

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 £18,497k for 2024/25 to 2027/28. The total SEND programme budget for expanding primary provision is £43,436k and will deliver additional places, reducing the DSG deficit.
Relevant Select Committee	Corporate Resources & Infrastructure
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 School Condition Programme to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Property, Highways & Transport, with other Cabinet Portfolio holders as appropriate, and in consultation with the Head of Capital Programme Works.**

Reasons for recommendation

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.

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 contributed 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).

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, it has declined since 2020 due to a lower birth rate affecting primary school intake numbers and in addition to the effects of the pandemic which has led to movement across the borough and movement 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 2024 the Published Admissions Numbers (PAN) for 3 primary schools have

been reduced totalling 81 places. Places for September 2024 will be reviewed after the Primary National Offer Day in addition to the January 2024 Census data is available to understand demand and the impact on pupil projections. Any proposals to consult on the PAN reduction of primary schools will be presented at the October 2024 Cabinet meeting.

2. SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School places forecast

The secondary phase is under pressure from continuing increased demand in Year 7 for the next year. All but four schools offered 100% of their places for September 2024 on National Offer Day, 1 March 2024. The outcome of the number, preferences and pattern of movement including cross-LA required 60 extra places using "bulge" classes added at Guru Nanak Sikh Academy, Rosedale College and Uxbridge High School. Projections suggest that there will be no need for bulge classes for September 2025.

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. Those attending our schools from outside the borough have decreased and those within the borough attending schools in other boroughs have increased, so the LA is a net exporter. 541 Hillingdon residents were offered Out of Borough schools for September 2024 – this is 4 more than the total number of residents offered out of Borough places last year on National Offer Day.

In recent years neighbouring LAs have warned they too have rising numbers of pupils and their schools are under increasing pressures, so distance admissions criteria may mean fewer Hillingdon Pupils are likely to secure places out of Borough from 2024 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.

The Harlington School project completed in Autumn term 2023 and added 1.5 forms of entry, 45 places each year of permanent secondary places to meet demand. This is part of the complete rebuilding of the school. The school also has a new designated unit for 15 pupils with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) which will allow pupils some integration into the 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 school 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 Spectrum Condition (ASC), 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 two new free special schools and designated unit for pupils with ASC at Harlington School. All these projects are funded and delivered by DfE.

These extra 220 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.

Table 1: DfE managed 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 ASC	15	15

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 a DSG Deficit Recovery Programme within the existing '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 complete
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 Sept 2022	Academy Special	Grangewood Primary	16	Completed
			Moorcroft Secondary	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 Autumn 2023	Community Primary School	Primary	16	Completed
Ruislip Gardens Primary School	New ASC SRP integrated into school, working alongside the Early Years Assessment Base. Open Autymn 2023.	Community Primary School	Primary	12	Completed
Charville Primary Academy	New ASC SRP. Remodel primary school from 3FE to 2FE to create space for SRP. Open Autumn 2023.	Academy Primary	Primary	16	Completed
Meadow High School	Create a satellite unit at the Harefield Academy site and the replacement of the modular units at Meadow. Works will be completed during 2024/25 with additional places being provided from Autumn 2024 in modular classroom units	Community Special	Secondary	98	Harefield Estimated completion Aug 2025 Meadow Estimated completion Dec 2024

Wood End Park Primary Academy	New ASC Unit to open Sept 2023	Academy Primary	Primary	24	Summer 2024 (12 places provided from Sept 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	Agreed to extend provision of Eden satellites on site
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	2025 or later

MLD: Moderate Learning Difficulties

ASC: Autistic Spectrum Condition

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 area at the Harefield Academy (which is separate and apart from the main Academy). A new school building will be constructed to form 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.

The construction works at the Meadow High School site started in December 2023 and are scheduled to be completed in December 2024. The works at the Harefield site are scheduled to start in May 2024.

