

SCHOOL PLACES UPDATE

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REASON FOR ITEM

To update the Committee on demand for school places in the Borough.

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Note the update.
2. Question officers about the update.

INFORMATION

Introduction

This paper presents to the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee an update on planning for primary and secondary school places in Hillingdon.

Background

Demand for school places is being driven by a number of interrelated factors including birth rates, new residential developments and families moving into the Borough. Therefore, year-to-year changes in the forecast are to be expected. The forecasts are updated annually and the 2017 update was completed during the summer. However, monitoring demand for places and related analytical work takes place throughout the year, particularly following Pupil Census dates (which provide figures for the actual number of places taken up / available) and to support in-year admissions, including the placement of pupils through Fair Access mechanisms.

Future Demand for School Places

The key points from the 2017 Hillingdon forecast are as follows:

Primary

- The forecast confirms that the future need for primary school places in most areas of the Borough has largely been met through the comprehensive and successful primary school expansion programme and the provision of three new primary schools in the Borough.
- Overall, Reception demand is forecast to reduce slightly, reflecting a recent reduction in the birth rate. However, demand will increase in some areas, especially where there is significant housing development.

Children, Young People & Learning Policy Overview Committee – 18 October 2017

PART I – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

- In the north of the Borough (Northwood and Ruislip/Eastcote areas), it is expected that previous expansions and those in the pipeline (Hillside Infant and Junior schools and Warrender Primary) will provide sufficient capacity going forward.
- In the south of the Borough, some localised excess demand (around two forms of entry in total over the next five years) is forecast, particularly in the Uxbridge area. It is too early to say whether this can be managed by utilising capacity in adjacent areas that would still constitute acceptable offers in terms of home-to-school travel distances, particularly where parents seek places in the Uxbridge area but who do not live in the area. The position will be monitored closely. In the Hayes area, changes to the housing trajectory mean that a deficit is no longer forecast in the short-term. However, a caveat to this is that changes in the time scales for delivery of new housing will have potentially significant effects on the pupil forecasts for this area.

Secondary

- The new forecast confirms the outcome of the 2016 forecast that demand is building slightly more slowly than previously forecast.
- In the north of the Borough, ten additional forms of entry are forecast to be needed over the next five years. Plans are well underway for the expansions of Ruislip High School and Vyners and will provide three forms of entry. Proposals for two free schools were approved some time ago and officers have been proactive in following up progress with the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). However, delivery of these places is becoming urgent and 'bulge' year groups may be needed at existing schools as an interim measure. The ESFA are currently seeking to secure suitable sites for the free schools.
- In the south of the Borough, although the Admission Number of Harlington School has reduced by one form of entry, the expansions of Oak Wood (formerly Abbotsfield) and Swakeleys schools will provide four and half forms of entry. This means that there is forecast to be sufficient places in the south of the Borough over the next two years. From 2019/20, it is expected that there will no longer be a margin of capacity and one or two additional form of entry may be needed to manage demand over the next five years. This is being kept under review.

Management of Demand for September 2017 Admissions

On Offer Days, all children seeking entry into Reception or into Year 7 were successfully offered places as has been the case for many years in Hillingdon. Following the start of term, actual take-up of places is now reaching a more settled state. The ESFA requested a return regarding sufficiency of places (submission deadline 13th October). Schools and academies have been contacted to obtain information on the number of vacant places in each year group.

The following tables reflect information on vacancies received from schools. Based on this, it is expected that there will be sufficient places to make offers to all pupils currently seeking a school place and a reasonable margin of capacity for future in-year applications.

Primary Schools

Primary Place Planning Area	Reception vacancies	Year 1 vacancies	Year 2 vacancies	Year 3 vacancies	Year 4 vacancies	Year 5 vacancies	Year 6 vacancies	Schools with 2 or fewer Reception vacancies
								Number of total in area
PPA 1 Harefield	22	18	4	18	5	10	23	0/1
PPA 2 Northwood	80	38	5	11	14	7	5	2/4
PPA 3 West/North Ruislip	28	30	12	11	23	11	8	2/4
PPA 4 Ickenham	20	0	7	10	2	0	3	1/2
PPA 5 Ruislip/South Ruislip	4	14	16	16	56	15	32	8/8
PPA 6 Uxbridge/Cowley	17	12	45	36	13	23	12	5/6
PPA 7 Hillingdon	67	53	60	56	29	21	34	3/5
PPA 8 Charville/North Hayes	61	25	15	71	24	33	44	0/4
PPA 9 Yeading	10	14	5	34	37	10	28	2/3
PPA 10 Yiewsley	4	17	12	9	8	2	4	2/3
PPA 11 Hayes	50	19	38	70	56	5	9	4/7
PPA 12 Cranford/Pinkwell	43	3	20	35	16	12	15	1/3
PPA 13 Heathrow Villages	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2/2
PPA 14 West Drayton	46	93	58	6	3	2	3	3/5
North (1-5)	154	100	44	66	100	43	71	
South (6-14)	298	237	253	317	186	108	149	
TOTAL	452	337	297	383	286	151	220	

One school in Primary Planning Area (PPA) 12 has not returned data and therefore the number of vacancies has been estimated based on known offers. Data returned by one school in PPA 5 is also being queried, as the number of vacant places reported is lower than expected when compared with offer data.

As can be seen, in almost every PPA, vacant places are available to accommodate in-year demand (i.e. those applications currently being processed and future applications). The main exception is PPA 13 where there are only two small schools. However, to date, it has been possible to manage demand by offering places in neighbouring PPAs. This will usually be true

of other PPAs. Otherwise, Fair Access processes are available to place pupils. In some cases, admission numbers vary between year-groups where new schools or expansions have not yet fed through into older year groups.

In relation to over-subscription, it would be very rare for a school to have no vacant places in any year groups as pupils enter and leave schools throughout the year. The best indicator is, therefore, availability of Reception places. The final column in the above table shows the number of schools in each PPA with 2 or fewer Reception vacancies out of the total number of schools with a Reception intake in that PPA.

Overall, the percentage of vacant places has increased slightly in recent years but will still be within the recommended margin once pending applications are considered.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Vacancy %	10.5	7.4	6.6	8.4	6.4	3.7	5.7

Secondary Schools

	Year 7 vacancies	Year 8 vacancies	Year 9 vacancies	Year 10 vacancies	Year 11 vacancies	Schools with fewer than 5 vacancies in Year 7
Secondary Planning Area 1 - North of A40	99	131	91	110	150	6/8
Secondary Planning Area 2 - South of A40	128	259	249	368	324	8/10
TOTAL	227	390	340	478	474	
Excluding studio colleges & UTCs						
North				103	150	
South				337	303	
TOTAL				440	453	

The Rosedale Hewens Trust has advised that, as they teach by Key Stage rather than by year, they are unable to provide separate figures for Years 9 and 11.

The table above shows that in Year 7, vacancies are concentrated in a small number of schools, with most schools being full or virtually full. These figures are before taking into account applications that are being processed.

The percentage of vacant places is reducing but is still within the recommended 5-10% margin.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Vacancy %	6.3	10.9	9.3	12.1	12.5

In the south of the Borough, Oak Wood is co-educational in Year 7 only, as this is the first year of implementation. The number of co-educational vacancies in the south of the Borough in Years 8-11 is as follows:

		Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
All schools		104	50	169	105
Excluding studio schools & UTCs				138	84