

SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

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| Cabinet Member(s) | Councillor Susan O'Brien Councillor Jonathan Bianco |
| Cabinet Portfolio(s) | Cabinet Member for Families, Education & Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Property and Infrastructure |
| Officer Contact(s) | Bobby Finch – Place Directorate |
| Papers with report | None |

HEADLINES

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Summary | This report provides an update on the primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition works programme and other school capital works. |
| Putting our Residents First | <i>This report supports: Our Built Environment; Our People; Financial Management</i> 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. |
| Financial Cost | Continuing investment in mainstream school places provision from 2021-27 amounts to £10,904k. The future SEND programme is estimated to cost £21,985k and will deliver 394 additional places, reducing the DSG deficit. |
| Relevant Select Committee | Families, Health and Wellbeing Select Committee |
| Relevant Ward(s) | 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. Agree to delegate all future decisions required to facilitate the projects linked to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement and the associated bid for additional Special Educational Needs capital grant to the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Property & Infrastructure and other relevant Cabinet Members, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Place.**

Reasons for recommendation

The proposed works outlined in this report will meet the changing need for school places in the Borough, particularly the increasing demand for special needs places which has led to the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit. These places are crucial to delivering the Council's (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement with Department for Education (DfE).

Progressing the School Condition Programme will allow the necessary remedial or replacement works to be undertaken 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.

Select Committee Comments

None at this stage. However, the Families, Health & Wellbeing Select Committee receive quarterly updates on school place planning and monitors this through its overview and scrutiny role.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. PRIMARY SCHOOLS

School places forecast

The demand for primary places in Hillingdon rose continuously for over ten years up to 2018, stabilised and has declined since 2020 due to a lower birth rate affecting primary intakes and in addition to the effects of the pandemic leading to movement across the borough and out of the borough which is affecting most schools. In addition, some parents are choosing to change schools when places arise in another school they prefer. This volatility continues across London with increased movement throughout the academic year.

Officers are working closely with the schools most affected to respond to resident needs and ensure all schools are successful, sustainable, and viable. The Published Admissions Number (PAN) of nine primary schools was reduced by 30 last year, enabling them to focus and

manage resources for pupils. Any unused classrooms are available to meet future growth, and some are being repurposed for special needs as set out later in this report. Officers continue to monitor the changing demand at individual school and local level.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School places forecast

Demand for secondary places is rising as the past primary expansion moves up each year, until it is projected to dip after 2028. Since 2018 the increased total required secondary school places at required officers to agree with schools to add extra places. Most secondary schools are now full, with a few places available at four of the eighteen schools. To meet the record demand for places in Year 7 in September 2022, 150 places were added to PAN in five schools.

Significant movement of pupils in and out of the Borough to schools with a net 'export' continues. Secondary demand is challenging to predict as it varies significantly due to parental preferences, faith schools and the relative popularity of schools including in other LAs, and their Ofsted grades. This means a 5% margin above the projection is necessary to meet parental demand in each area each year. Officers continuously monitor pupil rolls, parent preferences and changes in the imports and exports of pupils in and out of the borough, as well as discuss future demand with schools and DfE.

Currently there are two projects to add permanent secondary places to meet demand for secondary school places. Both projects are being funded and managed by Department for Education (DfE):

- Rebuild and expanding Harlington by 1.5 forms of entry (45 places) to open 2023.
- A proposed new 6 form of entry free school in the north of the borough (180 places in each year group). This is subject to a DfE final review of future pupil demand as part of their commissioning process. In terms of admissions there will be no faith admissions criteria with distance being the main criteria, though it is to be part of a Church of England Trust.

Both schools will also have new units for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) who will have some integration into mainstream part of the school with specialist teaching and support.

3. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Previous Cabinet reports have detailed how demand for special needs places continues to rise locally and nationally. Additional places have been added each year, where possible and significant growth was agreed in 2016 with the approval of three new free special schools and Special Resource Provision units for pupils with ASD at the proposed new secondary free school and Harlington School. All these projects are funded and delivered by DfE.

These extra 241 places (see table 1) were previously considered sufficient to meet demand, however demand has risen faster than expected in recent and most of DfE projects have been delayed.

Table 1: DfE agreed projects that include additional SEN provision

| Provider | Project | Additional places | Total final places |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Orchard Hill Academy Trust | New Free school to replace the Young Peoples Academy | 45 | 110 |
| Eden Academy Trust | New Free school: Grand Union Village | 80 | 80 |
| Eden Academy Trust | New Free school to replace Grangewood: Pinn River | 90 | 180 |
| Harlington School | Designated Unit for pupils with ASD | 15 | 15 |
| Bishop Arden Free school (Veritas Trust) | Designated Unit for pupils with ASD | 21 | 21 |
| Total | | 241 | 406 |

DfE Capital Grants for SEND expansion and improvements 2019-2024

Since 2019 extra DfE capital grants for special needs have been allocated to Local Authorities each year. This grant can be used to provide more places, meet needs of existing pupils through adaptation works and reduce use of expensive independent provision to support a reduction of deficits (which Hillingdon along with most Local Authorities have due to increasing demands without related increased funding) on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant. The grant funding has been used to adapt buildings to add extra classrooms and places at existing schools, with Member and schools' approval. Allocations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 have now been published.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement

Rising demand and costs has put pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the LA has developed a DSG Deficit Recovery Programme with a 'safety valve' agreement with the DfE linked to bids for revenue and capital funding. This is a key strategic priority for the Council, underpinned by sufficient resource and capability to ensure timely and successful delivery.