Charville Academy and Ruislip Gardens Primary School adaptation works

The works at these schools consisted 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 Condition (ASC) Specialist Resource Provision (SRP). The AB will have 16 places and the SRP will have up to 12 places. The main works have been completed and the required areas handed over to the school to occupy.

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 ASC SRP. The SRP will have 16 places. All works were completed in November 2023.

Wood End Park Academy new SEND provision

The building works required to create the new ASC unit is being managed directly by Wood End Park Academy and will be funded and monitored by the council. The building works are underway and are due to be completed in Summer 2024.

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 a 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 scope of works needed on future school condition works projects and any bids for future decarbonisation or energy efficiency improvement grant funding.

The surveys have now been completed are currently being reviewed by Officers.

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
Heathrow Primary	Plant room works	Completed
Hillside Infant	Roofing works	Completed
The Breakspears	Fire alarm and emergency lighting	Completed
Ruislip Gardens	Mechanical and Electrical works. Works are being carried out alongside the SEN works outlined in this report	Completed
Hedgewood	Drainage	Pre-construction stage
Harefield Infant	New boiler and controls	Pre-construction stage
Yeading Infant & Junior	New common canteen building and kitchen facilities	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
Whiteheath Infant	Roof works	Pre-construction stage
Whitehall Infant	Roof works	Pre-construction stage

5. OTHER SCHOOL PROJECTS

The DfE is directly managing and funding 2 projects under Priority School Building Programme Phase 2 (PSBP2) and a further 3 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
Primary Grand Union Village Special Primary	Special Primary	Eden Academy Trust	Free School	80	2023	Completed
Harlington rebuild and expand to 8FE and Special ASC Unit	Secondary	Foundation	PSBP2	225 (SEN 15)	2023	Completed
Minet Infant and Junior	Primary	Community	PSBP2	0	2024	On site
Pinn River Special (on site of current Grangewood School)	Special Primary ages 4-19	Eden Academy Trust	Free School	Up to 80	Jan 2026	On site

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

Through our re-inspection and review process that was completed in October 2023 there is now confirmation that none of the Councils Community or Foundation Schools have RAAC present.

Department for Education 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 the 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 the list and the DfE appointed contractor is in the process of preparing the planning application. DfE proposed completion date for the rebuild is December 2026.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The capital programme budget 2024/25 to 2028/29 for expanding primary SEND provision is £11,734m. Forecast rephasing from 2023/24 based on Month 11 budget monitoring is £3,084k. Following the award of the main contract award for the Meadow expansion at Northwood Road, £10,000k has been allocated from the capital risk contingency budget and a further £1,451k from temporary classrooms budget. The revised budget for 2024/25, to be confirmed in the 2023/24 Outturn Report, is proposed to be £26,359k.

The total SEND/SRP capital programme is £45,331k in line with the budget approved by Cabinet in February 2024, with £16,509k relating to prior year budgets up to 2023/24 before rephasing requests are made in the 2023/24 Outturn Report that will be presented to June Cabinet. Within this budget, £1,895k relates to projects that have completed or are out of scope of the current DfE funding round, leaving £43,436k of capital programme budgets that relate to the current grant funding round for the period 2018/19 to 2026/27, the programme is financed by confirmed £21,985k High Needs Provision Capital grant and £21,451k of Council resources. The forecast total project spend to March 2024 is £9,294k.

Table 2 above, in the main section of this report, outlines the SEND/SRP programme that will deliver additional SEND places, which will reduce future out-of-borough special placements and transport costs, supporting reduction of the DSG deficit within the Safety Valve agreement.

The 2024/25-2028/29 budget for the Schools Condition Building Programme is £18,497k funded from a combination of Schools Conditions grant and schools' contributions. The funding is being utilised to deliver various schemes across the year with major work programmed for summertime.

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 schools 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.

Legal

Legal Services confirm that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report. Legal advice is provided whenever necessary on a case-by-case basis to ensure that the Council's Interests are protected.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

Asset Management authored this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL