



OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE (Mole Valley)

School Organisational Plan

4 March 2009

KEY ISSUE AND SUMMARY

The School Organisation Plan is a contextual document, which is intended to set the scene for any school organisation changes that may be required over the next few years. The Plan discusses principles for planning future provision in Surrey before going on to discuss the current context and projections of future need in individual boroughs and districts.

Full report available on the Surrey County Council website, www.surreycc.gov.uk.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Committee (Mole Valley) is asked to note the report.

1 INTRODUCTION AND OUTLINE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 **The Introduction** (1.1-1.12) sets the Plan within the context of the Surrey Vision for Learning in 2020 and the Children and Young People's Plan and signals the potential of the Building Schools for the Future programme, which Surrey may enter in 2009. The Surrey Context (2.1-2.6) gives an overview of the County and the potential need for places
- 1.2 **The Planning Principles** (chapter 3) sets out our overarching purpose (3.1-3.2) "that sufficient high quality, maintained school provision is available to meet the needs of all Surrey children and young people" and "that all maintained schools are able to function as high quality, viable and financially efficient institutions.
- 1.3 A set of principles follows, firstly around **planning places**, (3.3-3.14) which sets out what the projections of need are based on, the legislative context for school organisation, the value Surrey places on its diverse provision. It is emphasised that the County Council has no wish to disrupt unnecessarily what is working well but that, where new or changed provision is required, it is sensible to plan to a consistent set of guidelines.
- 1.4 The guidelines are set out from para 3.8 and particularly in 3.12 and include
- ❑ giving priority to organisational change that promotes inclusion
 - ❑ a preference for primary schools rather than infant and junior schools (having regard however to existing links and relationships),
 - ❑ promoting federation of small infant schools, particularly in rural areas, feeding into junior provision;
 - ❑ planning within a range of planned admission numbers (PANS)- for primary provision between 30 and 150 and for secondary provision between 150 and 360.
 - ❑ Co-educational provision rather than single sex
 - ❑ New secondary provision being on an 11-16 model unless the new provision arises out of existing successful and thriving 6th form provision or the college sector is unable to offer appropriate provision or the local schools and FE providers in the area agree that the new provision should include post16.
- 1.5 Chapter 3 goes on (in **Initiating Changes**, paras 3.15 – 3.25) to discuss the factors that are likely to lead to proposals being made for school organisational change – such as changes in population or the need to address schools that may be failing. The importance of **School Quality and Viability** is addressed (paras 3.26-3.28) and how this will be taken into account in making proposals for change, including action in response to negative OFSTED inspections.
- 1.6 The principles around **Special Educational Needs** are discussed, (paras 3.29-3.30) including providing suitable provision, firstly and where

possible, in mainstream schools in Surrey, then in other mainstream provision, then where possible, in Surrey special schools. Over time, the County Council aims, by broadening the skills and special arrangements that can be made in the mainstream sectors, to increase the proportion of pupils with SEN in mainstream provision. The County Council will seek to develop its own special schools to best meet the needs of those pupils who cannot be educated in mainstream and seek to avoid out county placements unless residential placement is required for care or health reasons. **Pupil Referral Units** (paras 3.35-3.36) will not be used as long-term substitutes for mainstream or special schools.

- 1.7 Chapter 4 (paras 4.1-4.30) deals with the **methodology** used to create the projections, discusses the assumptions made, the data available and the potential uncertainties – for example the potential impact of the ‘credit crunch’ (paras 4.24-4.28) cannot easily be quantified. It may be for example that the marked difference between our projections for primary need in Elmbridge in 2009 is a result of the credit crunch leading more parents to seek (or initially seek) a maintained sector place.
- 1.8 **The analyses by Borough and District follow chapter 4.** For each area, primary and secondary provision is separately discussed. Recent births and assumed birth trends are set out. (Births are actual up to 2006 and thereafter they are projected.) Current rolls and spare places are shown. The implications of the projections are discussed in broad terms and where additional provision is likely to be required or provision removed, this is necessarily identified in broad terms rather than in detail, since in most instances formal proposals have not been made. The issues in brief for each area are set out in the following paragraphs.
- 1.9 **Elmbridge:**(paras 5.1 – 5.17). Births have increased 20% since 2001. The numbers of pupils entering reception are expected to rise significantly – officers recommend increasing provision in the north and west of the borough, initially 7 forms over the next 3 years and if the trend continues, as much as 12 forms. In secondary, officers are recommending that 2 additional permanent forms of entry be provided as soon as possible. If numbers continue as predicted a further 5-6 forms may be needed by the end of the ten year period.
- 1.10 **Epsom and Ewell:** Births have increased 20% since 2001 and the numbers of primary pupils is set to rise steadily. Most of the pressure is in the South and West of the borough. Officers recommend the addition of 2-3 additional forms over the next 3 years and if the birth trend continues, a further 3-4 forms may be needed. In Secondary, a ‘bulge’ is expected in 2010, which will need to be managed. Projections suggest that there may be a need for 3-4 forms by 2018. However the recommendation is to monitor the situation closely over the next couple of years before making proposals for additional permanent provision.
- 1.11 **Guildford:** (paras 7.1-7.17) Births have risen 12% between 2001 and 2006 and are predicted to continue to rise. The current oversupply of

primary places is set to become a deficit by 2011 and long-term there may be a need for 3 forms of entry. Within Guildford Town there is a shortage of places now and it is proposed to expand provision in North Guildford to meet the need. In Secondary, the current surplus of places is set to increase until 2013 to around 150 places, then it will reduce and potentially there will be a shortage of Year 7 places by 2018. No action is proposed other than to validate the projections before deciding what changes might be required locally.

- 1.12 **Mole Valley:** (paras 8.1-8.14). Since 2001, births remained relatively stable until 2006 when there was a marked increase (up 5% on the previous year, 8% over 2001 figure). Births are projected to increase gradually over the next few years and reception cohorts to do likewise. However there is expected to be enough capacity within the system to accommodate numbers until 2017. In Secondary, Year 7 numbers are expected to decline over the next 5 years before returning to PAN levels by 2018 and no additional capacity is recommended for the foreseeable future.
- 1.13 **Reigate and Banstead:** (paras 9.1-9.17) Births reached a low point in 2001, since which they have risen by 20% to 2006. Rolls are expected to increase beyond current capacity. The Reigate and Redhill areas will see the most pressure on places. Officers recommend provision of a new two-form entry school in the Reigate/Redhill area and the expansion of some existing schools to provide an extra 4 forms over the next 3 years. A further 2 forms are being planned to meet the needs arising out of the anticipated major housing developments in Horley. In Secondary, the overall position is that there are increasing spare places over the next few years, however by 2016, a shortfall is predicted particularly affecting the Reigate/Redhill area and 3-4 forms may be needed. The position is to be closely monitored.
- 1.14 **Runnymede:** (paras 10.1-10.15) Between 2001 and 2006, births have increased around 10%. However there are still significant numbers of spare primary places. By 2018, we predict the numbers in reception will approach capacity and there may be a need for additional provision at that point. In Secondary, Year 7 numbers are expected to fluctuate and in 2014, demand is likely to exceed supply. Demand is expected to exceed supply again in 2017 and 2018. Overall rolls are expected to rise accordingly. There may be a need for additional provision longer-term but the projections need to be monitored and validated before a decision is taken.
- 1.15 **Spelthorne:** (paras 11.1-11.16) Births in 2006 were 16% higher than in 2001 and are expected to remain relatively steady for the foreseeable future. Total primary numbers on roll have fallen over the past 7 years but are expected slowly to recover over the period. There is a high level of surplus places in the area but this is projected to decrease. In Secondary, there is an oversupply of Year 7 places, which is projected

to increase and peak at around 6 forms of entry in 2013. A decision needs to be taken whether to take action to reduce provision.

- 1.16 **Surrey Heath:** (paras 12.1-12.17) Births have fluctuated over some years. Between 2001 and 2006 births increased by 12%. Additional provision is not required in the short-term but projections suggest significant additional provision may be required longer-term and the position will need to be carefully monitored. In Secondary, Year 7 numbers are expected to reduce until 2014 when they will recover. It is possible additional provision may be required in the longer term but the position needs to be monitored and projections validated before taking a decision.
- 1.17 **Tandridge:** (paras 13.1-13.15) Births in 2006 were 11% higher than in 2001. They are expected to decrease and then stabilise. Numbers on roll in primary are expected to stay relatively constant over the next few years and no additional provision required. In Secondary, demand for places is projected to fall below PAN over the forecast period and no provision required.
- 1.18 **Waverley:** (paras 14.1-14.15) Births were 15% higher in 2006 than in 2001 and are projected to remain relatively steady for the next few years. We anticipate a rising shortfall overall and Farnham, Milford and Witley, Cranleigh, Haslemere and Hindhead will all be under pressure. In some areas additional provision will be needed in the mid to long-term. In Secondary, overall demand is projected to exceed supply by 2017. This masks a significant number of spare places projected for Godalming and shortages in Farnham. Additional provision is recommended for Farnham with the possibility of reducing provision in Godalming.
- 1.19 **Woking:** (paras 15.1-15.16) Births have increased 20% between 2001 and 2006. There was a significant rise in 2006 of 8% over the previous year. Births are projected to increase further. Reception numbers are projected steadily to increase to 2012 and then stabilise. The projected birth rate is likely to lead to a need for 3 additional forms by 2011 with the possibility of a need for further places longer term. We anticipate particular pressure within Woking Town and Byfleet/West Byfleet. It has already been agreed to increase provision in Byfleet. In Secondary, rolls are expected to decrease until 2015 when they should start to climb and may exceed capacity by the end of the period. The situation needs to be kept under review.
- 1.20 Chapter 16 of the draft Plan (paras 16.1-16.7) sets out the provision available for **post-16 learners in Surrey** and current numbers. 25% of post 16 Surrey learners find provision outside the County.
- 1.21 Chapter 17 briefly outlines the direction of travel for the **Early Years and Childcare Service**. It also sets out the maximum number of places,

number of funded children and number of FTE places taken in Summer 2008.

2 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Implications are detailed in the report or can be advised of.

3 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All equalities and diversity issues and policies have been met in writing this plan.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 No implications highlighted

5 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Members are asked to note the report.

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