



INTRODUCTION

The report below is being submitted to the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning for consideration on 14th October. The report is being submitted to the SCC Local Committee to seek Members' views for submission to that meeting.

Recommendation

That the Local Committee consider the report below and submit any comments to the Cabinet Member.

OFFICER REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

14th October 2009

Building Schools for the Future Readiness to Deliver Spelthorne – School Organisation Issues

KEY ISSUE/DECISION:

1. In November 2008, Surrey County Council expressed its interest in joining the national Building Schools for the Future ("BSF") programme prioritising schools in Spelthorne as the first to receive investment. In March 2009 Surrey was invited to submit a 'Readiness to Deliver' statement in May or September 09.
2. Having self assessed itself against the revised criteria from Partnerships for Schools (PFS), SCC confirmed with PFS that the Authority would be ready in December 2009. The next stage in the process has therefore been to prepare a 'Readiness to Deliver' submission that, subject to Cabinet approval, will be submitted to Government in December 2009.
3. As part of the Readiness to Deliver statement SCC must set out an overview of the pupil place requirements in the Borough and to have agreed any substantial re-organisations on which our programme would depend (i.e. school openings, school closures, reorganisations or amalgamations).

4. This paper sets out a recommendation for school organisation in Spelthorne that will be the basis upon which the Spelthorne BSF project will be planned and that which will go forward as part of the Readiness to Deliver submission. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning is invited to approve this recommendation so that it can form part of the Readiness to Deliver statement to be submitted to full Cabinet in December 2009.

BUSINESS CASE:

5. BSF was introduced by the Government in 2003 as a scheme intended to rebuild, remodel or refurbish all English secondary schools and transform secondary education. In November 2008, Surrey County Council submitted its expression of interest in joining the scheme, with secondary provision in Spelthorne being the first of twelve proposed projects through which the whole of the County would eventually be covered. Spelthorne was proposed as it was judged to be the area of the County in the most immediate need of investment based on an aggregated assessment of attainment and deprivation.
6. To achieve entry into BSF for Surrey, starting with the Spelthorne bid, it will be necessary to demonstrate that the County Council has a clear strategy for future school places in Spelthorne. The key Government agencies of Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and the Office of the Schools Commissioner (OSC) will need to be satisfied that Surrey has thought through how best to bring about transformational change in the area and has also ensured that a sufficient number of places has been provided to facilitate parent choice without causing resources to be wasted on maintaining unnecessary surplus places.
7. Spelthorne is the most northerly part of Surrey and is the only area of the county north of the river Thames (it was in Middlesex until 1965). It is to the immediate west of South London and includes some major commuter routes (M3, M25, M30) as well as a series of major reservoirs serving the London area. These cover much of the Borough's surface area. Heathrow Airport lies to the immediate north, dominating the border with LB Hillingdon. River crossings are limited, especially in the east. Transport routes are generally constrained. Spelthorne has a very different social profile to "typical Surrey". Although there are attractive old riverside developments along the Thames in Sunbury and Shepperton, other areas have relatively high levels of disadvantage. Heathrow Airport has historically provided a high level of (usually low-skilled) employment to Spelthorne residents. This is often given as a reason for the relatively low level of skills/qualifications in the area – particularly in Stanwell. Generally, the southeast of the Borough is more affluent than the northwest.

8. Spelthorne currently contains six maintained secondary schools, as follows:

Chart 1 – Secondary Schools in Spelthorne

Name	Type	Ages	PAN	NOR	Location	Town	5A*-C (inc M+E - 2008)	Ofsd (Date)
The Bishop Wand	VA CE	11-18	180	182	SE	Sunbury	55	3 (10/06)
Maththew Arnold	Community	11-16	196	196	NW	Staines	50	2 (01/08)
St Pauls	VA RC	11-18	180	181	SE	Sunbury	49	3 (05/07)
Sunbury Manor	Foundation	11-16	210	210	SE	Sunbury	52	2 (10/08)
Thamesmead	Foundation	11-16	202	201	SE	Shepperton	66	2 (12/06)
Thomas Knyvett	Community	11-16	150	68	N	Ashford*	43	3 (02/09)

The total PAN for Spelthorne is 1118. Please note, the PAN numbers are correct at the time of publishing but are subject to change.

(Figures and results are for end of academic year 2007/8. VA = Voluntary Aided, CE = Church of England, RC = Roman Catholic, 5A*-C w M + E = % of pupils in Year 11 who obtained 5 A*-C graded GCSEs including both Maths and English, PAN = Planned Admissions Number.)

*(Thomas Knyvett is consulting on Foundation and Trust status as part of a joint arrangement with the Howard of Effingham School.)

9. The following diagram sets out the distribution of pupils between year groups and schools.

Chart 2 – NOR by year group for each of the Secondary schools in Spelthorne

Name	7	8	9	10	11	11-16	12	13	14	Post16	Total
4763 The Bishop Wand CE	182	179	179	177	178	895	48	44		92	987
4202 The Matthew Arnold	195	189	194	186	178	942				0	942
5411 St Pauls Catholic College	177	190	193	185	179	924	107	59		166	1090
4459 Sunbury Manor School	213	210	219	208	184	1034				0	1034
5410 Thamesmead School	201	202	199	196	186	984				0	984
4464 Thomas Knyvett College	66	113	113	119	125	536				0	536
SP Spelthorne Total	852	904	918	894	852	4420	107	59	0	166	4586

(Figures are for start of academic year 2008-9.)

By comparing the numbers on roll for each year group set out in the second chart with the published admission number for each school set out in the first chart, an initial picture of each school's (changing) popularity can be obtained.

10. The majority of Spelthorne secondary schools are located in the south and east of the Borough, while in recent years the surplus places have been

concentrated in the north (particularly at Thomas Knyvett). Daily movement for schooling is predominantly from the north to the south.

11. Provisional GCSE results for 2009 show decreases at Bishop Wand, St Paul's, Thamesmead and Matthew Arnold and a rise at Sunbury Manor and Thomas Knyvett. Numbers on roll are not yet collected, but first soundings show a significant rise in Thomas Knyvett from 66 to 104.
12. The following diagram shows the actual numbers and projected numbers of children in Spelthorne secondary schools, using the Partnership for Schools (PfS) method of making forecasts. PfS requires us only to take account of housing that has planning permission, or is in an identified regeneration site. Our normal forecasts are based on the housing trajectories provided by the districts/boroughs, which includes more housing than this. This means the BSF projected numbers are lower than the numbers in our normal forecasts.

SP - Spelthorne				Total secondary NOR & forecast							Post 16					
A-year	PAN	1st pref	Spare	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total	Capacity	Surplus	%	Y12	Y13	Y14	Total
2002/2003	1116	1086	7	1109	1098	1090	1057	1026	5380	5580	200	3.6	107	96	9	212
2003/2004	1116	1069	-29	1145	1103	1085	1086	1024	5443	5580	137	2.5	138	79	9	226
2004/2005	1116	1088	37	1079	1139	1097	1074	1052	5441	5580	139	2.5	143	100	9	252
2005/2006	1146	1114	66	1080	1079	1128	1083	1038	5408	5610	202	3.6	101	102	10	213
2006/2007	1056	1148	-46	1102	1072	1066	1105	1061	5406	5190	-216	-4.2	122	76	16	214
2007/2008	1146	1104	59	1087	1095	1069	1047	1090	5388	5670	282	5	127	99	12	238
2008/2009	1118	958	84	1034	1083	1097	1071	1030	5315	5590	275	4.9	155	103	0	258
2009/2010	1118	0	30	1088	1028	1078	1084	1053	5331	5590	259	4.6	130	122	10	262
2010/2011	1118		55	1063	1080	1022	1064	1065	5294	5590	296	5.3	132	102	11	245
2011/2012	1118		133	985	1055	1074	1008	1045	5167	5590	423	7.6	133	103	9	245
2012/2013	1118		117	1001	979	1050	1060	991	5081	5590	509	9.1	131	104	10	245
2013/2014	1118		155	963	994	974	1036	1041	5008	5590	582	10.4	124	102	9	235
2014/2015	1118		98	1020	955	987	960	1016	4938	5590	652	11.7	129	96	8	233
2015/2016	1118		75	1043	1010	948	972	941	4914	5590	676	12.1	125	99	7	231
2016/2017	1118		26	1092	1032	1001	933	952	5010	5590	580	10.4	115	96	7	218
2017/2018	1118		37	1081	1081	1023	985	914	5084	5590	506	9.1	117	88	7	212
2018/2019	1118		63	1055	1070	1072	1007	965	5169	5590	421	7.5	112	90	6	208

From the first chart above it will be seen that the total number of 11-16 secondary school places in Spelthorne is 5,590 (sum of PANs for each of the six schools multiplied by 5 for the five compulsory-age year groups). The total number of pupils likely to take up these places is expected to fall from 5,315 in 2009 to 4,914 in 2015, then rise back to 5,169 by 2018 (the last year for which we project).

13. The Audit Commission recommend that in any area places should exceed pupils by about 5% to strike the correct balance between (a) facilitating parental choice and (b) avoiding expensive surplus places and creating the potential for sink schools. In the time period indicated above the percentage of places above number of pupils is likely to be as follows:

	Surplus	As % of Roll
2009 (Status Quo)	259	4.6%
2015 (Pupils at lowest level)	676	12.1%
2018 (Furthest projection)	421	7.5%.

14. Generally, the secondary schools in Spelthorne are of moderate size. The Surrey School Organisation Plan recommends secondary schools are sized between 5 and 12 form entry (150 to 360 places per year-group). The Spelthorne secondary schools are all sized between 5 and 7 forms of entry (150-210) and, with the exception of Thomas Knyvett, fill to these sizes.
15. The projections for the number of surplus places therefore represent a dilemma for the County Council. Were the decline in numbers we predict for the next 6 years to continue beyond that time there would be a very strong argument that we were maintaining too many schools, and that the prudent course would be to contract from 6 to 5 schools (whether by amalgamation or closure). However the projected rise after 2015 makes closing or amalgamating schools less attractive. The 7.5% vacancy level by 2018 is still too high for comfort, although it is set against a rising trend.
16. One factor that has distinguished Spelthorne in recent years has been that one school – Thomas Knyvett, previously named Ash Technology College and Ashford High School - has consistently attracted fewer applicants than the others. Unsurprisingly, previous discussions about reducing school places in the area have tended to focus on whether this school should remain open.
17. In 2007 the County Council organised a major intervention in the school. As well as giving it its new name, this included establishing an Interim Executive Board in place of the existing Governing Body, developing a “soft federation” with the Howard of Effingham School, appointing Mrs Rhona Barnfield, the headteacher of the Howard as the Executive Head of both schools and appointing Mrs Nicola Aboud as headteacher of Thomas Knyvett.
18. Since these changes a great deal of school improvement work has been undertaken which has resulted in a very pleasing Ofsted report (March 2009), much improved results (from 34% 5 A*-Cs including Maths and English in 2006 to 46% in 2009, and greater numbers being admitted to the school (from 66 in 2008 to 105 this year). Furthermore, the school has secured its specialist status in record time and is only school in the country to have combined specialist status for maths, computing and art. The County Council’s intervention in Thomas Knyvett, combined with the hard work of the heads and staff has seen improvement and it is likely that, other factors being unchanged, improvement will continue and the school’s reputation in the local community will rise.
19. There are also wider issues about provision in Spelthorne that the Cabinet Member should consider. Thomas Knyvett is located in Ashford (the highest populated town in Spelthorne) and is the closest secondary school to

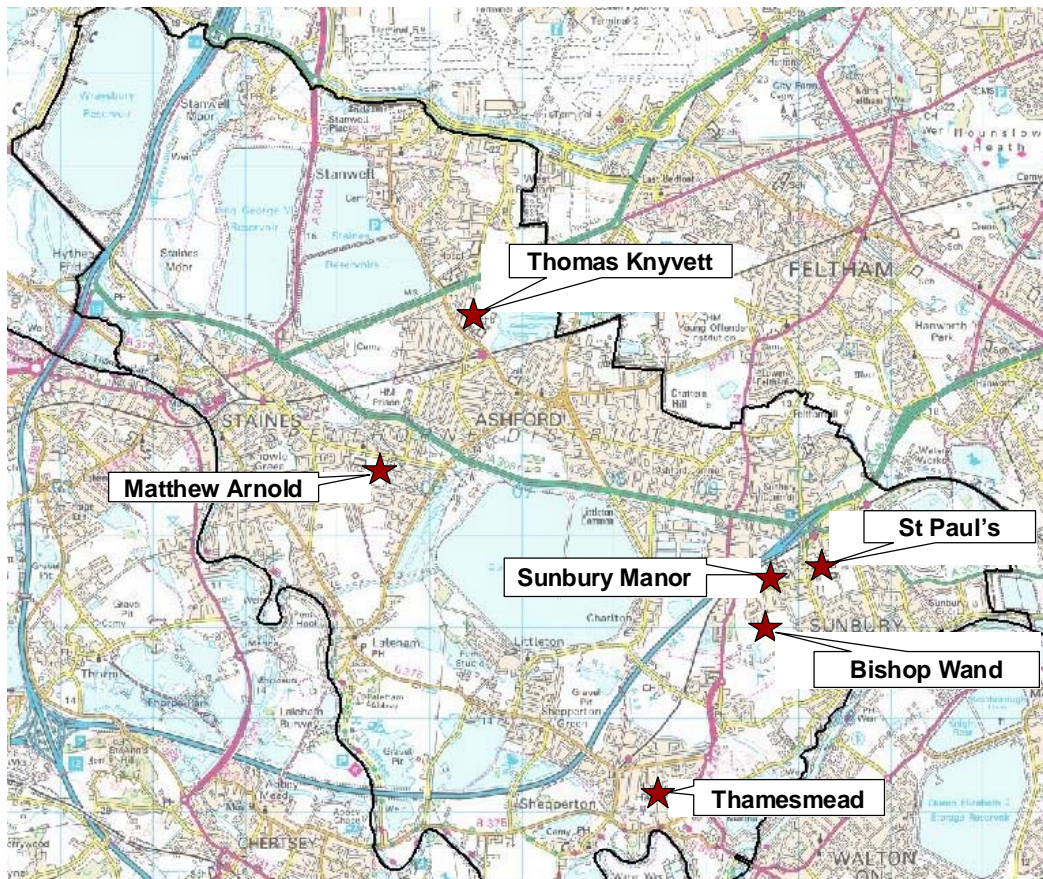
Stanwell, the most disadvantaged area in the Borough. Stanwell North, Ashford North and Stanwell South is one of the four areas being looked at countywide by the SSP delivery management group to address some of the key issues identified below. These characteristics make the need for a school within the catchment area that more urgent.

