

QUARTERLY SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING UPDATE

Committee name	Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Officer reporting	Dan Kennedy, Residents Services Sarah Phillips, Residents Services
Papers with report	None
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The purpose of this report is to provide the Residents, Education & Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee with an update on school place planning and school rolls.

The uncertainty and pupil movement created by Covid-19 continues. The next full analysis will not be available until May, when all the January census and the National Offer Days information, and subsequent level of acceptances and declines and the first set of re-offers data has been confirmed. Discussions on place planning are already underway with some schools but obviously, the current priority is to support all schools in the return of pupils from March the 8th.

London wide analysis of the applications and preferences received for both primary and secondary admissions for September 2021, compared to the previous year, indicates that Hillingdon was affected far less than most London LAs and still has high numbers of applications. The secondary admissions process was completed successfully on 1st March 2021 with some extra places added for the third year running.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee:

1. **Note the update presented in this report.**
2. **Question officers about the update.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Overview of place planning, actions and analysis in spring term

3. The uncertainty around rolls seriously impacts on a few schools and they are the main focus for officers in discussions to support them and agree plans, and with

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the DfE where relevant. A full analysis is underway of the extent of cross-borough movement at both primary and secondary level on the National Offer Days, and the subsequent levels of acceptance and declines of offers and the next round of offers, including to applications received after the 31 October closing date for the pan-London process.

4. The January rolls, new housing development approvals and current school Published Admission Numbers (PANs) (formally approved PANs without temporary extras) is being checked and will be input into the modelling of new projections which will inform the statutory school capacity report to DfE this summer, known as SCAP 21. This will be shared with the POC in due course. SCAP 20 was cancelled due to the pandemic and though officers did some modelling, it is unclear how much trends are changing and how much data in 2020-21 can be relied on, until the economy and households have settled.

Secondary National Offer Day 1 March 2021

5. The Pan-London computer admissions scheme analysis of all the applications / preferences for Year 7 for the 33 London LAs showed that Hillingdon had the 9th highest number of applications (compared to 7th highest last year) and the 6th lowest percentage difference from last year (a rise of 0.5%) whereas 23 LAs experienced a real fall of up to 6% in the number of applications.

6. The offers made for Year 7 places were:

To Hillingdon residents : 3,607 (including 505 to schools in other LAs)

Hillingdon Council has offered 94 per cent of pupils one of their preferred secondary school places. Hillingdon remains the top west London borough beating the London average of 93 per cent. The council received 3,607 secondary school applications, with 67 per cent of Hillingdon pupils receiving their first choice. This is also higher than the London average which is 66 per cent. 86 per cent of applicants received one of their top three schools in Hillingdon. This excludes pupils with EHCPs who do not apply through this process, and those pupils already in an all-through school, eg. Guru Nanak.

Places in Hillingdon Schools: 3,647 (including 409 from other LAs)

including 73 Hillingdon resident EHCPs through the separate SEND process, considering parent preferences and pupil needs.

7. 13 of the 18 schools were completely filled by offers and have waiting lists, and 2 others filled to over 98% which DfE considers full. This was after 50 extra places were commissioned by the Local Authority to ensure a margin for late applications and movements throughout the year, and one other school chose to add 30 places. 140 spaces were left vacant in five schools, that is 3.7% of the PAN; 35 north of the A40 and 105 to the south. Therefore the margin is tighter than the 5% the DfE recommends.
8. Analysis of the National Offer Day data is almost complete and will inform the refreshed school places forecast in the Summer and judgements about the potential need for extra temporary places for September 2022. In January the Harlington school expansion and rebuilding scheme received planning permission and is progressing towards being in contract, and completion in 2023. At this stage the DfE and the Veritas Trust are progressing a scheme for the

proposed new free school aiming for full consultation in the autumn, ahead of a planning committee in spring 2022 to consider the detailed scheme, with opening in 2023 or 2024. A full review of the future need for secondary school places is underway in light of the impact of the public health pandemic on household mobility.

