

SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING – UPDATE – March 2024 & DRAFT SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN

Committee name	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Abi Preston – Director of Education & SEND Nav Minhas – School Places Planning and Policy Manager
Papers with report	School Organisation Plan
Ward	All

SUMMARY

School place planning is a statutory function of the Council as a local education authority (LA) and involves liaison with all schools and Trusts in the borough, and with neighbouring LAs. The duty is to have a sufficiency of school places to meet parent demand across the borough. School place planning sets a strategic framework in which the LA and every school can operate, requiring an annual review and decisions to be agreed with individual schools and Trusts to adjust supply, and to inform timely capital investment and building decisions and negotiations with the DfE.

This report presents to Committee a draft School Organisation Plan for Hillingdon which will provide the following:

- An overview of the education landscape in Hillingdon
- A summary of current pupil numbers and projected demand in primary and secondary phases, including specialist provision
- Options for the Local Authority (LA) to consider when determining the need to increase or reduce school places.

Cabinet will consider formal approval of the Plan on 18 April 2024, which can include any comments from the Select Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Children, Families and Education Select Committee:

1. **Note and provide any comments to Cabinet on the draft School Organisation Plan attached; and**
2. **Agree to being updated annually by officers with the latest data and forecasts.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council must plan, organise and commission places for all state-funded schools in Hillingdon so that high standards are maintained and fluctuating pupil numbers are managed efficiently to ensure the best outcomes for our children and young people and the sustainability of schools.

Local Authorities were previously required to publish a plan setting out how they would provide sufficient school places for the children within their borough which was a requirement of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 but has since been repealed by the Children and Families Act 2004. The Education Act 1996, Education and Inspections Act 2006 and School Standards and Framework Act 1998 no longer require local authorities to provide this. However, strategic planning remains a useful tool in assisting local authorities comply with their statutory duties and for schools to be kept informed of the data projections in order to plan effectively longer term.

The Plan is presented in 3 Sections; **Introduction, Context and Strategy** with the following 13 sub sections:

- **Purpose and scope**
- **Government Regulations, Guidance and Policies**
Highlights the statutory duty of the council to provide sufficient school places for its residents.
- **Funding and Delivery**
Acknowledges the funding sources available to support additional school places and introduces the role of the Schools Forum.
- **Hillingdon Demographics**
Provides an understanding of the resident population of Hillingdon and housing development which must be taken into consideration and incorporated into school place planning projections.
- **Hillingdon Schools**
This section provides a review of the types of schools within Hillingdon, an inspection summary and a breakdown of pupils on roll since 2014/2015 in Nursery, Primary, Secondary, Sixth Form and Special Schools
- **Pupil Forecasting**
Shares factors taken into consideration when creating projections, such as development, birth rates and migration.
- **Place Planning**
Outlines options available to the Local Authority to ensure the sufficiency of high quality school places at the right time to meet future need.
- **Childcare and Early Education**
The current provision of early learning and childcare places in Hillingdon and the planned growth taking into consideration the change in parents' entitlement to funded childcare taking effect from April 2024.
- **Primary Place Planning**
A breakdown of all settings in the 14 primary Pupil Planning Areas (PPAs) of Hillingdon as well as the school place forecasts by planning area from the School Capacity Survey (SCAP) 23 submission.

- **Secondary Place Planning**

A breakdown of all settings in the 2 secondary Pupil Planning Areas (PPAs) of Hillingdon as well as the school place forecasts by planning area from the School Capacity Survey (SCAP) 23 submission.

- **Post 16 Planning**

The number of young people accessing post 16 provision in Hillingdon and the partnerships in place.

- **Special Education Needs (SEN) - Special Schools & Alternative Provision**

A breakdown of the specialist provision in the borough as well as the projected demand for additional places and the current projects in place to meet demand.

- **Next Steps**

Acknowledges that we must continue to monitor the data and update the relevant Committee as well as stakeholders via strategic groups such as Schools Strategic Partnership Board (SSPB) and Head Teachers Termly to help manage demand.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications to the general fund of the LA from this policy.

Decisions on expansions and carefully considered and funding for provision is sourced from DfE/ESFA grants and/ or other capital funding sources such as CIL funding.

Expansion for school PAN is funded from the growth fund as directed by the schools' block distribution via the schools forum.

Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

NIL.

