

## **Committee:** Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Date:** 8 November 2017

**Agenda item:**

**Wards:** Borough wide

**Subject:** **Harris Academy Wimbledon – new school update**

**Lead officers:** Yvette Stanley – Director of Children, Schools and Families

**Lead member:** Cllr Caroline Cooper-Marbiah – Cabinet member for Education

**Contact officer:** Tom Procter – Head of Contracts and School Organisation

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### **Recommendations:**

- A For the Scrutiny Panel to consider and comment on this update report regarding the new Harris Academy Wimbledon School, and in particular monitor progress on the specific matters referenced at the Panel meeting on 29 June 2016 and note the 261 additional resident on-time admissions applications for September 2018 compared to last year.

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Scrutiny Panel regarding the new Harris Academy Wimbledon School and, in particular, to the reference at the 29 June 2016 Panel prior to the Cabinet decision made on 4 July 2016 to assemble the site at High Path for the new school.
- 1.2 The report also reviews the demand for and supply of secondary school places, and in the context of current and anticipated place needs, assesses the risks and implications of not delivering the school by September 2018 as planned. In particular, following previous growth in pupil numbers, the council has now received some 261 additional resident on-time admissions applications for September 2018 compared to last year.
- 1.3 While good progress has been made on a complex project, and the concerns raised by the Panel in 2016 have been taken into consideration, the main risk to the delivery of the new school project on schedule is the moving of Elim Church from the High Path school site to Merton Hall.

### **2 DETAILS**

#### **School Need: Population projections/school rolls:**

- 2.1. It is necessary to regularly review the demand and supply of school places. The firm evidence that demand for places has now reduced at reception age in primary schools (all-be-it still at a significantly higher level than before the growth in the late 2000s), and the cost of a new secondary school makes it especially relevant. Officers have therefore reviewed the need for a new secondary school.
- 2.2. School improvement in Merton secondary schools has been significant in recent years. All of Merton's secondary schools are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding' and

2017 provisional Progress 8 results puts the borough's schools as the best performing schools in the country<sup>1</sup>.

- 2.3. A new good quality secondary school will add to Merton's provision and in addition to meeting the 'basic need'<sup>2</sup> for school places, it will provide the following positive benefits:
- Residents in parts of South Wimbledon (for girls), Colliers Wood, and north of Wimbledon (for boys) will benefit as current experience is that they cannot currently obtain places in Wimbledon schools
  - Less need for pupils to travel substantial distances for a school place outside the borough
  - Increased choice – currently all Wimbledon schools are single sex
  - A new school with high standards would add to the council's positive journey in being a good place for families to live to receive secondary education
  - The consultation by the Harris Federation in spring 2017 showed strong support for the new school
- 2.4. The number of year 6 pupils in Merton schools has increased by 421 pupils over the period 2006/07 - 2016/17. However, to date, the extra pupil numbers transferring into our secondary schools has been more modest, and there has been an increase in the number of residents going out of the borough for their education.
- 2.5. Table 1 below shows how the year 6 to year 7 transfer rate has fallen from 90% in 2007/08, to 85% in 2011/12, to just below 81% in 2014/15. For the last two years, the transfer rate has been just below 75%. The retention rate takes into account the transfer patterns from year 6 and 7, with a greater level of 'exports' (children resident in Merton and attending out borough schools), to 'imports' (children from other boroughs attending Merton schools), and a drift after year 6 into the independent sector. DfE figures show that in 2016/17 only 58.3% of Merton residents attending a state funded school did so at a school within the borough. In this respect, the council now has the lowest figure in London.
- 2.6. Six of our eight schools are now substantially full in year 7, with two schools (to the east of Mitcham town centre, and to the west close to the RB Kingston border) making up most of the current 156 surplus places in year 7 (9%).
- 2.7. Officers' assessment of the reason for the fall in the Year 6 to Year 7 retention rate is that LB Merton has not expanded any schools (with the exception of 60 places at Harris Merton), yet neighbouring boroughs have done so above their local population rise. More local residents have been able to get a place at a high preference out-of-borough school.
- 2.8. A survey of neighbouring authorities confirms that they plan to provide year 7 places slightly below their forecast year 6 rise over the next few years, so it is likely that the retention rate in LB Merton will revert towards previous levels, especially if a new popular, accessible school is open.
- 2.9. There is a particular issue in that there is further growth of 259 pupils in the current year 6 entering secondary school in 2018/19 that will result in the total growth over

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<sup>1</sup> Progress 8 scores, published by the Department for Education, show how much progress pupils make between the end of Key Stage 2 and the end of Key Stage 4 compared to other teenagers across England who achieved similar results at the end of Key Stage 2

<sup>2</sup> Basic Need is defined as when there is an overall shortage of school places in an area

the 11- year period being 680 pupils. This increased demand is confirmed by the recent secondary school admissions application information for 2018/19.

2.10. Table 2 shows that based on existing pupils in our primary schools, this substantially higher number of pupils will remain relatively consistent for at least five years. After this time, it will fall back slightly but will still be at higher levels than the present year 7.

2.11. Table 2 also shows the forecast deficit (-) of places should no extra places be added i.e. Harris Wimbledon does not open. This forecast is based on various transfer rates, and a minimum 5% surplus allowance. Some surplus is required to allow an element of choice and in-year transfers; the Audit Commission recommendation of 5-10% is considered the standard good practice to ensure a balance of efficiency and choice.

**TABLE 1 – 2006/07-2017/18 YEAR 7 SECONDARY SCHOOL ROLL AND SURPLUS WITH TRANSFER RATE FROM YEAR 6**

**(NOTE A SURPLUS OF 5-10% IS RECOMMENDED: 5% IS 86 PLACES, 10% IS 172 PLACES)**

Academic year	Year 6 actual roll (cohort is year 7 following year)	Year 7 actual roll	Year 6 to year 7 transfer percentage	Total of Admission numbers - Year 7	Actual Surplus	Surplus with 5% allowance
2006/07	1692	1531	88.5%	1669	138	55
2007/08	1794	1518	89.7%	1669	151	68
2008/09	1762	1583	88.2%	1669	86	3
2009/10	1756	1544	87.6%	1669	125	42
2010/11	1725	1502	85.5%	1669	167	84
2011/12	1837	1457	84.5%	1669	212	129
2012/13	1817	1454	79.2%	1669	215	132
2013/14	1848	1465	80.6%	1669	204	121
2014/15	2024	1492	80.7%	1669	177	94
2015/16	2081	1578	78.0%	1669	91	8
2016/17	2113	1558	74.9%	1699	141	56
2017/18	2372	1573	74.4%	1729	156	70

**TABLE 2 – BASED ON NO FURTHER EXPANSION, FORECAST SURPLUS/DEFICIT (-) BASED ON VARIABLE TRANSFER RATES, WITH 5% SURPLUS ALLOWANCE INCLUDED IN FIGURE**

Academic year	Year 6 forecast roll (cohort is year 7 following year)	Surplus/ deficit (-) if 75% transfer with 5% allowance	Surplus/ deficit (-) if 80% transfer with 5% allowance	Surplus/ deficit (-) if 85% transfer with 5% allowance	Surplus/ deficit (-) if 90% transfer with 5% allowance
2018/19	2324	-140	-254	-373	-491
2019/20	2314	-97	-216	-332	-448
2020/21	2332	-90	-208	-324	-439
2021/22	2344	-105	-223	-339	-456
2022/23	2250	-113	-232	-349	-466
2023/24	2184	-43	-157	-270	-382
2024/25	2112	6	-104	-214	-323

- 2.12. Table 2 shows that, based on the current 75% transfer there will be a 140 place deficit once the minimum 5% surplus is allowed (this is an actual deficit of 54 places), which will be relatively consistent until 2023/24.
- 2.13. Moreover, if we revert to 80% transfer as three years ago, the deficit will be 254 places once the 5% minimum surplus is allowed (and an actual deficit of 168). If the transfer is 85% or 90% then the council would require substantial extra provision on top of the new school. As stated above, it is likely that the retention rate in LB Merton will revert towards previous levels, especially if a new popular, accessible school is open.
- 2.14. The admissions applications closing date for September 2018 secondary school entry was on 31 October 2017. The council has already received 2,265 applications and when 'accepted lates' are included it is expected to be approximately 2,300. This is 261 more than last year's figure of 2,039. Offer day is on 1 March 2018
- 2.15. The above evidence confirms that there will be serious consequences for the council in providing sufficient places if Harris Academy Wimbledon does not open in September 2018 as advertised.

### **Harris Wimbledon site assembly issues**

- 2.16. On 4 July 2016 Cabinet authorised the Director of Environment and Regeneration to complete the freehold purchase of land for the provision of the new Harris Academy Wimbledon secondary school. Due to the commercial sensitivity the report was exempt but the report was made available in full to this Panel. Following recent FOI requests officers have agreed to publish the report (with some redactions where the information is still commercially sensitive), and for transparency and ease of reference this version is included as appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.17. The secondary school is now scheduled to open in September 2018 at a temporary site in the former Adult Education building, Whatley Avenue SW20. The site only has sufficient space for two year-groups of pupils so it is necessary for the permanent site at High Path to be ready for September 2020. With 18-20 months of construction time to build the school, the High Path site needs to be clear in early 2019 to enable completion of the school on time and avoid the complexities of a third year in temporary classrooms. If a clear way forward is not established in January 2018 the opening of the school may be deferred by the ESFA (Education and Schools Funding Agency, the agency of the government's Department for Education), and officers are working closely with the ESFA to avoid a deferral.
- 2.18. To enable the Harris Wimbledon Academy School to be built on High Path the following bodies need to vacate:
- High Path Community and Resource Centre
  - Domex appliance services
  - Elim Church
- 2.19. There is also a need to work with Merton Abbey Primary School to enable an element of their playing field to be part of the Harris Wimbledon site in return for Merton Abbey having access to a larger games area at set times.
- 2.20. The plan below shows the individual components:



2.21. The following is an update on the land assembly since July 2016:

*High Path Community and Resource Centre*

2.22. Officers in Community and Housing Department have worked closely with stakeholders to provide an alternative facility at 21 Leyton Road. There is now broad agreement that this is a positive move for the service, and planning permission has been received for the new facility.

2.23. There is also an agreed plan for Children’s, Schools and Families staff and commissioned services to move from 21 Leyton Road, to either the Chaucer Centre or to an extended Bond Road Family centre, for which work has commenced.

2.24. The moving of High Path Community and Resource Centre therefore poses no serious timescales risk to the project.

*Domex appliance services*

2.25. The council has purchased the property, and agreed a lease back until February 2018. This enables Domex to find alternative premises and ties in with their leaseholder which expires at this time. This element therefore poses no serious risk to the timescales of the project.

*Merton Abbey Primary School*

2.26. In summer 2016 Merton Abbey School governors raised concerns regarding the council’s proposal. However, they were far more encouraged by the council’s and ESFA’s revised proposals in autumn 2016 which means that only a small portion of the field is lost in return for use of an artificial turf pitch at agreed set times. As part of this agreement, the council has agreed a £60,000 grant from the EFA to improve the school’s landscaping and the school has worked positively with the ‘Learning through Landscapes’ organisation on proposals to use this money effectively.

*Elim*

2.27. In July 2016 Cabinet approved the land swap of Merton Hall (refurbished and re-built at the rear to be fit for purpose) and Elim Church’s land. Following a refusal in April 2017, on 21 September 2017 Planning Applications Committee approved a revised design for Merton Hall. Tenders will be returned shortly for the works but the delivery of this scheme is now complicated by challenges on two aspects outlined below:

- On or around 27 September 2017 a member of the public submitted an application to Historic England to list Merton Hall. Historic England will provide

their recommendation to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) by 21 December 2017, who will then make her decision in January 2018.

- On 21 September 2017 a nomination was submitted to the council to list Merton Hall as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). The council is due to make a decision on the ACV listing by 16 November 2017.

2.28. While Cabinet would need to wait until the Secretary of State makes her decision on the heritage listing prior to any works commence, following the return of tenders, Cabinet is due to make a contract decision at its meeting on 11 December 2017.

**Update on references made by Scrutiny Panel on 29 June 2017**

2.29. The following table provide an update of the references made by the Scrutiny Panel on 29 June 2017:

<b>Reference from CYP Overview and Scrutiny, 29 June 2017</b>	<b>Officers' update, 1 November 2017</b>
1) ensuring the opening date for the new school is optimised to not destabilise existing Merton secondaries	At the time of this reference the official opening date for the school was 1 September 2017. There was forecast to be stability in demand for year 7 places from 2016 to 2017 before a significant increase in demand for September 2018, so LB Merton secondary school headteachers were concerned about the impact on their rolls if the school was to open too early. The council's administration supported this request, and the complexity of the land assembly in any event meant that the opening was deferred to September 2018. The main body of this paper reviews the latest on the demand and supply of school places, concluding the importance of the school opening for September 2018.
2) maximising the design to give pupils the same advantage enjoyed by children at other Merton secondaries	The ESFA (Education and Schools Funding Agency) are responsible for the design to provide the new school. However, council officers, both in CSF department and as part of the planning process, have provided their support where they can.  The detailed feasibility plans show that the school will have all the modern new internal facilities that any new school is entitled to, including a four badminton court sized sports hall. The school has been effectively designed over 5 storeys with a separate sports hall that will be raised above ground floor level to also

