

FAQ sheet: Secondary Schools Expansion Consultation

The Consultation period

1. [Why are you consulting us?](#)

Havering, in common with the many other London Boroughs and urban areas is currently experiencing an increase in demand for school places. This increase in demand is due to rising birth rates in Havering and families moving into the borough from other parts of London, the UK and abroad.

Following the Cabinet's approval of the phase 4 of the schools expansion programme, the additional capacity needed in our secondary schools will focus on the planning areas that are experiencing rapid growth in pupil numbers and long term pressure of demand on school places due to in year mobility and new housing growth. These planning areas are the North East and Central planning areas.

2. [How will you gather views during the consultation period from pupils, parents and Carers, staff and local residents?](#)

A copy of the consultation booklet which includes the survey questionnaire has been made available electronically to parents, carers, and members of staff and academy trusts of the schools being proposed for expansion. The document can also be accessed via the Havering website. A [survey link](#) has also been provided for those wishing to complete the questionnaire online.

3. [What are the stages for a school expansion?](#)

All of the schools proposed for expansion in the consultation document are Academies. The process for expanding Academies can be viewed in more detail [here](#). The Local Authority is not the decision maker for Academy expansions. The final decision as to whether these Academies expand will be made by the Education Skills Funding Agency.

A separate planning consultation will take place to consider the build and design to enable expansion if the proposals are approved.

Why is the Council proposing these expansions?

4. [Why does the local authority want to expand schools and why our school?](#)

A combination of a sharp rise in birth rate, increase in migration and new housing developments has created the need to provide additional school places in Havering. The data we have shows that we will not have enough local school places in the future to meet demand, if we do not take steps to increase the capacity in our schools now. The growth we have been experiencing in the primary phase is now due to transfer the secondary phase. As such it is necessary to start the process of consulting on and implementing additional places in secondary schools in the borough to ensure that we will have enough secondary places available to meet demand.

The schools in this consultation have been selected for the proposal to expand, as they are good schools, located in areas of demand for places and it is feasible to create the additional places needed. All schools identified have strong leadership and sufficient site to allow for expansion. If the proposals go ahead it will provide the right number of places in the right area, promote high educational standards and will meet parental demand.

5. [Is the decision already made, and is the council just going through with the consultation as a tick box exercise?](#)

No decision has been made in relation to the expansion of these schools. All of the schools proposed for expansion in the consultation document are Academies. The process for expanding academies can be viewed in more detail [here](#).

6. **What if the proposals are not supported and so do not go ahead?**

If the proposals are not supported then there is unlikely to be a sufficient number of secondary school places to meet the demand for places in certain areas. Therefore it would be necessary for the local authority to consider alternative proposals in order to ensure it meets its statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places for all Havering children who require one.

The impact of any expansion on my child(ren)

7. **How will the quality of education at these schools be maintained?**

Through careful planning, strong leadership (which these schools have) and the support of the local authority, any issues arising from these expansions will be addressed to ensure that it does not affect the quality of education:

- **The delivery of the curriculum-** There is greater scope in a larger school to broaden the curriculum and specialisms that will enhance the education of the children. It will also be an opportunity to enjoy facilities and resources that they do not currently have; an added benefit of an expanded school
- **Leadership of the school-** The expansion of these schools will allow the head teachers and the members of the academy trust of the school to continue to maintain the strong ethos, values, standards and quality of education currently in the schools
- **Ancillary facilities (Hall, Library, ICT, Laboratory, Toilets) -** There will be sufficient number of rooms and spaces to accommodate the needs of the expanded school. The number of toilets for pupils and staff is laid down in specific requirements. The expanded school will provide adequate facilities required for the size of the new school.
- **What additional learning resources will the school receive? -** Every pupil brings additional funding to the school that will cover learning resources and make a contribution to other schools costs. The funding of schools is largely based on the number of pupils on roll.
- **Who will provide the funding for extra teaching staff?**
Schools receive funding for each pupil on roll at the school, and so funding will increase in line with the numbers of children attending the school. There will be an increase in the number of staff employed by the school to provide appropriate specialist knowledge, expertise and support to cover the expected increase in numbers.
- **Will there be enough playground/playing fields for the number of children at the expanded school?**

Yes, the guidelines for outside play and learning space on constrained sites will be met and the new arrangements would be at least as good as the existing arrangements.

