

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

JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER

SUBJECT: SAXON PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHEPPERTON

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Saxon Primary School from a one Form of Entry primary (210 places) to a two Form of Entry primary (420 places) creating 210 additional places. This will help meet the basic need requirements in the Shepperton area from September 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in agenda item 21 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional one form of entry (210 places) primary places in Shepperton be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places relative to demand.

DETAILS:

Background

1. Spelthorne has experienced an increase in the demand for primary school places over the past decade, reflecting a rise in birth rate, increased house building and pupil migration into the area. Births in the Borough rose by nearly 30% between 2002 and 2012, with the highest number being born in the 2012/13 academic year; clearly these children have yet to start school.
2. This upward trajectory resulted in there being a projected, sustained shortfall of primary places in certain areas of the borough. This has been addressed through a number of permanent and temporary expansions of schools and the net capacity is such that the future projected demand should be able to be met in all areas except Sunbury and Shepperton. In both of these areas the Local Authority has plans to expand schools to create one more form of entry (another 210

places per area) to meet the continuing projected demand. This will enable the Local Authority to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for the foreseeable future.

3. The provision of additional places at Saxon Primary School, to meet the demand in Shepperton, is the preferred solution for a number of reasons:
4. The school offers a quality education with all groups of children making rapid progress. Its most recent Ofsted inspection in June 2015 rated the overall effectiveness of Saxon as 'good' and leadership as 'outstanding'. This proposal therefore meets the government's policy of offering more places at successful schools.
5. The Council conducted a rigorous analysis of all three schools in the planning area using a 'balanced score card' approach. This was to give a clear steer on which school would be the best and most cost effective to consider for expansion. The Saxon Primary scheme proved to be the most cost effective in terms of cost per pupil place. The analysis also included any known planning constraints on all three sites and there were significant flooding and/or spatial challenges on the other two schools' sites thus making alternative schemes less cost effective.
6. All of the playing field and part of the hard play area at Saxon Primary is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument preventing any development within the designation area. This has resulted in the loss of some of the remaining hard play area to the footprint of the new building requiring some hard play replacement and tree removal and replacement. The school site is also in the flood plain requiring additional works to the existing modular building and significant storm water attenuation.
7. The project will provide a new modular building with 2 classroom spaces, resource area and associated spaces. Internal alterations to a library and IT room to create a further 2 teaching spaces. Permanent planning permission is being sought for an existing modular building currently on a temporary permission. This will require some measures to alleviate flooding risk. External works include replacement hard play area. Additional staff car parking on site, additional bicycle storage and replacement trees will be provided to meet planning requirements.
8. A planning application was submitted in March 2016. A decision is expected to be made by the Planning and Regulatory Committee in June 2016.

CONSULTATION:

9. The Headteacher, the Trust and the school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals and are in full support of them.
10. As an academy, and its own Admissions Authority, the increase in the published admission number is a matter for the Governing Body to determine. There is no longer a legal requirement for academies to consult on a change of PAN and the school has already published its intention to admit up to 60 pupils in September 2016. The Education Funding Agency has been notified by the school of the proposed expansion.
11. As part of the pre-planning application process, an open public presentation event will be held at the school, the date yet to be arranged. A team consisting of design professionals, SCC officers and school staff and governors will be present to respond to any questions or concerns.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. There are risks associated with the project and a project risk register will be compiled and regularly updated by the project management team. 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

13. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny by Surrey County Council officers 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

14. The funding for this scheme is included in the 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

15. 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

16. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
17. The new school building, and the internal modifications, will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
18. The Admissions arrangements currently give the highest priority to Looked After and previously Looked After Children (LAC/PLAC) and those in exceptional circumstances are admitted under the second priority. The third priority is given to siblings. Fourth priority is given to children of staff employed for two or more years at the school and fifth to children for whom the school is nearest to their home. Other applicants that do not meet these criteria are considered after all of the above. There is no proposal to amend the 2016 admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
19. The school already contributes positively towards community cohesion and provides the normal range of before- and after-schools clubs typical to Surrey County Council schools. If the expansion is approved it intends to provide the service to the additional pupils in line with its ethos and values.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

20. This proposal would provide increased provision for primary 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

21. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The new accommodation 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
Richard Walsh, Local Member: Laleham and Shepperton - Spelthorne
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for 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 21

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