

SCHOOL CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Susan O'Brien Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Children, Families & Education Property, Highways & Transport
Officer Contact(s)	Bobby Finch, Place Directorate
Papers with report	None

HEADLINES

Summary	This bi-annual report provides Cabinet and the public with an update on the primary, secondary and special school expansions, the school condition works programme and other school capital works.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	<p>This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents</p> <p>This report supports our commitments to residents of: Thriving, Healthy Households</p> <p>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.</p>
Financial Cost	Continuing investment in the Schools Condition Building Programme is £21,766k for 2023/24 to 2027/28. The future SEND programme is estimated to cost £22,199k and will deliver 416 additional places, reducing the DSG deficit.
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families & Education
Relevant Ward(s)	All Wards

RECOMMENDATION

That Cabinet note the progress made with primary and secondary school expansions, the school condition programme and other school capital projects.

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 the 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 Children, Families & Education Select Committee receive regular updates on schools places planning.

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. Ideally there would be a few places in each school to enable parental choice and cope with new families moving in.

Officers continue to work closely with schools to meet residents' demands and present options to reduce operational capacity in some instances to respond to changing demand from residents. From September 2023 the Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) for 9 schools have been reduced totalling 270 places. Places for September 2023 will be reviewed after the Primary National Offer Day, Monday 17 April 2023 in addition to the January 2023 Census data to review current demand and the impact on pupil projections.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School places forecast

The secondary phase is under pressure from continuing increased demand in Year 7 for the next six years at least. All but five schools offered 100% of their places for September 2023 on National Offer Day, 1 March 2023. The outcome of the number, preferences and pattern of

movement including cross-LA required adding 101 extra places using bulge classes added at Haydon, Uxbridge High School, Bishopshalt and Barnhill School.

The Council are reviewing cross-borough flows with the 7 neighbouring LAs. Until 2018 these were equal overall or a slight net 'importer' at year 7 intake. Since then, 'imports' have decreased as most schools in the Borough have been popular and recruit from smaller distances, and 'exports' of resident pupils to schools in other LAs have increased, so the LA is a net exporter. 537 Hillingdon residents were offered Out of Borough schools for September 2023 – this is 19 more than the total number of residents offered places last year.

In recent years neighbouring LAs have warned they too have rising numbers of pupils and their schools are under increasing pressures, so distance criteria will mean fewer Hillingdon Pupils are likely to secure places out of Borough from 2023 onwards. Parental preferences are still low for a few schools, adding pressure on parent choice in some areas of the Borough. As parents are not required to accept a place it means a shortage of actual places residents are prepared to take up.

Currently there are two projects to add permanent secondary places to meet demand being progressed that were bids in 2015-16 and are funded and managed by DfE:

- Expanding Harlington School by 1.5 forms of entry – 45 places each year from 2023. This is part of the complete rebuilding of the school and library.
- Reviewing the need for the new Bishop Arden Free school +6FE – 180 places each year with the DfE. It will have no faith admissions criteria, distance will be the main criteria, though it is to be part of a Church of England Trust – their aim is to 'bring together pupils of all faiths and of none'. An outcome of the review is expected soon.

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

3. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

Special schools are under pressure from rising demand from pupils with Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) who require a special place. This reflects national policy and is creating significant planning and financial pressures in most local authorities. Currently all seven special schools in the LA are full as demand and new entrants has been continuous throughout the year, not just at the usual stages of transfer. The largest growth is in pupils with autism conditions, many with other complex needs. Temporary extra places have been added to meet demand in most schools.

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 years. Officers are continuing to

review the school/education estate to provide possible options to ensure we have sufficient capacity for this increase. Please note that projects highlighted have been completed within the last 12 months.

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

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve agreement

Rising demand and costs have put pressure on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Council 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.

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. A bid to the DfE for additional capital to deliver the projects in the DSG Deficit Recovery Programme was approved in May 2022. The table below provides a summary of the projects including those that have been completed.

Table 2: DfE funded DSG SEN Projects

Location	Description	Type	Phase of Education	Number of additional places to be created	Project due to open
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	Completed
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. Opened Sept 2022.	Independent Special College multi-site	Post 16	30	Completed
Meadow High School	Create a satellite unit at the Harefield Academy site and the replacement of the modular units at Meadow. Both open Sept 2024	Community Special	Secondary	98	Sep 2024
Wood End Park Primary Academy	New ASD Unit to open Sept 2023	Academy Primary	Primary	24	Oct 2023
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	Sep 2023

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	Sep 2023
Charville Primary Academy	New ASD SRP. Remodel primary school from 3FE to 2FE to create space for SRP. Open Sept 2023	Academy Primary	Primary	16	Sep/Oct 2023
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	TBC	Sep 2024 (TBC)
New Special Free School Bid	Proposed new SEN Free School. Application approved by DfE in March 2023.	Site to be confirmed	All-through school	180	Sept 2025 or later
Total				416	

MLD: Moderate Learning Difficulties

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit recovery safety valve – project updates

Meadow High School expansion

In summary the proposed school expansion works consist of the following:

- Relocating a cohort of pupils from Meadow High School to the unused Harefield Academy boarding block (which is separate and apart from the main Academy building) which will be adapted and extended to become a new satellite unit that is directly managed and run by Meadow High School; and
- Providing a new classroom block at Meadow High School to replace the existing temporary modular classrooms which are currently in poor condition and no longer suitable for use.

A works contractor has been appointed for both sites for the first stage of a 2-stage procurement tender process, and the detailed design by the contractor is currently under way. The main adaption and new build works are due to start onsite in August 2023 at both sites.

Charville Academy and Ruislip Gardens Primary School adaptation works

The proposed works at these schools consist of the following

- Ruislip Gardens Primary School: The school has reduced its intake from 3 forms of entry to 2 forms of entry and it is proposed the unused spaces within the schools is adapted to form a nursery age pupil Assessment Base (AB) and a separate Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Specialist Resource Provision (SRP). The AB will have 16 places and the SRP will have 12 places
- Charville Academy: The school has reduced its intake from 3 forms of entry to 2 forms of entry and it is proposed the unused spaces within the school is adapted to form ASD SRP. The SRP will have 16 places.

A contractor has been appointed for Ruislip Gardens Primary and the works are scheduled to commence on site in April 2023 and are due to complete in time for the new school year in September 2023. The procurement of a works contractor for Charville Academy is underway.

Wood End Park Academy new SEND provision

The building works required to create the new ASD unit is being managed directly by Wood End Park Academy and will be funded and monitored by the council. The design phase of the project is complete and procurement for a contractor to carry out the building works is in its final stages; contractor appointment will be made in April 2023. The building works are due to complete by October 2023. The SEND team has confirmed that pupils assigned to the provision will remain in their current setting until the building works is complete.

4. SCHOOLS CONDITION PROGRAMME

School condition surveys

The Council receives an allocation of School Condition Works grant funding to manage building condition issues at maintained schools (Community and Foundation Schools) such as building fabric works (roof replacement, window replacements), mechanical and electrical works (heating and hot water system replacement, electrical upgrades) as well as other building condition issues such as structural defects remedial works.

To properly plan for these works and ensure that the funding is going where it is most needed, it is necessary to have thorough understanding of the condition of school buildings which will be obtained through carrying out surveys. The programme of surveys to be carried out on maintained schools will have the following 4 elements.

Building Survey: A detailed assessment will be carried out on the condition of the following components:

- Building fabric (inc. roof, walls, floors, walls, windows, decorative condition, etc);
- Mechanical and Electrical systems (inc. space heating systems, hot/cold water supply systems, electrical installation, lifts, ventilation etc);
- Fire safety systems (fire doors, smoke/heat detectors, fire resisting barriers, extinguishers, riser, etc);
- Grounds (paving, paths, playground, external lighting, car park barriers/surfaces etc).

Compliance and Maintenance Review: A review of the statutory building compliance and maintenance checks being carried out at the schools, including legionella risk assessments, electrical inspections, gas safety inspections, lift inspections, asbestos register and any other relevant statutory building compliance checks required on school buildings.

Energy Assessment: An assessment of the current energy efficiency and performance of the school buildings will be completed for each school. This will include a review of potential options for improvements and enhancements works which are suitable for an individual site.

