

## **SCHOOL PLACES REPORT**

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### **REASON FOR ITEM**

To meet the Committee's request for an update on the allocation of school places in the Borough and provision being made to accommodate increased pupil numbers.

### **OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee may seek further information.

### **INFORMATION**

#### **1.0 ALLOCATION OF PRIMARY PLACES**

At initial allocation, 3,721 Reception places were available (a further 30 places at Brookside were allocated at a later stage when demand was confirmed). At initial allocation, 96% of the available places were offered. 83.7% of applicants were offered their first preference. 93.8% were offered one of their four preferences. 227 could not be offered one of their preferred schools. The background to this is a 17.9% increase in the number of applications received by the deadline compared with the previous year.

#### **2.0 ALLOCATION OF SECONDARY PLACES**

At initial allocation, 3522 Year 7 places were available and 97.4% of these offered. 71.6% of applicants were offered their first preference school. 97.1% were offered one of their preferences.

#### **3.0 AUTUMN TERM APPLICATIONS**

A large number of applications have been received. By 8<sup>th</sup> October, 801 applications had been received for places in primary schools (all year groups). 314 applications had been received for places in secondary schools (all year groups). These are largely the result of families moving into the borough. The volume of in-year applications now appears to be decreasing.

## **4.0 CURRENT DEMAND FOR RECEPTION PLACES**

### **4.1 Availability of Places**

At the beginning of October, 71 places were still available in Reception classes. A school-by-school list is at Appendix 1. This shows that existing capacity is concentrated in a relatively small number of schools. Capacity remains particularly tight in the south of the borough. Some schools have admitted over their admission number. Heathrow and Pinkwell have admitted additional children by agreement.

As most schools operate a staggered entry into Reception up to the end of September, a “steady” state is only now being reached. With the addition of extra places at Pinkwell Primary, it is hoped that there will be sufficient places to manage demand in the current school year. The position will become clearer when the results of pupil census (due to take place 7<sup>th</sup> October) are available and actual take-up is known.

Other London boroughs are also experiencing difficulty in meeting demand for school places and have added additional forms of entry to meet demand (18 additional forms of entry in one borough). Even so, they are still reporting very little spare capacity in the Reception year. As in some parts of Hillingdon, other boroughs also have little spare capacity in other infant year groups.

### **4.2 Contingency Arrangements for Current School Year**

If, by January 2011 there are unplaced children, two courses of action are potentially available.

Two schools have previously been approached in relation to providing an additional reception class for this school year. Both have a space that could be brought into classroom use without the need for major building work. However, this would only be taken further if it became clear that a sustainable class size would be achieved and/or there was no possibility of accommodating additional children in existing classes.

If numbers unplaced were small, the best approach would be to approach local schools to admit over their Published Admission Number on a temporary basis. The infant class size legislation makes allowance for the entry of an additional child in limited circumstances, one of which is when children move into an area and there is no school place within a reasonable distance. This expectation would be that as children leave the school as a result of normal turnover, the class size would reduce back to 30.

## **4.0 UPDATED PUPIL FORECASTS**

### **4.1 Key points**

Updated dated forecasts were prepared this summer, the headline points of which are as follows:

- Between 2010 and 2014, a net deficit of 31 forms of entry is forecast for the primary sector.
- Of the above, 16 additional forms of entry are expected to be needed for September 2011 i.e. 8 further forms of entry net of the proposed Phase 1 expansions and the new primary provision at Rosedale College.
- From September 2019, a net deficit of 17 forms of entry, mainly south of the A40, is forecast for the secondary sector.
- In recent years, Hillingdon has moved from being a net exporter to a net importer of 0-4 year olds. This is contrast to falls in net migration in Harrow and Hounslow.
- It is anticipated that housing benefit changes will result families moving from inner to outer London boroughs.

#### **4.2 Additional Provision for September 2011**

Proposals for a first phase of permanent expansions are due to be considered by Cabinet In November 2010. In order to meet the programme for completion of the first phase of building works, external consultants were appointed to undertake design work up to the stage at which the projects can be tendered on a design and build basis. At the time of writing the report (early October), the tender documents are in preparation. The aim of the programme is for tender acceptance in December 2010, with projects commencing early in the New Year.

The Major Construction Projects Team has been commissioned to procure the two form of entry primary provision at the Rosedale site (in temporary accommodation initially)

An exercise has been undertaken to work through the implications of the updated forecasts for further school expansions and new provision needed in each school place planning area. The proposals for the 8 further forms of entry required for September 2011 will be firmed up over the next month in order that planning applications can be submitted for any temporary accommodation needed.

#### **4.3 Proposed Phase 1 Expansions – Report to Cabinet**

The schools at which building work is proposed are Whitehall schools, Brookside, William Byrd, Cranford Park, Colham Manor and Grange Park schools. The work is due to go out to tender w/c 11<sup>th</sup> October. The report will be a Part 2 report, giving details of returned tenders and the recommendation for the tender to be accepted.