

Schools Sequential Assessment Background Paper

Hounslow Local Plan Reviews Issues Consultation - December 2015

Hounslow Council, just like many other local authorities throughout the country, is coming under increasing pressure to ensure enough school places are available for its residents. This is not just limited to a single age range, it is across the board, and requires immediate action as well as long term planning.

As stated in the Mayor of London's London Plan document (March 2015), it is estimated that the population in Greater London will rise a further 10.1 million by 2036, and LB Hounslow itself would see a 20-29% increase in its population. This, in addition to the fact that there was an increase in the birth rate within the borough of 42% between 2002-2012, has seen demand reach a critical level which needs to be satisfied.

It is the role of the local authority to make sure that there is sufficient capacity to accommodate these anticipated changes in population.

Hounslow has undertaken a Sequential Assessment of Potential School sites before, as part of the evidence base for our Local Plan (2015). This work led to 13 sites being identified and allocated for allocated for some measure of use for educational purposes, and Local Plan policies to support education use on further sites too.

The Local Plan has been adopted and the need for additional places remains. There is no guarantee that all of those allocated sites will prove suitable to meet the specific spatial and education requirements of the new Free Schools and Academies that come forward with funding and approval from the Education Funding Agency.

The last assessment was completed in January 2014, and we must constantly review and update the evidence base, to ensure that any new locations are included and assessed. A new Sequential Assessment of School Sites is currently been produced that will be published before Spring 2016. The Assessment does not allocate any sites for education use – that will be a matter for the Local Plan reviews.

The Sequential Assessment will provide important evidence that will:

- support the work of the Council with school providers, to identify the most suitable sites on which new school places can be created to best meet the needs of the borough's growing school age population;
- provide potential developers with information;
- be used as an evidence document by planning application applicants and Planning Committee in decision making; and
- contribute to the evidence base for the review of the existing Local Plan site allocations, and to support the case for further potential site allocations in the Local Plan.