Measured Survey: These will produce detailed floor plans of the schools. These plans will be used to help develop the scopes of works needed on future school condition works projects and any bids for future decarbonisation or energy efficiency improvement grant funding.

Current projects

The status of agreed projects in the School Condition Programme can be found in the table 3 below. Future projects for inclusion will be based on the results of the completed school condition surveys.

Table 3: School Condition Works Programme

School	Works	Status
Hillside Infant	Asbestos panel replacement	Completed
Coteford Infant	Roof replacement works	Completed
Grange Park Infants	Basement water ingress works	Completed
Grange Park Junior	Toilet refurbishment & external lighting	Completed
Frithwood Primary	Roof replacement works	Completed
Harefield Infant	New boiler and controls	Pre-construction stage
Newnham Junior	WCs, drainage, and structural renovations	Pre-construction stage
Hillside Infant	Roofing works	Pre-construction stage
Hedgewood	Drainage	Pre-construction stage
Breakspear	Fire alarm and emergency lighting	Pre-construction stage
Ruislip Gardens	Mechanical and Electrical works. Works are being carried out alongside the SEN works outlined in this report	Pre-construction stage
Yeading Infant & Junior	New common canteen building and kitchen facilities	Pre-construction stage
Oak Farm Primary	Refurbishment of modular classroom units	Pre-construction stage
Lady Bankes	Structural defects	Pre-construction stage
Bourne Primary	Roof works	Pre-construction stage
Hayes Park Primary	Roof works	Pre-construction stage
Newnham Infant	Roof works	Pre-construction stage

5. OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

The DfE is directly managing and funding 3 projects under Priority School Building Programme Phase 2 (PSBP2) and a further 4 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.

Table 4: DfE Free School and PSBP2 Projects

School	Phase	Governance	DfE Fund Route	Planned additional places	Estimated year of completion	Current Status
The Skills Hub	Alternative Provision Secondary	Orchard Hill College Academy Trust	Free School (next to YPA)	Up to 4	2022	Completed Jan 2023
Harlington rebuild and expand to 8FE and Special ASD Unit	Secondary	Foundation	PSBP2	225 (SEN 15)	2023	On Site
Douay Martyrs	Secondary	London RC Diocesan MAT	PSBP2	0	2023	On site
Minet Infant and Junior	Primary	Community	PSBP2	0	2024	On site
Primary Grand Union Village Special Primary	Special Primary	Eden Academy Trust	Free School	80	2023	Pre-construction
Pinn River Special (on site of current Grangewood School)	Special Primary ages 4-19	Eden Academy Trust	Free School	Up to 80	Jan 2025	Pre-construction
New Secondary Free School north of A40 - Bishop Arden	Secondary	Multi Academy Trust	Free School	1260 (SEN 21)	TBC	Pre-construction

School Rebuilding Programme

In 2020 the Government announced their intention to rebuild 500 schools in the worst condition over a 10-year period, and 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. The DfE has completed the feasibility study for the project and have procure a design team to progress the design phase of the project. DfE proposed completion date for the rebuild is December 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The future delivery of increased secondary schools' places is largely managed externally by the Department for Education, including the 1.5FE expansion of Harlington School, towards which the Council contributed £6,034k in 2021/22, and a potential 6FE free school in the north of the borough pending confirmation of school places demand. The capital programme budget 2023/24 to 2027/28 includes £2,800k for additional temporary classrooms available to manage short-term demand, financed by Council resources. The 5-year School Places forecast is currently being updated and will be finalised later in the year and will inform future school expansion plans.

The Schools SEND/SRP capital programme amounts to £25,331k funding from 2018/19 to 2026/27, financed by confirmed Special Provision Capital Fund and High Needs Provision Capital grants, of which £3,132k has been spent on various projects in prior years. Total funding is inclusive of recent confirmation from the Department for Education (DfE) that the Council's bid was successful for £6,962k additional High Needs capital funding linked to the DSG deficit recovery safety valve agreement.

Table 2 outlines the various projects the SEND/SRP programme will deliver, creating 416 additional SEND places which will reduce future out-of-borough special placements and transport costs, supporting reduction of the DSG deficit.

The 2023/24-2027/28 budget for the Schools Condition Building Programme is £21,766k 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

[Previous updates to Cabinet](#)