- Children subject to a child protection plan highest in Surrey (16/1,000 children in Stanwell North ward)
 - Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET) highest in Surrey (28 young people in Ashford North and Stanwell South ward, Oct 2008 snapshot)
 - Teenage conception rate high (1 in 20 young women aged 16-18)
 - Young people leaving school with low or no qualification rate high (36% achieve 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE in Stanwell North ward)
 - Adults with low or no qualifications rate high (50% adults with low or no qualifications, 40% do not stay on at school post age 16)
 - Working age population on out of work benefits rate high (11% average, high of 18% in one SOA)
20. At the same time as officers have been considering its future, national government has withdrawn capital funding from a large number of planned college developments. Most relevant to this paper is the withdrawal of funding for the planned developments at Brooklands Further Education College on its Weybridge and Ashford sites.
21. There are currently about 400 full time students and a further 2000 part time adult learners attending the Ashford site. The withdrawal of LSC funds could mean, in the worst case scenario, that the College may be obliged to sell the Ashford site to cover the costs of development work already undertaken in good faith on the basis that funding would be forthcoming. Investment in the Weybridge campus, which is currently now at full capacity, and where some of the buildings are not fit for purpose is also no longer possible. We are therefore in the situation where the futures of the two largest educational institutions serving a highly disadvantaged area are both in jeopardy. Against this background, Spelthorne Council has been keen to press for continued investment in the area through the BSF programme.
22. The issue of "Six Schools or Five" has been discussed at a series of meetings with the Spelthorne Network, a group that consists of the six secondary headteachers together with the headteacher of the Howard and the Principals of Strode's College and Brooklands College. The agreement of this group is vital to making progress with our Building Schools for the Future proposals. At the group's meeting on 8 September 2009 all the headteachers committed themselves to supporting the continuation of Thomas Knyvett College. The common view was that provision was vital in this disadvantaged area of the Borough and that the school should continue to be supported in its improvement.
23. The County Council can claim credit for the improvements achieved in the last two and a half years at Thomas Knyvett and the school is now obtaining creditable results and attracting more pupils. Were Surrey to withdraw support now it would send a very difficult message to other institutions where we may propose to intervene. It is reasonable to manage a temporary peak

in surplus places provided this is not open-ended and this seems likely to be the case.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

24. Given these circumstances, officers recommend that Surrey enters its Readiness to Deliver application on the basis of continuing all six schools in the Spelthorne area as set out below.



DCSF No.	School	Current School Type	Post BSF School Type	Specialism	NOR 08/09 11-16 (11-18)	Projected NOR 2018/19
4459	Sunbury Manor	Community 11-16	Community	Humanities	1034	1011
5410	Thamesmead	Foundation 11-16	Foundation	Arts, Maths and Computing	984	958
4202	The Matthew Arnold	Community 11-16	Community	Business and Enterprise	942	906
4464	Thomas Knyvett College	Community 11-16	Foundation / Trust (consulting on)	Maths and Computing and Arts (From Sept 09)	536	477
5411	St Paul's Catholic College	Voluntary Aided (RC) 11-18	Voluntary Aided (RC) 11-18	Technology	924 (166)	929 (165)
4763	The Bishop Wand	Voluntary Aided (CE) 11-18	Voluntary Aided (CE) 11-18	Sports	895 (92)	888 (104)

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

25. Subject to Cabinet member approval, SCC will begin informal consultation on the Authority's Readiness to Deliver submission which will include the school organisation recommendation set out in this paper. Consultation is planned to begin in Mid October and will run up until the Cabinet are asked to sign off the Readiness to Deliver statement on 1st December 2009.

Lead/Contact Officer: Peter John Wilkinson

Consulted: Spelthorne 14-19 Learning Network (Heads and College Principals)
Office of the Schools Commissioner
Schools and Learning Select Committee
Spelthorne Local Committee

Informed: County Diocese (Guildford CofE, Southwark, Arundel and Brighton, All Hallows etc...)
Andy Roberts, Strategic Director, Children Schools and Families
Nick Wilson, Deputy Director and Head of Schools and Learning

Sources/background papers:

BSF Expression of Interest (Executive Meeting 18th November)
PfS Readiness to Deliver Guidance, February 2009)