

Tables of exemplar comments by theme

Impact on the children and on education standards

Yes	No	Not Sure
<p>Provides opportunities for children to be part of an outstanding school.</p> <p>Would not want the schools to lose their outstanding status.</p>	<p>Detrimental impact on standards of education.</p> <p>Negative impact on the safeguarding/care/teaching of the children.</p> <p>It will affect all children.</p> <p>The school only got satisfactory in the last Ofsted and need to focus on improving the school.</p> <p>If the demand does not support the expansion, and there are spare places, this would put the school's ability to deliver its outstanding education significantly at risk.</p> <p>Likely to lower our ability to provide the level of education and extra activities currently provided as the council will not provide extra funding for building works or to continue the current level of activities.</p> <p>Children will feel lost in such a big school and it will become impersonal.</p> <p>The likely outcome of any further expansion will be a drop in the school's current high standards due to a less manageable school size remaining within the same physical space with detriment to all pupils within both first and junior schools.</p>	<p>Concern that class sizes will increase and that pupils without English as their main language will require so much input that other children will be neglected.</p> <p>It will involve major building work, which in turn will disrupt current pupils' learning.</p>

Officer remarks

A key principle identified by officers and representative primary headteachers in the work to develop expansion proposals was the maintenance of high quality education standards, and all schools with council support as necessary will work to ensure high education standards are promoted through the expansions. The governing bodies and senior leadership teams of the schools will ensure appropriate structures are in place to manage the increased numbers of pupils and deliver the curriculum.

Suitable accommodation and facilities will be provided to accommodate the increased pupil numbers. Revenue funding is based on pupil numbers and the funding for increased numbers of pupils can enable opportunities for schools to be creative in use of resources to promote pupils' learning.

The expansion proposals are to increase the numbers of classes at schools and not to increase the numbers of pupils in classes. Planned admission numbers remain at 30 pupils per class.

Traffic congestion

Yes	No	Not Sure
Please make a note about car park facilities for moms with siblings and babies. Two lollipop ladies.	<p>Already very congested on Hibbert Road and surrounding roads.</p> <p>There will be more traffic on the road.</p> <p>Poor traffic conditions, insufficient parking, turning and drop-off room. Kingsley Road and Wyvenhoe Road are both dangerously busy already at the start/end of the school day, with illegal parking and inconsiderate driving.</p> <p>More pupils endanger the lives of children on local roads.</p>	
Officer remarks		
<p>The increase in children attending schools will inevitably lead to an impact on local communities and residents in terms of the number of children travelling to schools and using their facilities. Community schools serve their local communities, and the catchment areas for primary sector schools are comparatively small and are focussed on the immediate vicinity of the schools. Every school has a school travel plan that is reviewed regularly and will be reviewed in relation to proposals to increase places.</p> <p>There will be consultation on the proposals as part of the statutory processes to expand the schools and in relation to planning applications. During this time, officers will work with the schools to engage local residents to explain the proposals and to allow discussion and consideration of any issues or concerns.</p>		

Space constraints at the school

Yes	No	Not Sure
Space is a big constraint.	<p>The school is not big enough. Too small to accommodate 210 extra children.</p> <p>School halls are too small.</p> <p>The whole school would never be able to meet together.</p> <p>Too many children in the playground. We will not all fit in the hall. There will be too many cars outside.</p>	As long as the named schools have sufficient ground space for permanent expansion and the remaining schools in Harrow do not suffer reduced numbers because of this.

Officer remarks

School site feasibility studies have been conducted by architects and officers to consider the space issues and to ensure solutions can be developed to accommodate additional pupils at the schools proposed for expansion. This work is being done in close collaboration with the schools, and has included the input of schools from the outset. Creative solutions to make better use of existing space may be part of the solution that is developed along with new build. The outcome of the feasibility studies will inform the recommendations to Harrow Cabinet about the schools that should be taken forward to statutory proposals to expand. Where possible and affordable any current issues at the schools will be addressed as part of the building works that are carried out. The feasibility studies will be developed further during the statutory consultation phase.