	<p>provide some extra recreational space in addition to the 3-tennis court sized multi use games area.</p> <p>The ESFA are currently in the process of appointing from a short list of two contractors, following a competitive process which included an element of design competition. Officers will continue to work with the ESFA.</p>
3) supporting Merton Abbey Primary in agreeing shared use of the site	<p>Following the reference in June 2016, officers worked in more detail with the ESFA and Merton Abbey Primary School. As a result a new proposal was developed which uses far less of the Primary School land. A three tennis court sized multi use games area (MUGA) will be developed, two thirds of which will be on the Harris Wimbledon site, one third on Merton Abbey's current school site. This area will all be in the 125 year lease for the new school. There is provision for Merton Abbey school to be able to use the facility at set times agreed with Merton Abbey's school leadership team, including use for after school and holiday clubs.</p>
4) protecting the financial interests of the borough during the development of the site	<p>The main reason for the council facilitating a Free School is that the ESFA meets the majority of the cost. The council is ensuring the financial package agreed with the ESFA in summer 2016 and reported to cabinet in July 2016 remains the position. This is that the ESFA is responsible for the entire cost of building the school (circa £25-30 million), with the council providing a clear site and receiving £5.85 million from the ESFA for this. The net cost to the council of the new school is therefore substantially below £10 million</p>
5) sustaining the level of community rental space	<p>This reference related to some concern about the sale of Merton Hall to Elim Church. However, the council has sustained the level of community space by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A former office at Pincott Road being adapted to provide two community</li> </ul>

	<p>rooms, operated by SWCA (South Wimbledon Community Association)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitating the hall at All Saints Primary School to be operated by SWCA outside school hours</li> <li>• Elim Church confirming that the Merton Hall building would still be open to lettings when not required by the church, and the church will still be operating its food bank for the local community.</li> <li>• The Chief Executive of the Harris Federation writing to confirm that they would like the new school to be open the community outside school hours, and would like to work with SWCA in delivering this</li> <li>• There is still capacity in other local schools for outside lettings and other council premises if there is demand.</li> </ul> <p>Merton Hall closed as a community centre on 1 October 2017, with Pincott Road opening, and all of the previous users have found an alternative location.</p>
6) ensuring the safety of pupils using the site	<p>The safe entry and exit for from the site is important to the design. To obtain planning permission a transport statement will be required to demonstrate this, and the design and layout of the building will ensure maximum space for children. Although the design is still at a relatively early stage, ideas have already been developed to ensure maximum space for children. This includes providing the three courts games area, and raising the sports hall above ground floor level so there is recreation space below it. Off-site playing field availability is also expected to be provided at Nursery Road Playing Fields. This is less than 5 minutes walk from the school and a safe walking route will need to be ensured.</p>

### **Support for the school and admissions arrangements**

2.30. The Harris Federation ran a 6-weeks consultation on the establishment of the Academy and the Admissions arrangements in February/March 2017. This was advertised in the local paper, posted on the Harris Wimbledon website with

signposting on the council website and letters and booklets were sent out to primary schools for distribution to parents, Six consultation events were held, mostly in primary schools from 8 February to 9 March 2017.

2.31. In total nearly 300 parents/carers attended the events. 448 questionnaires were returned and 425 (94.9%) supported the proposal that the school should open.

2.32. The biggest concerns raised were about admissions and whether parents would succeed in getting their children admitted when they might live some distance away from nodal points<sup>3</sup>. Many parents thought the nodal points were in the wrong place and 81% stated they should be changed. There was particular concern raised by residents in Colliers Wood who felt they did not currently have access to a local secondary school.

