

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2014

REPORT OF: MR TONY SAMUELS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS AND REGENERATION PROGRAMMES

MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

LEAD OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
PETER JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

SUBJECT SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAMME FROM SEPTEMBER 2014



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

There is significant demand for new school places within Surrey, resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into the County, which are addressed through the County's five year 2013-18 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Lyne and Longcross Infant School has been identified within the programme as requiring expansion through the provision of permanent adaptations and additions to their existing facilities, to meet the demand for school places in the Chertsey area.

Approval is sought for the expansion of Lyne and Longcross School from a 1fe infant school to a 1fe primary school, adding 120 junior places at the school by 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet approve the expansion of Lyne and Longcross as detailed in this report subject to the consideration and approval of the detailed financial information for the school as set out in Part 2 of this agenda (item 21) and that Lyne and Longcross Infant School (increase by 120 places to 210 places) and change from an infant to a primary school.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The scheme is essential to meeting basic need in Surrey. The scheme delivers a value for money expansion to the schools, which supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places for local children in Surrey. The project and building works are in accordance with the planned timetables required for delivery of the new accommodation at the school.

DETAILS:

Background

Lyne and Longcross Infant School - Increase by 120 places to 210

1. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the County and Runnymede is an area where school demand has increased significantly. This demand will result in a shortage of junior places in September 2015. Lyne and Longcross Church of England Infant School has been identified for expansion to meet the need for places in the local area.
2. It is proposed that the school will expand from a one form entry (1FE) infant school with 90 places to become a 1FE primary school with 210 places providing an additional 120 new junior places. The change will take place by the school opening a Year 3 class over 4 years until the school is full (up to Year 6). Statutory consultation was undertaken on this proposal with the results being considered in the report to Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on 15 January 2014.
3. Whenever there is a case to invest capital into school to meet basic need, the Local Authority will always consider opportunities to create primary provision. Primary Schools (rather than separate infant and junior provision) is the Local Authority's preferred model for education. Given the need for additional junior places there is an opportunity to create primary provision at Lyne and Longcross creating more coherent educational provision that is highly popular with parents as evidenced by the consultation undertaken last year.

CONSULTATION:

4. Full statutory consultation for a prescribed alteration has taken place for the proposal at Lyne and Longcross School. The following parties were consulted in line with statutory guidance: the governing bodies of the Schools; the families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the schools; the trade unions who represent staff in Surrey schools; all primary schools in the Boroughs; the local MP; the local SCC members; local borough councillors; SCC Early Years and Childcare Service.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

5. Risks associated with the project are identified in the project business case and a risk register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

6. The scheme will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as it progresses.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

7. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the funding for the scheme is in the current medium term financial plan and the estimated costs are expected to reduce following the tender.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

8. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient primary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, the Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools or providing primary and secondary education are available in its area. There is a legal duty on the Council therefore to secure the availability of efficient education in its area and sufficient schools to enable this.

Equalities and Diversity

9. The new accommodation will comply with DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations. The newly expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
10. The school will be for children in the community served by the school. If there is sufficient provision available, then it would be beneficial for all children, including vulnerable children.
11. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to provide the normal range of before and after schools clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

12. This proposal would provide increase provision in the area, which would be of benefit to all in the community served by the schools. This means it would therefore also be of benefit to any looked after children who will attend the school.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

13. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The school will be built to the local planning authorities adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

If approved, to proceed to contract award and continued drive to attain optimum value for money.

Contact Officer:

Bill Christie, Senior Project Manager (Schools), Property, Tel: 020 8541 9509
Kieran Holliday, Schools Commissioning Officer, Schools and Learning, Tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services
Denise Le Gal, Cabinet Member for Business Services
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager, Business Services
Mel Few, Local Member for Foxhills, Thorpe and Virginia Water (project at Lyne and Longcross Infant School)

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers:

The Education Act 1996

The School Standards Framework Act 1998

The Education Act 2002

The Education and Inspections Act 2006

Report to Cabinet: Schools Capital Budget Allocations 2010-2014 – 30 March 2010

Investment Panel: Report 28 September 2010
