

Improving Facilities for Education and Skills in the Borough

- 10.47 Improving education and skills in the borough is a high priority. This will improve productivity, social and community cohesion, including the overall prosperity and quality of life for people in the borough.

Policy PE8 - Improving Facilities for Education and Skills in the Borough

Development proposals will be supported where local education, skills and learning facilities are prioritised. Proposals should support the needs of a diverse community, including for existing and new residents and future population changes. High quality education establishments should be suitable for all sectors of the population and will be expected to:

- a. Provide a variety of accessible good quality schools including early years and pre-schools, primary and secondary and facilities and for special educational needs.
- b. Promote better links with local schools and colleges. Provide opportunities to enable residents to fulfil their potential and support wider skills training, businesses and adult/lifelong learning. Where education facilities underpin wider skills training, we will support places for learning, support wider networks with employment agencies and local businesses and encourage commercial enterprise.
- c. Drop off and collection points in new or expanded education establishments should be located in highly accessible locations, with convenient access to active travel and public transport networks. These should be designed to avoid traffic disruption ensuring safer streets.

Developer contributions may be sought for the provision of educational facilities, employment skills and training where the proposal would have an impact on local need and demand for such services.

Development proposals that would result in a loss of education facilities will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that there is no ongoing or future demand.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-P5: Education, Skills and Knowledge

Reasoned Justification

- 10.48 The Council will support proposals for new education facilities as they emerge, including training and employment opportunities for people in areas of greatest need. The Council has a key role in supporting parents and families through promoting a good supply of strong educational facilities which reflect the aspirations of local communities. It is also important to ensure that facilities in the borough and further education establishments meet the requirements of modern education institutions.
- 10.49 The Council is committed to ensuring that all young people have access to good education and that there is a suitable school for every child in the borough. In working

together with education partners, an assessment determining where and how the additional capacity to support new growth should be provided.

- 10.50 Access to good high-quality childcare (pre-school and school-age) has a key role in children's development. Childcare facilities should be safe, accessible for all and provide both indoor and outdoor learning opportunities. Where it is shown that the number of pupils generated by a development is greater than the number of school places available, the Council may also require a contribution to fund the provision of the additional school places. This may include for ages between 0-19, children and young people needing provision for special educational needs (SEND) places (this may be due to the potential of greater travel distances and other factors). Where it necessitates, there may be other situations including, circumstances when accommodating temporary and permanent needs, for example transport costs to and from school and temporary school provision before a permanent new school opens.
- 10.51 To achieve the direct benefit from skills and jobs for local people, the Plan needs to follow a strategy that positively and proactively ensures sustainable economic growth. Many high academic achievers leave the borough for better employment opportunities. There has been intention to create better opportunities by providing a wider range of local jobs and accommodation choices to try and retain these skill sets within the borough. Schemes such as the proposed Atom Valley as part of Northern Gateway, are an attempt to address this imbalance and gaps in opportunity.