Delivery of any expansion

Building Works

8. **Why have plans for the new buildings not been developed and presented as part of the consultation?**

There are separate strands to the consultation process. The consultation period is specifically about the principle of expanding the school premises. There will be a separate formal consultation with the school and local residents, around the development of the planned building works as part of the usual planning application procedures.

9. **How will the council manage the disruption to the children's education, whilst building works are on-going?**

The Local Authority is experienced in managing the delivery of projects on schools sites, working closely with the schools to minimise disruption for the children and staff; planning the stages of delivery carefully, and using school holidays where possible to carry out works that may otherwise cause disruption. Part of the feasibility study will concentrate on this important aspect and will include consultation with the school and parents to ensure that disruption is kept to an absolute minimum.

Transport and Traffic

10. [What impact will there be on traffic and how will this be managed?](#)

Traffic issues will be discussed with transport colleagues and explored as part of the planning process, with a view to finding solutions. We will have discussions with the schools and the Transport and Travel teams to determine how raised issues can be dealt with.

A review of the travel plan will be undertaken and this will cover a range of different options which will be properly considered.

11. [How will you ensure the safety of children?](#)

As the pupil numbers will only grow by 30 children per academic year, this growth will be manageable and will allow us time to learn from any travel plans we put in place before the full expansion is felt in 5 years.

We are well aware of the current travel issues at the start and the end of the school day and we know increasing the school numbers will further compound this. The school travel plan will be crucial and is something the academy trust members will be encouraged to review in the coming months. All suggestions from parents and residents will be welcomed.

Projection and pupil numbers

12. [How do I know that there is demand for secondary places?](#)

The changes in Havering's population, influenced by significant increase in births, economic migration and migration from nearby boroughs, new housing developments mean that demand for school places has also increased in Havering. The number of Primary age pupils is expected to continue rising significantly with more than 4,000 extra pupils projected over the next five years, which will then transfer to the into the Secondary phase. Our [Pupil number report](#) contains additional information on this.

13. [What happens if the school is expanded but in future we find that the places are not needed?](#)

Our school roll projections as highlighted in our school planning data pack are based on actual and projected birth rates in Havering. We expect demand for places to increase year on year for the foreseeable future and therefore any additional school places created by expanding schools are likely to fill.

Addressing future Demand

[Rainham and Beam Park Housing Development`](#)

The Rainham and Beam Park Housing bid has now been approved with over 3500 units to be delivered over the period 2015/16 to 2021/22. The projected child yield over this period has now been factored in the school roll projections. In the long term, this is likely to result in a continuation and probable escalation of the projected increase in pupil numbers. The proposal to expand some of our primary schools to help meet the increase in demand for school places from expected population growth and demand generated by the new housing is already underway. The need for additional primary school places from 2020/21 will be delivered through a Free School proposal.

[Romford Housing Zone Development](#)

The Romford housing zone bid has been approved with an expected delivery of 3304 units over the period 2017/18 to 2025/26. The projected child yield over this period has now been factored in the school roll projections. In the long term, this is likely to result in a continuation and probable escalation of the projected increase in pupil numbers. The proposal to expand Hylands Primary School will help meet the increase in demand for primary school places from expected population growth and demand generated by the new housing. Beyond 2019/20 it is being proposed that the additional primary places needed will be delivered through a new free school.

New School

14. [Why is the Council not building a new school?](#)

Recent changes in the legislation (Education Act 2011) means that where a local authority thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek proposals to establish an academy (free school). The LA is responsible for providing the site for the new school and meeting all associated capital and pre-/post-opening costs. The decision on all new free school proposals lies with the Secretary of State.

15. [What are Free Schools?](#)

Free Schools are publicly funded schools independent from the local authority, and report directly to the Secretary of State.

Academies are also publicly funded independent schools. Academies don't have to follow the [national curriculum](#) and can set their own term times. They still have to follow the same rules on [admissions](#), [special educational needs](#) and [exclusions](#) as other state schools. Academies get money direct from the government, not the local council. They are run by an academy trust which employs the staff. Some academies have sponsors such as businesses, universities, other schools, faith groups or voluntary groups. Sponsors are responsible for improving the performance of their schools.

[What happens next?](#)

The consultation period starts on **Monday 12 June 2017** and will close on **Monday 10 July 2017**. All of the proposed secondary schools are academies therefore will follow a different process.

The Council is not the decision maker for Academy expansions. The process for expanding academies can be [viewed here](#): The final decision as to whether these Academies expand will be made by the Education Skills Funding Agency.