of schools in areas of pressure and asked them to consider taking a temporary bulge class. As a result of these discussions, four governing bodies have now confirmed their agreement to open an additional bulge class if the number of applications requires this capacity. The schools are: Glebe Primary School, Norbury School, Pinner Park Infant and Nursery School, and Weald Infant School. These schools are also exploring the feasibility of permanent expansion from September 2012.
9. Officers have again asked all schools to consider their potential to open an additional class if required as further additional places are projected to be needed.
10. A summary of temporary reception classes that have been opened and are proposed is attached as Annexe A.

Reception Places for September 2012

11. Based on the pupil projections it is indicated that additional capacity will be required in reception classes across Harrow in 2012 as well. As part of the strategy officers are looking at potential for a combination of permanent expansions and bulge classes.
12. Officers are working with four schools to consider permanent expansion with effect from September 2012. By undertaking this work with schools, there will be a comprehensive plan for each school, and in particular the accommodation requirements will be established. The accommodation information will be used to estimate the capital required, both for temporary accommodation and permanent accommodation solutions. In addition, initial proposals can be shared with the Council's planning officers for early consideration. This is particularly important given the restricted nature of some of the school sites.

High School Places

13. 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.

14. 3,127 applications were received for Year 7 places. The number of applications for Year 8 was lower than 2009, and at this stage it is understood that the number of pupils in Year 7 is lower than expected. 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

15. Since the report in June 2010 one voluntary aided school has responded formally to the local authority expressing their interest in expansion. Voluntary aided schools are able to publish their own proposals for expansion and, as their own admissions authority, determine their planned admission number. Any expansion proposals by voluntary aided schools will be considered by officers and taken into account in planning for school places.

Academies

16. As part of the Government's Academies programme schools judged by OFSTED as outstanding were eligible to apply for academy status as part of a fast track process. Nationally 32 schools were established as Academies in September 2010. This did not include any Harrow Schools. Any provisions within the Education White Paper expected to be published during the Autumn that impact in the local authority role or provisions for school place planning will be reported to EdCF at their meeting in Spring 2011.

Implications of the Recommendation

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

Financial Implications

18. The Department for Education (DfE) allocates DSG based on pupil numbers, therefore, an increase in pupil numbers results in additional grant funding. Schools experiencing a decrease in pupil numbers will receive a corresponding decrease in funding, although the formula does include protection elements.
19. 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 will require additional accommodation and capital expenditure will need to be considered as part of agreeing the future capital programme.

20. Schools considering permanent expansion are understandably concerned about the current unknown position regarding capital funding, and this will be a factor in their decision making process. An additional concern is about financial difficulties if the increased places do not hold their numbers over time, which reinforces the importance of continued monitoring of actual and projected demand and consultation about proposals to increase school places.
21. The Coalition Government has announced the outcomes of its Comprehensive Spending Review and its spending plans for the next three years. Following the announcements it is expected that there will begin to be clarity about the funding streams and levels of funding available for schools and local authorities.
22. In this context, a consultation is being planned on a draft Schools Capital Strategy 2011-14. The strategy will identify the priorities for investment and it is proposed that one of these will be expansion to meet the growth in pupils numbers currently experienced in reception classes and the primary sector. A separate report about the Schools Capital Strategy 2011-14 is being presented to this EdCF meeting.

Risk Management Implications

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

Equalities Implications

25. 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

26. 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* Chief Financial Officer
Date:	22 October 2010		
Name:	Sarah Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date:	21 October 2010		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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

Background Papers: EdCF Reports January 2010 and June 2010.

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

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