

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 26 APRIL 2016**

**REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS,  
SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

**MS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS  
SERVICES AND RESIDENT EXPERIENCE**

**LEAD OFFICER: JULIE STOCKDALE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS  
AND LEARNING (INTERIM)**

**JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL,  
WOKING**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for phase 2 of the expansion by the final 240 places of St John the Baptist Catholic Secondary School. Phase 1 delivered 60 places and combined with Phase 2, will expand the school from 6 Forms of Entry (900 places) to 8 Forms of Entry (1200 places) creating an additional 300 places. This will enable the School to admit 240 pupils per year from 2018 meeting the basic need requirements in the Woking area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in agenda item 20 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for phase 2 of the expansion for the provision of an additional 240 places in Woking be approved.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the County and Woking is an area where school demand has increased significantly. St John the Baptist is an Ofsted rated 'outstanding' secondary school and has been oversubscribed even at existing levels of demand for many years. Expansions at St Dunstan's and the Marist Catholic Primary school (who are both direct feeders to St John the Baptist) increase this demand, which needs to be met with relevant increases in Secondary provision. The Cabinet approved phase 1 of the expansion works at the School on 25 February 2014 to provide 60 places, this approval included programme agreement for phase 2 to provide a further 240 places. Cabinet can now be provided with details of the phase 2 elements to complete the agreed programme.

**DETAILS:****Background**

1. The need for additional secondary school places in Woking follows directly from an increase in births within the Borough and additional house building. These factors have caused an increase in the primary school population that has been mitigated by and expansion of schools within the Borough. Naturally these additional pupils will require school places in the secondary sector as they progress.
2. Two of the primary schools that have been expanded in Woking are St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School (from 2 to 3 Forms of Entry - 210 places) and the Marist Catholic Primary School (from 1.5 to 2 Forms of Entry - 105 places). These schools are direct feeder schools to St John the Baptist School and therefore the Local Authority must plan to provide for these additional pupils already in the system.
3. Given the need for more secondary places, and in particular, the need for more Catholic places, the Local Authority has been working with St John the Baptist School and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton to plan for additional places to be provided at the school. As a result of this work Cabinet approved a two phase expansion on 25 February 2014.
4. Phase 1 has provided a new sports hall and the conversion of the former gymnasium to provide changing rooms, studio space and three classrooms with office accommodation. A new all weather pitch area will be provided adjacent to the building which will contribute to the additional team playing fields space required as part of an expansion in pupil numbers.
5. Phase two would start in the 2016/17 financial year and would involve the provision of additional classroom accommodation to bring the capacity of the school up to 240 at Year 7 (1200 places excluding 6<sup>th</sup> form) from September 2018. It will comprise an infill extension to the 6<sup>th</sup> form building, first floor extensions to both the existing Humanities and Maths buildings, additional and re routing of services and internal alterations.
6. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governors of St John the Baptist School have managed the project themselves with significant oversight from Surrey Property Services. The sports facilities and classroom accommodation have been planned in a way that is complementary to, the 'masterplan' of a 2 Form of Entry expansion project, with additional classroom accommodation being provided on other parts of the site – much of which will be 'infill' of existing underutilised spaces. The delivery of the sports hall and ancillary spaces has freed up accommodation in other parts of the site that can be brought back into use in the future as classroom accommodation. It is intended that this approach is also adopted with phase 2. Officers from the Councils property team have been liaising closely with the project team from the school to ensure optimum value.

### **CONSULTATION:**

7. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
8. Between 15 October 2014 and 14 November 2014 the Governing Body of St John the Baptist Catholic Comprehensive School (Voluntary Aided), in partnership with Surrey County Council and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, consulted on the proposal to expand the school from a 6 Form Entry secondary school with a Published Admission Number of 180 (total of 900 pupils excluding sixth form), to an 8 Form Entry secondary school with a Published Admission Number of 240 (total of 1200 pupils excluding sixth form). A consultation paper was circulated to all statutory stakeholders as well as non-statutory stakeholders (e.g. local residents in the immediate area surrounding the school). A public meeting was held for parents on Thursday 6 November 2014
9. There were a total of 196 responses to the consultation. This includes all written responses either in response form, email or petition format. Of those responses 178 agreed with the proposal, 12 did not agree and 6 did not know.
10. As a Voluntary Aided School the Governing Body of St John the Baptist Catholic Comprehensive School considered this report on 9th December 2014, and resolved the expansion should proceed subject to Cabinet approval of the Business case.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

11. There are risks associated with the phase 2 project and a project risk register has been compiled and is regularly updated. A contingency allowance appropriate to the scheme has been included within the project budget to mitigate for potential identified risks.

### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

12. The phase 2 project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as it progresses. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated as item 21 in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity, in the interest of securing best value.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

13. The funding for phase 2 is included in the 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).

### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

14. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on a Local Authority (with responsibility for education) to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of the population in its area.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

15. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
16. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
17. The Admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Baptised Looked After Children (LAC) and 'previously looked after Baptised Children' thus supporting provision for the County's most vulnerable children. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
18. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and to provide the normal range of before- and after-schools clubs provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

19. This proposal would provide increased provision for secondary places in the area, which would be of benefit to the community served by the school. This means it would therefore also be of benefit to any Looked After Children who have the opportunity of attending the school.

### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

20. 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 authority's adopted core planning strategy.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

If approved, to proceed to complete tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

#### **Contact Officer:**

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#### **Consulted:**

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for the Built Environment  
Colin Kemp, Local Member: Goldsworth East and Horsell Village - Woking  
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families  
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services

#### **Annexes:**

None - Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 20

**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 Service update based on latest or most appropriate report year and version
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