Size of school

Yes	No	Not Sure
The increase in numbers would only be returning us to the size/pupil numbers we had prior to age of transfer.	There would be too many pupils. Four form entry is simply too large for this school given the facilities the school possesses.	Concerned that class sizes will increase and that pupils without English as their main language will require so much input that other children will be neglected.

Officer remarks

Within Harrow there are schools that are one, two and three form entry combined schools which are successful and popular. There is no evidence to suggest that the size of the school affects the ability of the teachers and staff to provide a high quality education to all pupils. The school's senior leadership team would be structured to manage the larger pupil numbers.

The proposed creation of separate four form of entry infant and junior schools is a new initiative in Harrow. This is proposed because: these schools are well located to meet the increased demand for places in their primary planning area; and because it is believed the additional places will fill and the schools can provide a high quality of education for pupils. There is no evidence that children perform badly in large schools as such, and children are able to perform well in larger schools. A number of local authorities are establishing schools of four and more forms of entry to meet the increased demand for places.

Most of Harrow's primary sector schools have been larger in the past. In September 2010, school reorganisation was implemented in Harrow and Year 7 pupils moved from community primary sector schools into the high schools. These changes reduced the numbers of pupils at primary schools and separate infant schools, though numbers remained the same in separate junior schools.

Impact on facilities and activities at the school

Yes	No	Not Sure
As long as proper facilities are in place.	It would put a strain on after school activities. It would increase the cost of school trip and sports activities.	It is essential that playgrounds, and indoor PE areas enable the school to

	<p>Facilities within the school are already stretched. Specialist rooms would turn into classrooms. We will get no art, science, music, ICT, cooking and peer mediation rooms. No assembly at the same time. Will deprive us of our specialist rooms. Everyone will share everything (e.g. books, notebooks, lockers). There may be cancelled clubs.</p>	meet its obligations to deliver the full requirements for PE.
Officer remarks		
<p>A number of schools have physical capacity that could be re-commissioned for classroom spaces. This capacity may have arisen because the school was larger in the past and / or because of the changes in the ages of transfer implemented in September 2010. The local authority has to ensure that its strategic solution maximises the potential of re-commissioning accommodation deployed differently currently.</p> <p>Not all schools are in the same position about the facilities available to them. Some schools have additional physical facilities available to their pupils that are not available at other schools. For example, not all schools are currently able to hold full school assemblies and not all schools have rooms set aside for specialist activities.</p> <p>The reinstatement of space for use as classrooms does not necessarily mean that enrichment activities would cease. Schools are still able to organise activities even if there are not specified rooms set aside for the purpose. It would mean that the way certain activities are provided would be organised and provided differently.</p> <p>While every effort will be made to maximise the range of facilities available to schools, it needs to be borne in mind that the capital that will be available will be limited in the current economic climate.</p>		

Impact on the school

Yes	No	Not Sure
<p>That facilities will be available to meet needs of pupils and that any extra support i.e. teaching support and equipment will be provided for to help school meet these additional needs.</p> <p>This is an outstanding school</p>	<p>Loss of intimate school where pupils, families and teachers are well known to each other and support each other. Teachers would be unable to know each student's needs and to cater for them effectively. Would have a negative impact on the school – behaviour in the playground, and will there be more resources. If the schools expand then teachers will find it hard to control. The cost and inconvenience of changing to a four form of entry school would be too great.</p>	<p>A hall which can hold the whole school is essential.</p> <p>Limited space means that building work will have to be done (disrupting the children's learning) and loss of playground space (to fit the extra classrooms in).</p>

