



# **TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE**

# **REPORT**

**3 March 2016**

**Subject Heading:**

Harold Hill Learning Village

**CMT Lead:**

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**Report Author and contact details:**

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**Policy context:**

Harold Hill Ambitions Cabinet Papers  
November 2008 and January 2014 and  
Learning Village October 2014.

## **SUMMARY**

This report provides an update on the October 2014 Learning Village Cabinet Paper and progress since that date.

Investment in the Learning Village since 2014 has seen a variety of projects established including the establishment of Drapers' Maylands Primary School, £60,000 of investment in the public realm and an extension of outline planning permission to re-enforce the Councils commitment to the Learning Village concept and increased educational provision.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to review the report and note its content.

## REPORT DETAIL

This paper seeks to provide an update on the Harold Hill Learning Village and school provision in the area which the project relates.

### 1.0 Summary

The Harold Hill Learning Village was conceived as part of the Harold Hill Ambitions Programme, which was approved by Cabinet in November 2008.

The Cabinet Paper of October 2014 provided an update on delivery of the project and sought to confirm the Council's commitment to delivering the 'Learning Village Vision'. The 2014 report also covered the proposed use of Council owned land by the Drapers Multi-Academy Trust for the provision of a Primary Free School on the old Kingswood School site.

Key progress includes;

1. The establishment of Drapers' Maylands Primary School.
2. Pyrgo Priory establishing as an Academy (February 2015).
3. Investment of £60,000 to upgrade the public realm to match the high quality materials used in the Drapers Academy building.

### 2.0 Progress

#### The Learning Village Concept

The concept of improved educational provision and capacity resulting from the original vision in the November 2008 Harold Hill Ambitions Cabinet Report has been realised despite the constraints imposed by reductions in central government funding. Although the original vision has not been deliverable due to these reductions, significant investment in the Learning Village has seen the introduction of a new primary school, Drapers' Maylands which subject to referral by the GLA will be located on the old site of the Kingswood school by September 2017.

In addition to investment noted in the October 2014 report such as the £24million investment in Drapers Academy, various public realm enhancements have been delivered through £60,000 of investment through Transport for London's Local Implementation Plan in 2014 and 2015. These have included improvements to pedestrian and vehicular safety, improved green space and upgraded footway and

carriageways to match the high quality materials used on the Drapers Academy building.

Pyrgo Primary has been operating as an Academy since February 2015.

Due to funding constraints, Havering College are no longer able to relocate their provision from their current Quarles Campus to the Learning Village with the playing field which was earmarked for this development, leased to Pyrgo for use as a playing field.

### Education provision and the Learning Village

This section of the report seeks to provide an update on the wider provision of education in the Harold Hill area and its relationship to the Learning Village.

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-2020 sets out the planned demand for early years and education provision, and it is clear from the projections, and the increased number of housing developments in the area, that the increased demand for education provision in Harold Hill across on early years places, primary and secondary school places and post-16 provision will be significant.

### Early Years

The Childcare Act 2006 placed duties on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0-14 (or up to 18 for disabled children). Whilst Local Authorities have a duty to ensure a sufficiency of Early Years places they are also encouraged to focus on ensuring that all eligible children are able to take up their early education place.

The 2014/15 Childcare Sufficiency Report shows that there continues to be a surplus of Early Education Entitlement (EEE) places across the Borough, at least as far as 2020/21. However, analysis has been completed at individual ward and primary planning area level and these show that there are potential shortfalls of places in a number of wards, including Mawney, Harold Wood, Gooshays, Brooklands, and Romford Town.

The Childcare Bill will place a duty on the Secretary of State to secure the equivalent of 30 hours of free childcare per week in each of 38 weeks in any year to eligible working parents of three- and four-year-old children and the Government has made clear its intention to roll out the extended free childcare entitlement in certain areas from September 2016 in advance of full implementation from 2017. At this present time we are unaware of the impact this would have on the availability of places as this depends on the eligibility of families. However the impact is likely to be more EEE places will be needed.

In order to meet this planned increase in demand for Early Year provision, we are currently working with a number of schools in the local area, either to expand their existing provision, or to develop new provision as part of planned new

developments or accommodation, for example the new Harold Hill library and local Children's Centres.

### Primary

Havering in common with the many other London Boroughs and urban areas is currently experiencing an increase in demand for primary school places and we are forecasting significant growth in the coming years. 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. From 2014/15 the borough level reception intake is projected to increase year on year and this will lead to Havering experiencing a borough-wide deficit of reception places from 2017/18 if additional capacity is not planned for, and this deficit is projected to continue to rise steeply year on year.

This increase in demand is further fuelled by the level of housing development in the borough, which is projected to continue up until 2024/25, in line with the London Plan. There is increased pressure on primary provision in the Harold Hill planning area from a major development of new housing being built on the former Harold Wood hospital site. There are also several other large developments in this area, plus further major housing developments also being discussed for additional sites which is expected to add significantly to the demand for school provision in the area;

Based on projections, we will be experiencing a deficit of reception places from 2015/16 in the Harold Hill planning area, this increases to a deficit of 2FE in 2016/17 and 3FE in 2019/20. A 2FE (60 places) Free School (Drapers Maylands) has opened in 2015/16 (albeit in temporary accommodation until 2017) and this has addressed some of the projected need in this area but will still require an additional 1FE from 2016/17, therefore a permanent expansion of Broadford Primary School from 2FE to 3FE will be implemented for 2016/17, subject to statutory processes.

The new Free School (Drapers Maylands) forms part of the Drapers Multi Academy Trust, which also includes Brookside Junior School, it is also proposed to include Brookside Infant school as part of the Trust, subject to consultation. We have seen an improvement in standards across a number of schools in the Harold Hill area.

### Secondary

Up to 2001/02, Havering experienced a decline in the birth rate that is now impacting on the secondary pupil roll, resulting in a slight drop in secondary numbers. However, by 2018/19 there is projected to be a significant deficit of secondary school places in Year 7 at borough level. There is increased pressure on secondary provision in the North of the borough from a major development of new housing being built on the former Harold Wood hospital site. There are also several other large developments in this area, plus further major housing developments also being discussed for additional sites which is expected to add significantly to the demand for school provision in the area. This pressure on places is also being experienced by primary schools in this area.

Based on projections, we are already projected to experience a deficit of places from 2015/16 which were absorbed by neighbouring planning areas with capacity. However the deficit of places is sustained and will increase overtime leading to the need for additional year 7 places in this planning area. Discussions are underway with secondary schools in this planning area and surrounding planning areas to permanently expand.

As with the primary phase, there has been an increase in popularity of the local schools, with Drapers now being over subscribed for the second year running.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

### **Financial implications and risks:**

There are no financial implications or risks resulting from this report

### **Legal implications and risks:**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Human Resources implications and risks:**

There are no HR implications arising directly as a result of this report.

### **Equalities implications and risks:**

These are covered in the overall Harold Hill Ambitions EQiA.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS