

SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN FOR HILLINGDON

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Susan O'Brien
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
Officer Contact(s)	Nav Minhas – Children's Services
Papers with report	School Organisation Plan & Appendices

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>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.</p> <p>This report presents to Cabinet a School Organisation Plan for Hillingdon which will provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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>
Financial Cost	There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.
Select Committee	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

- 1) Agree the School Organisation Plan and for publication.**
- 2) Agree to the School Organisation Plan being updated and presented to the Cabinet Portfolio Member, relevant Select Committee and schools annually with the latest data and forecasts.**

Reasons for recommendation

As an education authority, the Council must plan for a sufficiency of places and efficient use of resources. The School Organisation Plan will support strategic planning and assist the council to comply with our statutory duties and for schools to be kept informed of the data projections in order to plan effectively.

Select Committee comments

At their meeting on 14 March 2024, the Children, Families and Education Select Committee welcomed this comprehensive document which provided an overview of the education landscape in Hillingdon. The Committee believes this document will assist parents, carers and families to understand the complexities of pupil place planning and the Council's focus on ensuring the best outcomes for children and young people whilst at the same time maintaining the sustainability of the schools in the Borough.

The Committee noted that with the declining numbers within the primary sector, there should continue to be a strong focus on ensuring that there are sufficient school places within the secondary sector. This is in addition to continuing to meet the demand for places for young people with SEND within the post-16 SEND provision.

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, attached, 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 select 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 Council from this policy. Decisions on expansions are carefully considered and funding for provision is sourced from Department for Education (DfE) / Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) grants and/or other capital funding sources such as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. Expansion for school Published Admission Number (PAN) is funded from the growth fund as directed by the schools' block distribution via the Schools Forum.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The School Organisation Plan will support strategic planning and assist the council to comply with its statutory duty to provide sufficiency of school places to meet parent demand across the borough. It will also allow for schools to be kept informed of the data projections in order to plan effectively for future demand.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance have reviewed this report and concur with the Financial Implications set out above, noting there are no direct financial implications on the General Fund associated with the recommendations in this report, with the recommendations supporting the delivery of the Schools Budget.

Legal

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL