



**Agenda Item
XX**

Report to Haringey Schools Forum – date

Report Status

For information/note
For consultation & views

Report Title: School Places and Finance Briefing for Schools Forum

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Purpose: This report provides an intelligence briefing covering Schools' PAN (Planned Admission number), related financial implications and the role the Council has in working with schools to effectively manage school rolls.

Recommendations: This report asks Schools Forum to note and support that all of our schools in Haringey must be responsive to downward trends in reception school rolls to ensure the sustainability, diversity, and number of existing Haringey primary schools.

Report on School Places and Finance Briefing for Schools Forum

1. Aim of report

1.1 This report provides an intelligence briefing covering schools' PAN (Planned Admission number), related financial implications and the role the Council has in working with schools to effectively manage school rolls.

2. Background

2.2 The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide school places for all compulsory aged children resident in the borough who require one.

2.3 The demand for primary and secondary school places is in a constant state of flux and school place planning is undertaken to match the supply of school places with current and projected demand to ensure we have continued sufficiency.

3. Finance

3.1 School funding is largely based on pupil numbers. Schools will face difficult financial challenges if any of their classes are not full. Schools are largely funded on a 'per pupil' basis i.e. how many pupils attend the school.

- 3.2 The Council has a duty of care to ensure children in its schools are able to receive a good education and to access the full curriculum. Schools with a declining roll will be challenged to do this effectively because of the inevitable financial pressures from reduced funding.
- 3.3 As pupil numbers drop, we aim to work with schools to take action to avoid moving into a budget deficit. We work with community schools (local authority controlled) and with academies, free schools, and voluntary aided schools to balance pupil numbers to reflect actual and projected demand. Where rolls are not full, schools have to take decisions to balance their budgets and these might include some or all of the following:
- reducing the number of teaching and/or support posts
 - Introducing mixed age teaching (i.e. mixing two year groups into one class)
 - Reducing expenditure on other support staff, ICT and teaching resources
 - Offering fewer enrichment activities for pupils
 - Looking at contracts and other expenditure to maximise efficiency

4. Limitations of Haringey role

- 4.1 Despite the statutory duty to provide school places for compulsory aged children resident in the borough Haringey is limited in its powers when proposing a decrease to the PAN for its community and voluntary controlled schools. The School Admissions Code sets out that ‘admission authorities **must** consult where they propose a decrease to the PAN. Community and voluntary controlled schools have the right to object to the Schools Adjudicator if the PAN set for them is lower than they would wish. There is a strong presumption in favour of an increase to the PAN to which the Schools Adjudicator **must** have regard when considering any such objection.”
- 4.2 In addition, the recent Office of the Schools Adjudicator Annual Report, the Chief Adjudicator writes that ‘where a school can accommodate the number of children indicated by a particular PAN and there is demand from parents for those places, it would require a very strong argument to persuade an adjudicator to allow a PAN reduction to which the school objected.”
- 4.3 One objection to a reduction in PAN was from the governing board of a community primary school which objected to the local authority’s determination of a reduced PAN for the school. The School Adjudicator accepted the school’s assertion that they could attract more children to the school despite evidence of decreased demand for reception places in the local area. The school currently continues to operate at significantly below three forms of entry.
- 4.4 Furthermore, Haringey’s powers are also limited because a large number of schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority (that is foundation, voluntary aided and academy schools). Of all Haringey primary schools with a Reception intake, 57% (32) are community/voluntary controlled. 4 out of 12 secondary schools (33%) are community schools (the remainder being academies or foundations schools. See Figure 1 below for more information.

Figure 1 – Percentage of schools and pupils which Haringey can propose adjusting PAN

	Primary (56)	Secondary (12)
Percentage of schools community/VC	57% (32 schools)	33% (4 schools)
Percentage of pupils attending community/VC	63% (5,534 pupils)	34% (4,380 pupils)

Source: Haringey Education Services 2020

Note: Junior schools (Y3-Y6) are excluded from the analysis. Harris Academy Tottenham is included in both primary and secondary as an all-through school.

4.5 Figure 1 shows the limited role that Haringey has in being able to impose reductions on schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority. Several additional key obstacles can also impact the LA's ability to adjust PAN. These include:

- maintaining a balance between different varieties of school in each of our 5 planning areas to meet demand, e.g. single sex or faith schools
- the inability to lower PAN at 1FE schools and the challenges they face related to economies of scale / small size
- the necessity to get buy-in from the Headteacher, school governors, parents, teachers and local community to agree to reduction

5. Reductions in PAN

5.1 In recent years, Schools and Learning has made or assisted in the following temporary or permanent reductions in PAN across four of our five planning areas (PA).

Figure 2 – Reductions in PAN across Haringey primary schools, 2016-2020

PA	School	Planned Admission Number					Notes
		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
2	St Mary's CofE	90	60	60	60	60	From Sept 17, PAN set to 2fe
2	St Peter in C.	60	60	60	30	30	Request Adjudicator to stay at 1fe for 2020
3	Stamford Hill	30	30	30	30	n/a	Closed on 31 August 2020
3	Tiverton	60	60	30	30	60	Amalg. with Stamford Hill in Sept 2020, bringing PAN back up from 30 to 60 for the reception cohort and absorbing pupils from the former Stamford Hill from years 1 to 5
4	Welbourne	90	90	90	90	60	Permanent reduction in PAN by 1fe from Sept 2020
4	Earlham	60	30	60	60	60	Temporary reduction in PAN in Sept. 2017
5	Trinity P.A.	60	60	60	90	60	Proposal to increase PAN unsuccessful with LA objection on lack of demand forming part of the decision making

Source: Haringey Education Services 2020

5.2 In addition to reducing PAN at some of our community schools, we have also worked with some of our faith schools to temporarily reduce PAN. We have been in regular dialogue with both the Catholic and CofE Dioceses' about the need to act to preserve the sustainability of Haringey schools. In some circumstances amalgamations may be necessary, especially if two 1fe entry schools, located in close proximity to one another, are struggling to fill.

6. Changes in primary demand since 2012 and future projections including the latest data from the 2020 January census

- 6.1 The number of Reception places available between 2012 and 2020 in Haringey has generally been on a downward trajectory from a high of 3,259 in 2012 to a low of 2,952 in 2019. The latest projections from our 2020 School place planning report (SPPR) suggest demand for school places will not exceed 3,000 as far as our projections currently extend which is 2026/27.
- 6.2 However, demand for first place preferences for September 2020 has shown to be the highest (3,041) since September 2015 (3,050) whilst projected reception places (for September 2020) from the 2020 SPPR are 2,998, a difference of the equivalent of two forms of entry across the borough.
- 6.3 The current overall surplus for entry to Reception in September 2020 is 284 places (equivalent to nine forms of entry). This gives us a surplus margin of 8.8% across the borough and some surplus is essential for in-year applications and to allow for late applications and preference change. The DfE recommends a surplus margin of 5%.
- 6.4 The surplus of reception places is not spread evenly across the borough with the greatest Reception surpluses (over half) to found in planning area 4 and to a lesser extent planning area 5. The actions taken in Table 2 above to reduce capacity have lessened some of the financial burden across our school's estate but capacity needs to be reduced further.

7. 2020 School Place Planning report projections in more detail and the latest data from the January 2020 census

- 7.1 The data below is a summary of the latest 2020 Reception projections from the School Place Planning report along with the latest January 2020 school census number for Reception aged pupils.

Figure 3 – Reception places borough wide

Intake year	Reception aged pupils	Number of school places across borough	% of reception surplus	Deficit/surplus No. of places	Equivalent Form of Entry (fe)
2017/18	2,979 (actual)	3,290	9.5%	311	11fe
2018/19	3,029 (actual)	3,290	7.9%	261	9fe
2019/20	2,952 (actual Jan 2020)	3,296	10.4%	344	12fe
2020/21	2,998 (projected)	3,236	7.4%	238	8fe
2021/22	2,856 (projected)	3,236	11.7%	380	13fe
2022/23	2,886 (projected)	3,236	10.8%	350	12fe
2023/24	2,822 (projected)	3,236	12.8%	414	14fe
2024/25	2,908 (projected)	3,236	10.1%	328	11fe
2025/26	2,949 (projected)	3,236	8.9%	287	10fe
2026/27	2,977 (projected)	3,236	8.0%	259	9fe

Source: 2013/14-2019/20 January PLASC counts. 2020/21 – 2026/27 GLA 2020 School Roll projections

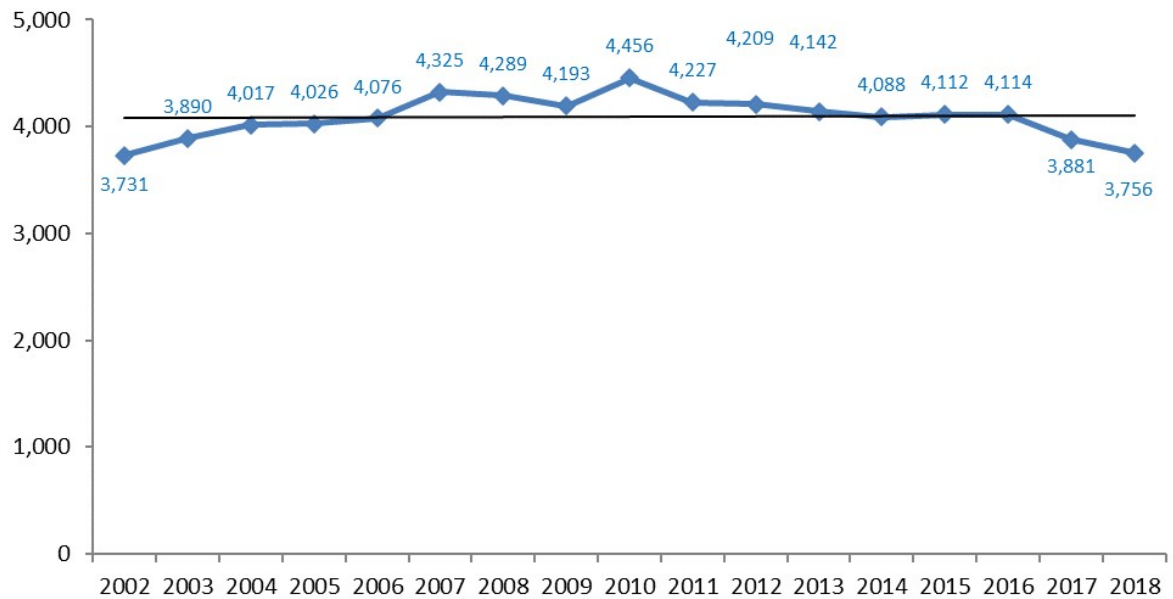
- 7.2 Looking forward reception surpluses between 2020/21 and 2026/27 are projected to be somewhat smaller than they would have been because of recent reductions made in the supply of Reception places. These include the amalgamation of Tiverton and Stamford Hill primary schools (Planning area 3) and reductions in PAN at St Peter in Chains (Planning area 2).
- 7.3 Nevertheless, the data in Figure 3 (above) still suggests a growing surplus over the following years due to consistently lower demand for Reception places. This means that we will continue to work collaboratively with all our schools to ensure temporary or permanent reductions in PAN are put in place where they are deemed sensible to avoid overly high surplus places and the resultant financial pressure this creates.

8. Recent data on birth rates

- 8.1 Figure 4 below show historic births data for Haringey between 2002 and 2018. It shows that the number of annual live births saw an overall increase between 2002 and 2010 from 3,731 (2002) to 4,456 (2010). Since 2010 there has been a large fall in births to 3,756 (2018).
- 8.2 The fall in birth rates since the high point of 2010 is an obvious factor in informing school place planning at primary and secondary level.

Figure 4 – Births in Haringey, 2002 to 2018

Source: ONS Birth data (2002-2018)



9. Recent and future initiatives that have or will reduce primary school PAN

9.1 The Council has:

- provided a robust evidence base to the DfE and to Trinity Primary Academy against permanent expansion from 2fe to 3fe. This has been successful, and Trinity will remain at 2FE.
- Continues to work alongside a number of schools in support of capping¹ in-year admissions, provided there is sufficient capacity at alternative schools to meet local demand. A number of schools have already capped some of their year groups or are operating mixed age teaching groups.
- Analysis of historic and current roll returns and preference data suggests that an amalgamation between two 1fe faith primary schools could help to enshrine sustainability for both schools and keep the local offer broad. For instance, a potential amalgamation between St Peter in Chains and St Gildas has been proposed by the Executive Headteacher. The responsibility to progress this rests with governors of both schools and the Westminster Diocese.
- There is likely to be further engagement with schools for which the local authority is not the admission authority about a temporary reduction in PAN despite inevitable resistance.
- Will continue to meet with both Dioceses to press for reductions where it is felt to be in the best interests of the school concerned.

¹ Capping means that the capacity for certain year groups is set lower than that indicated by the PAN for the relevant year of entry. In the example of a PAN of 90, this might involve an admission authority saying that it had no more capacity than 80 in that particular year group.