

## SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Susan O'Brien Councillor Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Finance, Property & Business Services Education Children & Youth Services
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Bobby Finch, Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	None

### HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	This report provides an update on the primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition works programme and other school capital works.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	<b>Putting our Residents First</b> <b>Our Built Environment; Our People; Financial Management</b> Investment in schools to adequately address the impact of the population increase within the London Borough of Hillingdon on existing school places. This project also forms part of the Hillingdon Improvement Programme.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	The revised budget and forecast expenditure on the existing Schools expansions capital programme from 2020-2025 is £20,521k. Including expenditure of £33,358k incurred in prior years, total investment on the existing programme amounts to £53,879k.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents', Education and Environmental Services
<b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>	All Wards

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### That Cabinet:

1. **Note the progress made with primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition programme and other school capital projects.**
2. **Delegate authority to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Residents Services, to approve the projects to be included in the Phase 4 of the School Condition Programme.**
3. **Delegate full authority to the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services, in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Residents Services, to make all necessary procurement and financial decisions, including the appointment of consultancies and the placing of building contracts for Phase 4 of the School Condition Programme.**

### Reasons for recommendation

School expansions will meet the changing need for school places in the Borough. Progressing the School Condition Programme will allow the necessary repair or replacement works to be progressed in the schools to avoid the potential impact on their daily operations due to parts of the building fabric being beyond repair, or equipment which is at the end of its life. Ensuring these works are undertaken will minimise the risk of health and safety related issues or the possibility of a school closure occurring.

### Policy Overview Committee Comments

None at this stage.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

#### School Places Forecast

The demand for school places in Hillingdon has been rising in recent years and is forecast to continue to change in line with national and London-wide predictions. This has largely been driven by rising birth rates, new housing developments and families moving into the Borough. Overall there is evidence of a slowdown in the demand for additional primary school places although there remain localised pockets of forecast pressure in the Uxbridge and Hayes / Yeading area, though the new Nanaksar Free School will meet this. Demand for primary places is overall high and stable. Officers are working closely with schools to respond flexibly to the slowdown in demand for primary school places, whilst continuing to put residents first.

## 1. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

### School Places Forecast

The forecast for secondary school places shows a longer-term sustained demand for additional places.

National Offer Day for Secondary School Places was on 2nd March 2020. In Hillingdon, 94 per cent of pupils received one of their preferred secondary school choices, with 87.4 per cent of applicants receiving one of their top three schools. The Council received a record high of 3,714 Hillingdon resident applications this year, with 67.3 per cent of Hillingdon pupils receiving their first choice. Hillingdon remains the top borough in west London for families receiving an offer at one of their preferred secondary schools.

Plans have now been developed and submitted for the rebuild of Harlington School with an additional 1.5 forms of entry, and rebuilding the public library and adult education facilities by the DfE.

Officers regularly review and update the forecast for additional secondary school places. The local authority continues to work closely with secondary schools to ensure all children are offered a school place on time, and options for meeting the future need are progressing.

### Vyners School - 2 Form of Entry Expansion

The school expansion works have been completed at Vyners School and they are now making use of the new additional classroom block.

### Ruislip High School - 1 Form of Entry Expansion

The construction works to expand Ruislip High School were originally due to be completed in August 2020. Works were temporarily suspended for approximately a month during lockdown due to increased difficulty in obtaining materials. Construction works restarted in the last week of April 2020. Due to this site suspension and the requirement for contractors to adjust to their way of working to meet Government COVID-19 guidelines on working on construction sites, the overall completion date for the works has been delayed.

The internal refurbishment of the existing school building was completed by the start of the new school year. The overall completion date for the project including the completion of the new classroom block and external areas is currently the end October 2020. Discussions are ongoing with the contractor on whether this date can be brought forward.

Although the completion date of the works has been delayed, the school has sufficient space to operate and the school fully reopened at the start of term in September 2020.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)**

### Development of Proposals for Department for Education SEND Provision Fund

The need for additional capacity to meet the needs of children and young people with SEND is under continued consideration. As previously reported, this activity is being aligned to the development of a plan to utilise capital funding which is being made available by the Department for Education (DfE) to improve and increase SEND provision. Hillingdon was originally allocated £3,594k for the Special Provision Capital Fund and this includes £678k top up which was confirmed in May 2018.

The DfE in December 2018 announced that it will make an additional £100m top up to the Special Provision Capital Fund for local authorities in 2019/20. This funding is for places needed up to 2021 and the specific amount for each local authority has now been published with Hillingdon receiving a further top up of £1,356k, bringing the overall total allocation to £4,950k. The SEND Provision Capital Plan for the use of this allocated capital funding was published on 31 May 2019 consisting of the following proposals.

