

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

To determine Proposal to Expand St Alban's Catholic Primary School, East Molesey

(i) Details of decision

1. Approved that the school is permanently enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 1 FE to 2 FE).
2. Approved that this expansion would be effective from 1 September 2015.
3. Approved that the expansion is managed incrementally, starting with an additional Reception class in 2015 and building up a year at a time until the school is 2FE in every year group by 2020.
4. Approved that an associated building programme is commissioned to provide additional accommodation to meet the basic need for more classrooms to support the expansion. This will be funded by a Department for Education grant for the project awarded to the County Council as a result of its Targeted Basic Need bid in 2013.

(ii) Reasons for decision

Additional school places are required in the Moleseys and there is an associated project to expand Hurst Park Primary School in the same timeframe. This expansion, together with St Alban's, would add another two forms of entry, equivalent to 420 primary school places into the planning area. Our analysis of the forecast data indicates that this is the right amount of expansion required to meet the demand for places for the foreseeable future.

There is also a wider need for Catholic school places in Elmbridge, which is served currently by St Alban's (Molesey), St Paul's (Thames Ditton), Cardinal Newman (Hersham) and St Charles Borromeo (Weybridge). All these schools are oversubscribed, and all but St Alban's have 'space-restricted' sites. The current combined published admission number of the three schools in the eastern side of the Weybridge Deanery (St Alban's, St Paul's, Cardinal Newman) is 150 – a shortfall against the number of baptisms, which has averaged 185 annually.

St Alban's RC Primary is a popular and successful school which serves this area and delivers a high quality education. It was rated good (Grade 2) by OFSTED, at its last full inspection (December 2012). The provision of additional places at St Alban's therefore meets the Government's policy position to expand successful schools in order to meet parental preferences.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report

The Headteacher of St Albans Catholic Primary School, Martin Brannigan, attended the meeting and spoke in support of the recommendations.

Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)

None.

Decision taken by:

- (i) **Name:** Linda Kemeny
- (ii) **Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning Decisions

Date of Decision: 13 March 2014

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 13 March 2014

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Children & Education Select Committee):
20 March 2014.