

# Short of Space for School Places? Let us help you find them...

In April 2009 London Councils published the 'do the maths' document in which they asked the question; is the shortfall in school places 'an educational time bomb?'. The document outlined that the answer was indisputably, yes.

## About 'do the maths'

London Councils surveyed all 33 London boroughs and found that in relation to reception class places in primary schools 25 out of 33 had either been unable to meet the demand for places or acknowledged that with no plans to expand they would be facing problems by 2011.

Within these 25 boroughs it was reported that the majority required between 7 and 13 additional forms of entry. This issue is set to grow and develop as the "demographic bulge" moves through the school system continuing to pressure not only primary facilities but also secondary, special schools and further education establishments.

## How Cundall can help

Cundall can help you identify the most suitable sites for education within your borough enabling the authority to efficiently plan and sustainably develop the borough's educational provisions, facilitating the delivery of much needed additional forms of entry.

To begin, we would analyse the borough and identify all possible sites which have the basic capability to host educational facilities including existing buildings and brownfield sites. Once identified, a high level feasibility study will be carried out analysing every relevant aspect of school provision within the context of national, regional and local planning policy in order to ascertain the most suitable sites for development.

When completed the authority will be provided with a detailed report outlining the

suggested preferred sites and survey sheets presenting the results of the feasibility study. In addition, maps of the borough showing the location of the sites and other important data sets will be provided. When used in unison this report and maps will allow the borough to make highly informed decisions about the future of their scholastic system assisting them in reducing the shortfall in school places. Furthermore Cundall will also recommend important next steps that the authority needs to take to ensure that strategically sound sites which are at risk can be secured.

How Cundall can help
Area wide site searches
Evidence to support Development Plan Allocations
Constraint mapping on GIS
Site analysis
Options appraisal
Site feasibility
Securing consents for new or re-modelled schools
Detailed design and Implementation

## Case Study - London Borough of Hounslow

Cundall has a successful track record in delivering this form of sequential assessment, particularly within London.

In 2011 Cundall conducted a high level assessment of the London Borough of Hounslow in order to identify potential school sites. On completion, the London Borough of Hounslow was provided with a detail report outlining the 45 most suitable sites within the borough to be given final



Harris Boys Academy, London, UK © Howarth Lichtfield Partnership

consideration by officers and Members. Drawn from an initial set of 440 potential sites, these 45 "short-listed" sites have been provided through a robust process to enable the borough to properly evaluate how a specific size and type of school can match the right location in order to help meet current and future school places needs. During this process, Cundall have also developed an excellent understanding of the key issues of new school developments within London as well as city-wide and local policy which enables the assessment and conclusions to be tailored to the borough's specific needs, issues and policies.

*'Cundall were proactive and responsive and produced a professional report on time'*

**Richard Rollison, London Borough of Hounslow**

## Next steps

If you think this type of assistance would be of interest, our Director of Planning, Ian Cansfield would be more than happy to meet with you and provide a free initial consultation to key members of your Estates Capital Programme Team.



Bede Primary, Northumberland, UK