2.33. As a result the nodal points for 2018 admissions were changed by the Harris Federation to be:

- Merton Abbey Primary School 33%
- Colliers Wood Station 33%
- Haydons Road Station 33%

<sup>3</sup> Note - 'Nodal points' is where priority for places is based on distance from a specified point rather than outside the school gate. It allows an admissions authority to give greater priority to an area where it is perceived there is a greater priority for school places

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

#### **Alternative sites to High Path for a new school**

- 3.1. The council has been considering options for a secondary school site since 2013. In July 2013 Capita produced an analysis of over 200 sites as part of the site selection options for a new secondary school. Beyond the site at High Path, only four sites were identified by Capita as being potentially suitable and, following a subsequent Atkins report, it was confirmed that only one (Worsfold House) was potentially viable. This was discounted due to its impact on needing to move one special school, impacting on the expansion of another, and its location in Mitcham
- 3.2. In July 2016 the EFSA and Cabinet agreed that High Path was the only viable option for the new school out of the short-listed sites.
- 3.3. Having reviewed again the options identified in the Capita report and the advice to Cabinet in July 2016, officers can confirm that none of the alternative sites shortlisted in the original report or any others since this time present a viable alternative site for the school.

#### **Deferral of school opening**

- 3.1. On the basis that the council would need to find at least four forms of entry per year for at least six years to meet sufficient provision, the implications of deferring the school are as follows:

*Defer Harris Wimbledon opening for a year*

- 3.2. If additional places are to be provided in the Wimbledon area, temporary classroom provision for 2 extra classes each at existing Wimbledon schools would need to be negotiated. Negotiation would be very difficult as these existing schools have stated they do not wish to expand and would consider temporary classrooms at their school

to be even worse. If these schools could be persuaded, the estimated cost is £1 million.

*Defer opening indefinitely*

- 3.3. In this instance, the council would need to provide the expansion for all five year groups of the secondary school. If the bulge lasts 6 years, then the schools would need to have some of the accommodation for 11 years until it feeds through the school. If the retention rate reverts to the 80% level or above it would need to be kept in perpetuity. Therefore it would be very difficult to avoid a solution that wasn't permanent accommodation, with an approximate cost of approaching £20 million to provide 120 extra places per year. The new school will provide 180 places per year so if demand is towards the higher range, then the cost to the council would be above £20 million. It should be recognised that the DfE would not meet these additional costs as it would not be part of the Free School programme.

#### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1 The council publicised its plans for the school with land implications in autumn 2016 and a public meeting was held on 21 November 2016. The scheme at Merton Hall required a planning application, which included a representation period. This included a high number of objections to the scheme. A petition has so far raised over 3,500 signatures asking LB Merton: (1) To lead the way in respecting our dwindling heritage and planning law. (2) To shelve its plans for unnecessary demolition of a solid and fit-for-purpose building steeped in history and public legacy, and (3) To find an alternative site for Elim Church or issue it with a compulsory purchase order (CPO).
- 4.2 The Harris Federation ran a 6-weeks consultation on the establishment of the Academy and the Admissions arrangements in February/March 2017, the details of which were outlined above. 425 (94.9%) people responded supporting the proposal that the school should open.

#### **5 TIMETABLE**

- 5.1. The importance of the school opening in September 2018 is outlined elsewhere in this report.
- 5.2. The Education and Skills Funding Agency is responsible for deciding the opening date of the school. To confirm opening for September 2018 at Whatley Avenue, they have requested a confirmed timescale by early 2018 that provides a clear site at High Path in early 2019 to enabling construction works to commence at that time and complete for September 2020.

#### **6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. The EFSA is meeting the full cost of adapting Whatley Avenue for a temporary school and to build the new school at High Path (circa £25-30 million). The council's costs are for site purchases and construction projects to enable a clear site at High Path, and the EFSA has also agreed a payment to the council of £5.85 million in return for the 125 year lease. The council's capital programme currently provides the following funding for the Council's contribution to the new school, with the net cost to the council expected to be substantially below £10 million.

