

**CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS****APRIL / MAY 2014****(i) Ashford Park Primary School****Details of decision**

- (1) That Ashford Park Primary School be enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 2 FE to 3 FE) on 1 September 2015.
- (2) That the school roll be increased by one form each year until September 2021 when its capacity will be 630 pupils.
- (3) That an associated building programme goes ahead in a single phase to provide appropriate new classrooms and some improvements to ancillary accommodation.

**Reasons for decision**

Surrey County Council is putting plans in place to ensure that its popular schools meet the increased demand for places.

Primary school places in Surrey are in high demand and Spelthorne Borough is an area that has experienced a significant increase in pupil numbers, particularly in the Ashford and Staines conurbations. This demand is initially in the primary sector but will follow into the secondary sector in due course. This scheme is part of Surrey County Council's wider planning for the borough in order to meet the demand for additional capacity.

During the last decade the birth rate has been rising steadily in Spelthorne. It has risen by 24.9% since 2002 which is the fourth highest borough rate in the county. This has affected school rolls and there is an immediate requirement for one additional form of entry (1 FE) in Ashford town. To ensure sufficient provision of primary school places in the area, Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of Ashford Park Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015.

The Governing Body of the school supports this proposal and in partnership with Surrey County Council held a public consultation from 4 September-16 October 2013, outlining the reasons for the proposal and inviting responses from stakeholders. Statutory Notices were published and a six-week public consultation was held, ending on 10 March 2014.

As the representative of the responsible body for the planning of school places and the funding body for this scheme, the Cabinet Member is asked to give final approval for the proposal to proceed. This proposal is subject to a planning application which will be submitted in due course.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 24 April 2014)*

**(ii) Hurst Park Primary School, West Molesey****Details of decision**

- (1) That Hurst Park Primary School be enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 1 FE to 2 FE) on 1 September 2015.
- (2) That the school be relocated to the former John Nightingale School site on Hurst Road, West Molesey.
- (3) That an associated building programme goes ahead to provide a new Hurst Park Primary school.

**Reasons for decision**

Based on the most recent forecast of pupil numbers, which projects the requirement for school places up to 2020 and beyond, two additional forms of entry in this planning area would meet the basic need. Expansion of existing schools is the logical and most financially prudent response to this issue.

Hurst Park Primary School is a popular and successful school which delivers a high quality education. It was rated as a good school by Ofsted at its last full inspection (May 2013). The provision of additional places at Hurst Park Primary therefore meets the government's policy position to expand successful and popular schools in order to provide quality places and meet parental preferences.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 24 April 2014)*

**(iii) Petition – St James Primary School****Details of decision**

That the response attached as an Appendix be agreed.

**Reasons for decision**

To respond to the petition.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 14 May 2014)*

**(iv) Manby Lodge Infant School Expansion****Details of decision**

In order to meet increased demand for primary school places in Weybridge, it was agreed that:

- Manby Lodge Infant School be enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 2 FE to 3 FE) on 1 September 2015.
- The school roll be increased by one form each year until September 2017 when its capacity will be 270 pupils.

- An associated building programme go ahead, in a single phase, to provide appropriate new classrooms and facilitate the removal of all temporary accommodation on site. The new build will improve the overall layout of the school and is intended to provide a modern educational facility which will enhance learning.

#### **Reasons for decision**

School rolls have been rising steadily across Elmbridge since 2003. Over this period the birth rate has risen by 24.6%; additionally families have chosen to move into the borough, in part due to housing development. Weybridge Primary School pupil numbers have reflected this borough trend. In 2007 there were around 220 applications for Reception places; by 2020 this is predicted to rise to 270 places, or nine forms of entry (9FE); this is one more form of entry (or 30 Reception places) per year than is currently provided.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 14 May 2014)*

#### **(v) Riverbridge Primary School, Staines**

##### **Details of decision**

In order to respond to parental and governing body preference, it is agreed that:

- Riverbridge Primary School's Stanwell New Road Base permanently closes at the end of term July 2014.
- In September 2014 Riverbridge Primary School re-open for the new academic year 2014/15 on its two remaining bases with the same number of pupils on roll. The admissions policy will not be affected.
- An associated building programme go ahead, in a single phase, to provide appropriate new classrooms at the Park Avenue base to accommodate all the Reception and Year 1 pupils.
- The Stanwell New Road site be retained for future educational use.

##### **Reasons for decision**

There is evidence to indicate that families are less likely to prefer places at Stanwell New Road Base than at Park Avenue. This is because of where people live in relation to this school. Many parents have put their children's names on a waiting list to transfer to the Park Avenue base in order to avoid having to deliver and collect siblings to and from two different sites each day. These sites are significantly far apart and require a car journey to be made.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning – 14 May 2014)*

(vi) **Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance 2013 – 2014**

**Details of decision**

That the Statement of Assurance 2013/14 (Annex 1 of the submitted report) be agreed for publication.

**Reasons for decision**

The delivery of public services is a matter of public interest, and performance is increasingly the subject of scrutiny. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service must be accountable for its performance and therefore open to evaluation by the community it serves. To enable this, the Service is committed to making information transparent and easy to obtain, so that it can be held to account.

*(Decision of Cabinet Member for Community Services – 14 May 2014)*

## CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO PETITION

### **'We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to create a bulge year at St. James Primary School in Weybridge for Manby Lodge leavers (Sept 2014)'**

Presented by Naomi Baronti

Further Details of petition:

Only for the current year 2 classes at Manby Lodge (Princes Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9DA) who have been allocated a place at a school which is unacceptable, we request that Surrey County Council creates a bulge year at St James C of E Primary School (Grotto Road, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8PL) for a September 2014 intake. We would also welcome an audience with Andrew Davis MP to discuss this in more detail and in person.

## RESPONSE

Surrey County Council (SCC) has been able to make offers to all parents in Weybridge whose children require a Year 3 place. The vast majority of parents in Surrey have received either their first choice of school (87%) or one of their four preferred schools (94%) for Key Stage 2 admissions. This percentage is reflected across the Elmbridge Borough. We understand that 26 of the 60 Year 2 parents at Manby Lodge did not get a place for their child at Cleves Junior School; however of these, 11 have been offered another preferred school and 15 were made offers at other schools in Elmbridge within a reasonable travelling distance.

The County Council has a duty to provide sufficient places and it has done so without having to commission any additional accommodation; in other words, it has filled empty spaces in all its local schools and this is the most cost effective use of public money . To put a 'bulge ' class into a school requires the school to agree to this and also planning permission for the temporary accommodation that is usually required. It also means meeting the cost of a teacher and the temporary building, associated costs of teaching resources and revenue to fund any vacant places if the class is not filled up to 30 pupils.

The SCC Education Department also has to consider the quality of education on offer at any school that it seeks to expand, even on a temporary basis. St James was inspected in November 2013 and was judged by OFSTED to require improvement in the standard of education provided.

For all of the above reasons (no basic need, financial probity and standard of education provision), Surrey County Council will not be seeking to put a temporary additional Year 3 class into St James primary in Weybridge in September 2014.

**Mrs Linda Kemeny**  
**Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning**  
**14 May 2014**

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