The purpose recovery plan is to:

- Put mainstream inclusion and high-quality SEND services at the heart of education in Hillingdon.
 - Reduce total costs of special placements
 - Add more specialist places in the borough
 - Embed financial sustainability
 - Reduce the in-year deficit in 2021/22 as far as possible
 - Eliminate the in-year deficit completely by 2024/25, and no later than 2025/26
- All this reflects the aims and direction set out by the DfE in the March 2022 publications of the White Paper for schools and the Green Paper for SEN.

Extra specialist places are needed in Hillingdon in the next few years to meet the rising demand and gaps in need and to minimise use of independent provision and long travel for residents. The aim is to maximise the use of local education spaces and promote integration of pupils into mainstream where possible. Following discussions, new projects were selected

that can be delivered in partnership with schools and academies that have surplus physical capacity and have commitment to inclusion and expertise in managing change. Plans are underway to adapt the largest groups of surplus physical capacity in four primary and one secondary school, to create new extra places for pupils with special needs.

Capital Bid linked to Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement

A new bid for additional capital grant was made in March 2022 to deliver the projects in the DSG Deficit Recovery Programme, with decision expected in the next few months. The table below provides a summary of the proposed projects that have been included in the bid. In total there are 9 projects.

Table 2: Proposals included in bid for future SEND Capital

| Location | Description | Type | Phase of Education | Number of additional places to be created |
|--|---|--|---------------------|---|
| Meadow High School | Create a satellite unit at the Harefield Academy site and the replacement of the modular units at Meadow. Both open Sept 2023 | Community Special School | Secondary | 80 |
| Eden Trust: Grangewood Primary & Moorcroft Secondary | The Eden Trust to open a temporary MLD Unit at Pinkwell Primary School for extra Grangewood and Moorcroft pupils from Sep 2022 | Academy Special | Grangewood Primary | 16 |
| | | | Moorcroft Secondary | 24 |
| Wood End Park Primary Academy | New ASD Unit to open Sept 2023 | Academy Primary | Primary | 24 |
| Ruislip Gardens Primary School | Specialist Early Years Assessment Base. Adaptions to remodel primary school from 3FE to 2FE and create the space for the unit. Open Sept 2023 | Community Primary School | Primary | 16 |
| Ruislip Gardens Primary School | New ASD SRP integrated into school, working alongside the Early Years Assessment Base. Open Sept 2023. | Community Primary School | Primary | 12 |
| Charville Primary Academy 139609 | New ASD SRP. Remodel primary school from 3FE to 2FE to create space for SRP. Open Sept 2023 | Academy Primary | Primary | 12 |
| Orchard Hill Special Further Education College - Independent post-19 (Brookfield Adult Education Centre) | Lease of Brookfield Adult Education Centre site to Orchard Hill Special for use as a Further Education College. Open Sept 2022. | Independent Special College multi-site | Post 16 | 30 |
| New Special Free School Bid | | Site to be confirmed | Primary | 180 |
| Pinkwell Primary School | Agree permanent status beyond 2024 of the temporary unit used by Eden Trust 2022-24. Adaption to create unit linked to on-site primary school | Academy | Primary | 0 |
| Total | | | | 394 |

MLD: Moderate Learning Difficulties

ASD: Autism Spectrum Disorders

SRP: Specialist Resource Provision

4. SCHOOLS CONDITION PROGRAMME

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

Table 3: School Condition Works Programme

| School | Works | Status |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Yeading Infant | Roof replacement works | Complete |
| Field End Infant & Junior | Roof replacement works | Complete |
| Harmondsworth Primary | Fire Safety works and emergency lighting | Complete |
| Coteford Infant | Structural remedial works | Complete |
| Whiteheath Junior | Roof replacement works (section 1) | Complete |
| Whiteheath Junior | Roof replacement works (section 2) | Pre-construction stage |
| Yeading Infant/Junior | Canteen building works | Pre-construction stage |
| Grange Park Infants | Basement water ingress works | Pre-construction stage |
| Grange Park Junior | Toilet refurbishment & external lighting | Pre-construction stage |
| Frithwood Primary | Roof replacement works | Pre-construction stage |
| Lady Bankes Primary | Refurbishment of modular units | Pre-construction stage |
| Breakspear | Refurbishment of modular units & upgrade of fire alarms and emergency lighting | Pre-construction stage |
| Oak Farm | Refurbishment of modular units | Pre-construction stage |
| Hillside Infant | Asbestos panel replacement | Pre-construction stage |
| Frithwood Primary | Roof replacement works | Pre-construction stage |
| Coteford Infant | Roof replacement works | Pre-construction stage |
| Colham Manor | Roof replacement works and asbestos works | Pre-construction stage |

Future works

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

5. 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 under the Free Schools Programme. These projects total a significant DfE investment and 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 primary, secondary special school places through the PSBP2 projects and 2,318 new places from Free Schools projects. Officers will continue to be involved in discussions with the DfE and schools around various aspects of the projects. Details of the projects are outlined in table 4 below.