Primary Applications for Reception start in September 2021

9. Primary National Offer Day is April 16th. The Pan-London computer admissions scheme analysis of all the applications / preferences for Reception for the 33 London LAs showed that Hillingdon had the 6th highest number of applications (compared to 7th highest last year) and the 6th lowest percentage difference from last year, a decrease of -2.9% compared to London average decrease of -5.9% with several LAs experiencing a decrease of over 10% in the number of applications. In part, the drop in applications is thought to be due to the public health pandemic increasing household movement out of London.
10. There is a slight rise of 57 more first preferences (2%) for Reception than last year. The primary applications process has not completed, therefore it is not possible to predict exact numbers yet for schools, since there are some areas with cross-borough movement at primary stage, though far less than at secondary. The range from over-subscribed to undersubscribed is also less, and as there are currently spaces across the borough, most parents will secure one of their top preferences. As far as is possible, officers will try to ensure schools do not end up with unmanageable class size sizes, and the Council's Education Advisors will provide relevant schools with support.
11. Full analysis of any subsequent trends will be undertaken following National Offer Day of the acceptances and declines and the next round of offers. By May discussions with schools and analysis across planning areas will enable officers to recommend some changes to PANs to members. Some proposed changes will be progressed by Academy Trusts. These would be reported to the REESPOC and would then be subject to formal consultation in Autumn 2021 for implementation in 2023.

Special Provision

12. The SEND team managed the phase transfers into special schools for Reception and secondary starts in September 2021 effectively with a new process this year. Numbers are still very high, more EHCPs are being developed each week throughout lockdown. The detailed analysis of pupil needs data and the availability of places on each school site continues, with discussions with special schools and Trusts. Projections of future demand are being developed to be used in allocating the remaining SEND Capital grant for adaptations and expansions, to meet pupil needs and reduce the cost of out-borough placements.
13. The DfE funded projects to provide new schools and improved buildings are nearly all underway and will provide significantly more special education places in the borough, all well designed to meet the specific needs of pupils. The table shows the current status.

Table 1 Special Provision in DfE Free Schools & Priority Schools Building Programme

School	DfE Scheme	Planned Extra Places	Current Status at 4.3.21	Year complete and open
Young People's Academy	Free School	52	Rebuild. Building work on site. DfE now confirmed opening date. Finalise Commissioning.	April 2022
Meadow High	PSBP	0	Most rebuilt. Building work on site, some pupils in a temporary building, and main building will be completed first, then the rest.	Sept 2022 and Sept 2023
Grand Union Village (GUV) (Prim PMLD/SLD)	Free School	80	New Free school. Contract about to start. Note initially Grangewood will be decanted into the new GUV building to enable Pinn River building.	2023/24
Pinn River Ages 4-19 SLD, PMLD, MSI (on Grangewood site)	Free School	67	New all age free school. Planning consultation on scheme in next few months - aim for autumn 2021 Planning Committee. Then demolition of Grangewood in summer holidays 2022. Then new build. Then Pinn River & Grand Union Village will both open to existing and new pupils serving north and south and full MSI.	2023/24
TOTAL in Special Schools		199		
Harlington School - ASD Unit	PSBP	15	Complete rebuild and expansion. About to go into contract. New school including Unit being built alongside the existing building, which will then be demolished late 2024 and final sports facilities laid out.	Sept 2024
Bishop Arden FS - ASD Unit	Free School	21	New Free school with Unit. In pre-opening phase, planning scheme. Aim for planning and admissions consultations in autumn and then scheme to a spring Planning Committee.	Sept 2024
TOTAL in Mainstream Secondary		36		
TOTAL		235		

Financial Implications

14. The financial implications are being reviewed of the different options for meeting future demand for special school places, both capital and revenue, as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Background Papers

15. None.