and the school and teachers need all the support both financial and moral from Harrow Council and the government.	These proposals are not likely to benefit the school but cause a lot of distraction from its normal work.	
Officer remarks		
<p>Increasing the size of a school does not necessarily change the nature of the relationships surrounding the child. For most children, their key experiences are related to their classroom and class teacher, or at most their year group. This would not change in a bigger school. What children experience in the classroom has the most major impact on what they achieve and size alone is unlikely to damage this relationship.</p> <p>The feasibility study has incorporated wherever possible the concerns schools have raised about the current site layout and accommodation. Throughout the process, officers have been very clear with schools about the financial circumstances and uncertainty until government capital funding announcements in December. More detailed work will be undertaken on the feasibility study with the headteachers to ensure that the best solution is achieved within available resources.</p> <p>The increased size of the school and the impact on the school ethos as a four form entry school and other practical and organisational issues, for example, assemblies, whole school/year group activities, timetabling, timing and supervision of playtimes, lunchtimes, curriculum provision etc. will need to be considered. The local authority will work with headteachers and governors to support this process. There is considerable experience in Harrow of managing changes to school organisation. Support from schools in other boroughs that have undertaken expansion will be sought if headteachers consider that this would be helpful.</p> <p>School site feasibility studies are being conducted by architects and building contractor, overseen by council officers, on all the schools proposed for expansion. The range of site and accommodation issues will be considered through the feasibility study process. The starting point has been a review of the current shortcomings of the school sites. A solution has then been developed to provide the accommodation for additional pupils and to address as many current issues as possible. The outcome of the feasibility studies will be shared with the schools when they are available. During the statutory processes with a view to expansion, the building and accommodation solutions for the schools will be developed further.</p>		

Impact on other schools

Yes	No	Not Sure
Concerned that if too many schools are expanded in the South East Area it will have a negative effect on pupil numbers at other schools.	There could be a detrimental effect on neighbouring schools and numbers could decline.	Would hope that schools in the area of school expansion - which are themselves NOT expanding - will NOT lose pupils as a result of moving to expanding schools nearby.

Officer remarks

For school place planning purposes, Harrow is divided into geographic primary planning areas that identify the schools that draw a significant proportion of their population from that area. The primary school expansion proposals have been developed by planning area. The focus has been on providing sufficient additional places in each area to meet the projected demand, and has considered the position of all schools in the planning area and the potential impact on them all and also on school in neighbouring planning areas. Additionally, the strategy of a permanent expansion of schools supplemented by temporary additional classes will serve to minimise any risk of detrimental impact on other schools.

Community ethos

Yes	No	Not Sure
<p>Make more places available especially for those who live nearer to the school.</p> <p>The waiting list is too long and this school is the nearest to me.</p> <p>Provides the opportunity for children to attend their preferred schools and will help siblings attend one school rather than going to different schools.</p> <p>Community schools should be for the local community.</p> <p>I think it is important that if you live in and are part of a cohesive community e.g. that in West Harrow you can get your children into the school that serves the community.</p>	<p>Loses community feel when school becomes too big.</p> <p>Schools will be too small to enable whole school assemblies therefore the school as a community will be lost.</p>	

Officer remarks
As far as possible, it is believed the schools chosen for expansion would be a popular choice amongst parents wishing to secure a place at their local schools. Harrow's schools view themselves as serving their local communities and the expansion proposals would not change this. Indeed, by meeting the increased demand in their local area, schools would reinforce their position at the heart of their communities.

Undersubscribed school and mobility of children

Yes	No	Not Sure
	<p>The school has never been full to capacity.</p> <p>Lots of movement of children.</p> <p>Disruptive effect of mobility from one school to another on behaviour and learning.</p> <p>Mobility within the school will increase hugely which has obvious impacts on effective assessment and planning for quality teaching and learning.</p>	
Officer remarks		
<p>The issues of schools not filling to capacity, and of pupils moving to and from a school during the school year, are valid and are well understood by officers. These issues can pose a number of difficulties, including: pupil attainment; budget planning; and the cohesion of the class. The comments made in responses to the consultation reflect past experience. The projections and current experience indicate the position is changing due to increased demand for places, and we are planning for a significantly different position.</p> <p>It is for these reasons that Harrow's strategic approach to meeting increased demand for places is to create a sustainable level of increased permanent places and to manage peaks and fluctuations in demand through temporary 'bulge' classes. This approach will minimise dangers of any over-provision of places and will ensure schools can plan with some confidence. As a further safeguard, it is practice in Harrow to open a bulge class at schools proposed for expansion prior to formal permanent expansion being implemented.</p> <p>There is a balance to be achieved because some spare capacity in schools is required to enable children arriving during the school year to be given a place. Also, some capacity in the system is desirable to enable some parental choice about schooling for their children.</p> <p>Problems arise where there is a high level of spare capacity and pupil mobility at any school, and Harrow's school expansion proposals seek to minimise this risk by achieving a suitable balance.</p>		

Alternative proposals

Yes	No	Not Sure
<p>Money should be provided to schools where there is no room to build more classrooms. Surely this must be cheaper than building a new school.</p> <p>Sufficient resources are not being made available in particular to schools which are on boundaries of different boroughs.</p> <p>Expansions are cheaper than building a new school</p>	<p>Opening a new school is a better idea.</p> <p>The right approach would surely be a temporary bulge year and then review what actually happens, rather than forcing the school to back to a size it cannot fill.</p> <p>Instead of building flats, build a new school to accommodate extra children.</p> <p>Newton Farm should be encouraged to expand.</p> <p>A primary school should not exceed 2 form entry of 30 children max.</p> <p>Proper enforcement of the parking restrictions is needed now, as well as educating parents, etc, by school and council.</p>	<p>I don't understand why there are no plans to expand Newton Farm school, when it is by far the smallest school in the area and also very popular.</p>

Officer remarks

Building new schools in Harrow is not a realistic approach to meet the scale of the increased demand for school places. In Harrow there are neither the sites to build sufficient new schools nor will the capital funding to achieve this be available. Nevertheless, there may be opportunities to develop new schools to meet part of the need, and these will be pursued wherever possible. For example, the government may decide to open a new free school in Harrow. Also the Local Development Framework for Harrow specifies the need for a new primary school to help meet the demand from children living in new housing developments in Harrow.

All community primary schools will be included in plans to open permanent and temporary additional classes. The geographic primary planning areas have between four and eight primary schools within them. Choices have to be made about which schools to expand and which schools will have temporary additional classes.

Clarifications

Yes	No	Not Sure
<p>If it is proven that the school is located in an area where there is a known demand for extra places.</p>	<p>Is the demand in the South East Area so much higher than others?</p> <p>There are schools that are very oversubscribed that are not on the list.</p> <p>Why are there no catholic schools identified?</p> <p>Why were these schools chosen? Grimsdyke, West Lodge and Newton Farm are all oversubscribed schools. How come they are not part of this? (Pinner Park)</p>	<p>Are schools for expansion in the areas of greatest need?</p> <p>Why have these schools been chosen? Many are already 3 forms of entry.</p> <p>What will happen if the amount of children goes down?</p> <p>Will it be extra classes made or will</p>

	<p>Plenty of schools in Harrow Central – why just a selected amount of schools?</p> <p>Due to budget cuts, how can an expansion be paid for?</p>	<p>current classes be pushed beyond the current 30 pupils to a teacher?</p> <p>I don't really know what they mean. Maybe some further details could be sent out instead of just a letter asking for our comments on something that I've never heard of before.</p>
Officer remarks		
<p>All community primary sector schools will be part of the solution to meeting the increased demand for school places, either through permanent expansion or to provide temporary 'bulge' additional classes or contingency bulge classes. At this time there are no proposals to expand voluntary aided schools, though this will be kept under consideration.</p> <p>All schools, including voluntary aided schools, have been considered for the primary school expansion programme. Discussion has been held with diocesan bodies about their voluntary aided schools, and no proposals have been forthcoming thus far.</p> <p>The governors of Krishna-Avanti Primary School have announced their wish to expand. However, the government is proposing to establish a two form of entry free school proposed by I-Foundation, and decision about supporting expansion of Krishna-Avanti Primary School needs to await the outcome of the free school proposal so the implications can be fully considered.</p> <p>The demand for additional school places is spread across the borough and school expansions are required in all the five geographic primary planning areas. The schools proposed are considered to be best placed to meet the demand most effectively. The geographic primary planning areas have between four and eight primary schools within them. Choices have to be made about which schools to expand and which schools will have temporary additional classes.</p> <p>The government has not announced future capital funding for schools, and the announcements are expected in December. However, the government has stated that its priorities will be basic need (i.e. funding for additional school places) and condition (i.e. building maintenance issues) and the assumption being made in these proposals is that capital funding will continue at a similar level to this year's allocation. The proposals are expected to fit within this funding parameter.</p>		