Table 4: DfE Free School and PSBP2 Projects – (note these were first agreed in 2016)

| School | Phase / Age | Governance | DfE Fund Route | Planned additional places | Estimated year of completion |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Primary Grand Union Village Special Primary | Special Primary | Eden Academy Trust | Free Special School | 80 | 2023/24 |
| Pinn River Special (on site of current Grangewood school) | Special ages 4-19 | Eden Academy Trust | Free Special School | 67 | 2023/24 |
| New school on site of Young People's Academy (YPA) | Special Secondary | Orchard Hill College Academy Trust | Free Special School | 52 | 2022 |
| New Secondary Free School north of A40 - Bishop Arden | Secondary | Multi Academy Trust | Free School | 1260 (SEN 21) | 2024/25 |
| Harlington rebuild and expand to 8FE and Special ASD Unit | Secondary | Foundation | PSBP2 | 225 (SEN 15) | 2022/23 |
| Nanaksar Primary | Primary | Guru Nanak Sikh Academy Trust | Free School | 840 | Feb 2022 |
| The Skills Hub | Alternative Provision Secondary | Orchard Hill College Academy Trust | Free School (next to YPA) | 4 | 2022 |
| Meadow High | Special Secondary | Community | PSBP2 | 0 | 2021/22 |
| Douay Martyrs | Secondary | London RC Diocesan MAT | PSBP2 | 0 | 2022/23 |
| Queensmead | Secondary | QED Trust | PSBP2 | 0 | 2022 |
| Minet Infant and Junior | Primary | Community | PSBP2 | 0 | June 2024 |

The first five projects in table 4 will provide additional special needs places and contribute to the (DSG) deficit recovery plan.

School Rebuilding Programme

In 2020 the Government announced their intention to rebuild 500 school in the worst condition over a 10 year period, this programme is called School Rebuilding Programme. The first 100 schools including in the programme were announced in 2021 based on the information held by the Department for Education (DfE) Condition Data Collection surveys carried out in 2017. Rosedale College was approved in 2021 list and officers have joined early discussions with the School and DfE as the initial feasibility stage starts.

In February 2022 the DfE opened nominations for the next phase of schools. The criteria for determining which school buildings could be included were “(a) *Structural or safety issues that mean a block is not fit for use or is likely to become unfit for use imminently because it poses a risk to users, (b) severe deterioration in the main building fabric (external walls, roofs, windows or doors). This means that the most efficient way of returning a block to good condition is to rebuild it or carry out a significant refurbishment. (c) Mechanical and electrical systems that are close to failure and could cause a school block to close in the near future, but only if there is another need in the building fabric that makes a refurbishment or rebuild most efficient overall.*”

A bid has been submitted to DfE to include Hedgewood School in this next phase School Rebuilding Programme. A response to the bid is expected from the DfE later in the year.

Financial Implications

The 2021-27 Schools Expansions capital programme approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2022 includes £10,904k for continuing investment in mainstream school places provision. Future delivery of increased secondary schools' places is largely being managed externally by the Department for Education, including the 1.5FE expansion of Harlington School, towards which the Council has contributed £6,034k, and a potential 6FE free school in the north of the borough pending confirmation of school places demand. The capital programme budget includes £3,800k for additional temporary classrooms to manage shorter term demand, financed by Council resources.

The SEND programme has an identified programme of activity amounting to £21,985k for nine projects (see Table 2 above) for which £15,023k Special Provision/High Needs capital grants are secured. This includes the expansion of Meadow High School for which design work is already underway. A capital bid was submitted in March 2022 to the DfE, linked to the DSG deficit recovery safety valve agreement. The identified projects would create 394 additional SEND places and reduce future out of borough special placements and transport costs, supporting reduction of the DSG deficit. It is anticipated that the outcome of the bid will secure the additional £6,962k grant funding required although this is not yet confirmed.

The 2021/22 revised budget for the Schools Condition Building Programme is £3,322k funded from a combination of Schools Conditions grant and schools' contributions. The funding is being utilised to deliver various schemes with some works completed and other projects 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, for primary and secondary places.

Specific investment in additional SEND capacity through expanding the borough's SRP capacity will contribute towards the Council's broader efforts to manage the significant 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. The Council has secured a Safety Valve agreement with the DfE which secures government support for the delivery of the Council's DSG Recovery Programme and financial support towards the elimination of the cumulative deficit. On Thursday 24 March the council's Cabinet ratified the safety valve agreement, following discussions with DfE, which will clear the cumulative deficit by 2025/26.

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