- 6.2. The substantive expenditure for the council is the purchase of Domex (already paid in 2016/17), the Merton Hall scheme to secure the purchase of the Elim land, and the extension/adaptation of Leyton Road for the Day Centre. Expenditure is also required to allow the vacation of Leyton Road and for Merton Abbey Primary School landscaping improvements.
- 6.3. If Harris Wimbledon opens in September 2018 but due to delays in providing a clear site, it is not completed for September 2020 it is currently estimated that potential extra costs in 2020/21 of £500-800k would be required for temporary accommodation. If new temporary classrooms are purchased this expenditure would be capital if in use for more than 1 year if existing temporary classrooms are re-located this expenditure would be revenue. The council's MTFS (Medium Term Financial Strategy) provides £550k per annum for revenue costs associated with school expansion and if this sum is required it would need to be a first call on this budget. This budget is currently offsetting our overspends within the CSF revenue budgets for 2017/18.
- 6.4. If the new build school is deferred to September 2019 it is envisaged the council would need to provide at least four forms of entry in temporary classrooms at existing schools, which would need to remain at the schools for at least five years. The cost would be circa £1 million and advice would be required on whether this could be capitalised or not.
- 6.5. There will be a DSG revenue cost implication as the LA would have to provide schools with bulge class funding for these classes at a cost of £80k per class. This will be met from the DSG growth fund.
- 6.6. A reduction in pupil numbers in the borough would have an impact on the funding Merton receives. The Schools Block funding is based on numbers of pupils in schools and transferred to schools to spend on education. The Central School Services Block allocation is also based on numbers of pupils and is provided to the LA to fund statutory education duties.

**Property:**

- 6.7. The property implications are in the main body of the report.

## **7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The council has a duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for its area. The Act provides that schools available for an area shall not be regarded as sufficient unless they are sufficient in number, character and equipment to provide for all pupils the opportunity of appropriate education. The local authority must exercise its functions under section 14 with a view to securing diversity in the provision of schools, and increasing opportunities for parental choice.
- 7.2. There is a statutory presumption that new publicly-funded schools should be academies. The DfE has confirmed that all new provision academies are now classified as "free schools". Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, if the council thinks that a new school needs to be established in its area, it must seek proposals for the establishment of an academy (free school) and specify a date by which proposals must be submitted. In considering the need for a new

school, the council can take account of any other free school projects that the DfE has approved and are due to open.

- 7.3. The council has power to acquire land by agreement for the purpose of a school which is to be maintained by a local authority or which the authority has power to assist, under section 531 of the Education Act 1996 and section 120 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Secretary of State may authorise a local authority to purchase compulsorily any land required for the purpose of an academy ( whether established or to be established) under section 530 of the Education Act 1996.
- 7.4. The council may assist an academy (including a free school) under section 6 of the Academies Act 2010.
- 7.5. Section 123 of the Local Government Act allows a local authority to dispose of land in manner they wish provided they obtain the best consideration reasonably obtainable. A disposal includes a lease of seven years or more.
- 7.6. The legal and statutory implications arising from the applications received to list Merton Hall as a listed building and as an ACV and the impact and outcome of these applications on the proposed construction works, the land swap with Elim Church and the construction contract, will be provided to Cabinet for their meeting on 14 December 2017.

## **8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. An equalities impact assessment was carried out dated 1 July 2017 at the time of the Cabinet decision. This concentrated on the perceived equalities issues at that time, which related to High Path Day Centre and Merton Abbey Primary School rather than Merton Hall, with the Cabinet paper reporting that the current regular users were being located elsewhere.
- 8.2. There has been a challenge from a member of the public that the Pentecostal Church movement has negative views on homosexuality, and will therefore affect access to such facilities by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community in the London Borough of Merton through the transfer of a Council owned facility to the Elim Church.
- 8.3. A new Equalities Assessment has therefore been completed. The conclusion is that, as in July 2016, the Equalities Assessment needs to take account of the various property transactions and other measures to develop the new school rather than Merton Hall in isolation. On this basis, there will be more facilities for all sections of the community as a result of the proposal even if it is assumed that Merton Hall is lost. This is due to the opening of Pincott Road to community use operated by South Wimbledon Community Association (SWCA), All Saints Primary school hall being operated by SWCA out of school hours, and the new Harris Wimbledon School having extensive community facilities out of school hours.

## **9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. There are no specific crime and disorder implications.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

This is a complicated project with a series of risks to be managed throughout the process. The various risks are outlined in the main body of the report.

**11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

Appendix 1 – 4 July 2017 Cabinet report (Publication of previously exempt report with some redactions)

**12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

21 September 2017 Merton Hall Planning Application Committee Report

Background information on LB Merton's website:

<http://www2.merton.gov.uk/learning/schools/moreschoolplaces/harriswimbledon.htm>

Background information on Harris Federation website:

<http://www.harriswimbledon.org.uk/>

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