Expansions using this grant include;

- Expansion of Hedgewood Special School - 25 Additional Places
- Expansion of Moorcroft Special School - 10 Additional Places
- Creation of 2 x SRPs at Ruislip High School (ASD & PD) - 2 x 15 Additional Places
- Creation of a low arousal/sensory breakout space at Uxbridge College - 30 Additional Places
- Creation of a Satellite Special School Hubs - 60 Additional Places

#### Hedgewood School

This project was managed by the Council and consists of the installation of a double modular temporary classroom unit at the school. This modular unit was taken from Pinkwell School which no longer needs the modular unit following expansion of the school as part of phase 2 of the Primary School Expansion Programme.

The works were completed at the end of August 2020 and the building has been used by the school since the start of term in September 2020.

#### Moorcroft School

This project is being managed directly by the Eden Trust who are the Academy Trust that runs Moorcroft School. Planning consent for the extension was granted in August 2020.

#### Ruislip High School - Creation of Specialist Resource Provision (SRP)

The new physical disability specialist SRP will be located within the new classroom block that is being constructed as part of the school expansion works which are being managed by the Council. This block will be completed later this year.

## Uxbridge College

A small sum was allocated to Uxbridge College who will create a low arousal/sensory breakout space at Uxbridge College, to further support post-16 students.

## Satellite Special School Hubs

The proposal to develop satellite provision has been paused and Officers will consult with stakeholders in the autumn term and develop alternative proposals for providing additional SEND provision to meet the needs of children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

## **2. SCHOOLS CONDITION PROGRAMME**

### Phases 2 and 3

The current status of projects in phase 2 and 3 of the School Condition Programme can be found in the table below.

**Table 1:** School Condition Works Programme

<b>School</b>	<b>Works</b>	<b>Status</b>
Newnham Infant & Junior	M&E (Heating) and Roof Lights	Works completed
Oak Farm	Heating works	Works completed
Ruislip Gardens Primary	Roofing	Works completed
Yeading Infant	M&E works	Works completed
Whiteheath Junior School	Mobile classroom replacement	Works completed
Lady Bankes Infant and Junior School	Horsa Huts and Canteen renovation	Works will be completed by the end September 2020
	Windows Replacement	
Yeading Infant	Roof replacement works	Out to tender
Field End Infant & Junior	Roof replacement works	
Whiteheath Junior	Roof replacement works	
Harmondsworth Primary	Fire Safety works and Emergency lighting	Out to tender
Coteford Infant	Structural remedial works	Tender being issued in Autumn 2020
Yeading Infant	Refurbishment of canteen building	Consultant appointed and design phase underway
Grange Park Infants	Basement Water ingress works	Scope of works being finalised

There are 2 further projects where the school has not agreed to School Condition Programme contribution policy and are therefore the projects are not currently being progressed.

## Phase 4

The replacement of a dilapidated modular classroom unit at Yeading Infant School is part Phase 4 of the School Condition Programme. In order to ensure that the works could be completed by the start of the new school year in September 2020 the project was agreed earlier this year and the works commenced at the start of the school summer holidays. The works have been successfully completed.

Officers have assessed requests received from schools for assistance with condition works required on their premises. Proposals are being presented to Members for consideration on potential projects that could be taken forward which will form the remainder of Phase 4 of the School Condition Programme.

Recommendations 2 and 3 seek approval from Cabinet for delegated authority to approve projects to be included in Phase 4 of the School Condition Programme any future procurement and financial decisions on these projects.

### **3. OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS**

The DfE is directly managing and funding 6 projects under Priority School Building Programme Phase 2 (PSBP2) and a further 6 projects in the Free Schools Programme. These projects help ensure the Council as an education authority meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient places, and to promote high standards of education and fair access to education. These projects will add 240 new places from the PSBP2 projects and 2,318 new places from Free Schools projects. Officers will continue to be involved in ongoing discussions with the DfE and schools around various aspects of the projects.

Details of the projects are outlined below.

#### **Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2 (PSBP2)**

##### Harlington Secondary School

The entire school, public library and adult education provision are to be rebuilt on the existing site with works due to be completed in 2023. The Council has agreed to contribute towards a 1.5FE expansion of the school and a new 15 place SRP for pupils with complex needs and autism. A planning application has now been submitted.

##### Meadow Special Secondary School

To address the building condition issues the school will be largely rebuilt and remodelled with improved facilities. Planning consent was granted in August 2020.

##### Queensmead Secondary School

One block is being rebuilt to improve science, technical and engineering provision and remove reliance on inadequate temporary spaces. Planning consent was granted August 2020.

### Minet Infants and Junior Schools

Both of these schools will be completely remodelled to incorporate the accommodation currently being provided by the 2 storey temporary modular classroom units. The roof, windows and mechanical systems will be replaced and the playground is to be reconfigured. The planning application is scheduled to be submitted in late autumn 2020.

### Douay Martyrs Secondary School

One block is being rebuilt to improve and reconfigure provision and remove inadequate temporary spaces. The Music Service Store will be relocated within the new building. The planning application is due to be submitted in Autumn 2020.

## **Free Schools**

### Nanaksar Primary - Guru Nanak Sikh Academy Trust

A new 4FE primary school with 840 places is to be built on the Guru Nanak campus. The school originally opened in modular temporary classroom units in 2013 at 4FE but only for two intakes as proposals for the new buildings were delayed. The planning application for the new permanent school building has been submitted. The school is scheduled to open in 2021/22.

### New Secondary School north of the A40

The DfE has approved one new 6FE school and a site is being finalised, the current details are still subject to commercial confidence. Subject to planning permission and other approvals, the proposed opening date for the school is 2023.

### New Special Primary School - Grand Union Village - Eden Academy Trust

This will be a new extra provision to serve primary school aged pupils with most complex and severe needs in the South of the Borough. Planning consent was granted in August 2020.

### New Special School to replace Grangewood - Eden Academy Trust

DfE plan to demolish Grangewood School and build a new expanded school which will be called Pinn River School on the site. This will be an all through school with a Visually impaired specialism. The planning application is due to be submitted in the next few months.

### Young People's Academy Special Secondary School - Orchard Hill College Academy Trust

The Young People's Academy will be expanded and completely rebuilt and will serve a broader spectrum of need. Planning approval in July 2020 and the contractor will be starting on site shortly.

### The Skills Hub Alternative Provision Secondary Orchard Hill College Academy Trust

This is the only Alternative Provision in the Borough and the accommodation is unsuitable. It will be expanded to offer wider services to support pupils and schools and is being completely rebuilt

adjacent to the new Young People's Academy. Planning approval in July 2020 and works are due to start on site shortly.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The current School Expansions Capital Programme revised budget is £53,602k for the period up to 2024/25 including prior years, comprising £16,399k for new primary school expansions and £26,439k for secondary school expansions. Additionally £6,650k has been included within the programme for the provision of temporary classrooms as and when required. Further to this, £3,874k SEND grant budget has also been earmarked to support meeting the increasing demand for placements for pupils with special needs and £240k towards the provision for a larger dining hall at Meadow School.

As at month 4 the overall School Expansions Capital Programme is reporting a forecast overspend of £277k relating to additional items at Ruislip High School that were beyond the original contract scope.

The forecast for primary school places points to a reduced demand for additional places across the borough overall. At this stage there is no proposed additional investment in primary school places beyond the expansions currently being delivered.

Previously identified additional requirements for Secondary School places are expected to be delivered through a combination of installing bulge classes and the planned expansion of Harlington in the south and the new free school in the north to be delivered by the DfE.

The DfE has made £4,950k available to support improved SEND provision, and expand places. In 2019/20, grant payments of £40k to Uxbridge College and £250k to Moorcroft School were issued to provide a social/sensory area at Uxbridge College and an additional classroom at Moorcroft School. A payment of £165k was also made to Hedgewood School with a further £386k committed this year to enable the installation of a modular classroom unit. In addition £1,076k has been utilised to finance SRP provision within the wider expansion of Ruislip High School (included in the Secondary Schools Expansions budget).

The 2020/21 revised budget for the Schools Condition Building Programme is £4,706k following June Cabinet approval to re-phase £2,956k from the 19/20 programme. The funding will be utilised to deliver various schemes with some works continuing into next financial year.

## **RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION**

### **The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?**

Completion of the school expansion projects will result in the provision of additional school places needed for local children, which the Council has a statutory duty to provide. In addition the completion of the other school capital projects will result in the provision of quality, fit for purpose school facilities.

Progressing the School Condition Programme allows the necessary repair or replacement works to be progressed in the school's, avoiding the potential impact on their daily operations due to

parts of the building fabric being beyond economic repair, or equipment which is at the end of its life. Ensuring these works are undertaken will minimise the risk of health and safety related issues or the possibility of a school closure occurring.

### **Consultation carried out or required**

A statutory process is required for expansion of local authority maintained school premises if this will increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and by 25% or 200, whichever is the lesser. The statutory process includes publication of proposals and a statutory consultation period.

Under the School Admissions Code, the local authority as admissions authority for community schools must consult at least the school governing body on the admission number. Foundation schools and academies are their own admissions authority and set their own admission number, subject to them carrying out their own consultation.

## **CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and associated financial implications, noting that budgeted investment in this programme is to be financed through a combination of Department for Education Grant and local resources. With the majority of local investment expected to be met from Prudential Borrowing and, therefore, ultimately chargeable to the local Council Taxpayer.

Specific investment in additional SEND capacity through expanding the borough's SRP capacity is expected to contribute towards the Council's broader efforts to manage the significant, unfunded pressure in High Needs expenditure within the Dedicated Schools Grant arising from the introduction of the 2014 Children's and Families Act. This forms part of the Deficit Recovery Plan jointly agreed by the Council and Schools Forum.

### **Legal**

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice is provided whenever necessary, in particular cases, to ensure that the Council's Interests are protected.

### **Infrastructure / Asset Management**

Asset Management authored this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL