

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet Member for Children and Learning Decisions



Date & time
Thursday, 13
December 2012 at
4.00 pm

Place
Room 107, County
Hall, Kingston upon
Thames, Surrey KT1
2DN

Contact
Anne Gowing
Room 122, County Hall
Tel 020 8541 9938

Chief Executive
David McNulty

anne.gowing@surreycc.gov.uk

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This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Anne Gowing on 020 8541 9938.

Cabinet Members
Mrs Linda Kemeny

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

Notes:

- In line with the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, declarations may relate to the interest of the member, or the member's spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom the member is living as husband or wife, or a person with whom the member is living as if they were civil partners and the member is aware they have the interest.
- Members need only disclose interests not currently listed on the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.
- Members must notify the Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting so they may be added to the Register.
- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2a Members' Questions

- (i) The deadline for Member's questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (*7 December 2012*).

2b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (*6 December 2012*).

2c Petitions

The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

3 REQUEST BY ST ANNE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHERTSEY FOR A PLANNED LICENSED DEFICIT (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree a request by St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chertsey, for a planned licensed deficit of £95,000, repayable over three years, to part fund the building of an extension to the school.

[The decisions on this item may be called in by the Education Select Committee]

4 PROPOSAL TO PERMANENTLY EXPAND WEST EWELL INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL (Pages 5 - 8)

School rolls have been rising steadily across Epsom and Ewell borough since 2006. To ensure sufficient provision of infant school places in the area Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of West Ewell Infant and Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Education Select Committee]

David McNulty
Chief Executive
Published: 5 December 2012

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING****DATE: 13 DECEMBER 2012****REPORT OF: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: REQUEST BY ST ANNES' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHERTSEY, FOR PLANNED LICENSED DEFICIT****KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To agree a request by St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chertsey, for a planned licensed deficit of £95,000, repayable over three years, to part fund the building of an extension to the school.

DETAILS:

1. St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chertsey, has applied for a licensed deficit of £95,000, in order to part fund a building project. The project will provide a large studio room and four new group rooms for small group/special educational needs work. The deficit requested is 6.4% of the school's 2012/13 budget share of £1.480m. As it exceeds 5% of the school's 2012/13 budget share, it requires the approval of the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning under the council's Scheme of Delegation.
2. Until recently, the Council operated a school loan scheme. Schools could borrow funds from the council, usually repayable over three years, in order to fund building projects. This facility allowed schools to undertake projects earlier than would have been possible had they needed to save up for the full cost of the projects. Loans were funded from the surplus balances of other schools. However, the council has had to suspend the school loan scheme because of risks linked to the government's academy programme.
3. Schools applying for loans are now being offered planned licensed deficits in lieu. These deficits are funded from the collective surpluses of all schools in the same way as loans were. They will be repayable over three years and will bear interest on the same terms as loans. The financial impact of these planned deficits, both on schools and on the council, will be almost exactly the same as for loans. The council is reimbursed for the value of revenue deficits of schools converting to academies. However, whereas officers have the powers to approve school loans of up to £100,000, Cabinet Member approval is required for licensed deficits exceeding 5% of budget. Therefore this is a technical request.
4. The total cost of the proposed project at St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chertsey is around £0.4m of which £0.3m will be funded by DfE capital grant through the LA co-ordinated voluntary aided schools programme (LCVAP).

Are there choices?

- 5 The only other option available would be to refuse the request for a loan. This would mean that the school could not realise its ambitions to build the additional accommodation and the pupils would not benefit from that accommodation.
- 6 The total of surplus balances of Surrey maintained schools at 31 March 2012 was £48.9m. The total value of loans outstanding to schools from Surrey funds (from loans advanced prior to suspension of the scheme) is currently £0.565m and the total of committed planned licensed deficits similar to this request is £0.099m. The total of anticipated licensed deficits for other reasons at 31 March 2013 is £0.5m. Demand from schools for planned licensed deficits to fund projects such as this has not been high. Therefore, if this request is approved, it is unlikely that it will restrict the scope for approval of other similar requests from other schools.

Financial and value for money implications

- 7 The proposal allows the school to provide a larger facility than would be possible using LCVAP funds alone, which will be of benefit to its pupils (and in particular to those with SEN).
- 8 The school is oversubscribed and its finances do not give the LA cause for concern. The school is still awaiting final tender prices and a final decision on the project will be made when these are available. The school aims to repay the loan through fund raising but is aware that repayments will have to be funded from the delegated budget if fund raising is insufficient.

The school's Architects are negotiating a fixed price for the project. As no ground works are involved, it is not anticipated that there will be any unforeseen expenditure. The possibility of having to upgrade the heating system has already been considered and this will be paid for separately by Governors funds.

Equalities implications

- 9 St. Anne's is a fully inclusive school and recently was re-awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark. The project has no specific equality implications.

Risk management implications

- 10 Once the project has been fully costed, the Governors will make a considered decision as to whether it is financially feasible.

The school has submitted a three year budget plan, including provision for repayment of the proposed deficit over three years.

The school expects to suspend expenditure on building improvements and IT hardware for the next three years in order to facilitate repayment of the loan, and considers both measures realistic given the current condition of both.

Governors have budgeted for a contingency in case of cost overruns.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

- 11 The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The extension has been designed with energy saving in mind. The school is re-using a lot of the materials (roof tiles etc); windows will be fitted with solar glass and the walls/roof space will be fully insulated.

Legal implications/legislative requirements

- 12 Planning permission has already been obtained for this project.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

- 13 This proposal would allow increased opportunities for all children at the school, including any looked after children who will attend the school.

Section 151 Officer commentary

- 14 The Section 151 Officer confirms that all financial issues have been taken into account.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the request for a planned licensed deficit of £95,000 for St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Chertsey, repayable over three years, subject to final agreement that the project is affordable when tenders are received.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal will allow a successful school to provide extended and improved accommodation at no cost to the council.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

Subject to Cabinet Member approval, and final officer satisfaction with the repayment arrangements, the school will award a contract for the building works.

Contact Officer:

David Green, Senior Principal Accountant (Schools Funding) – tel.no: 020 8541 8010

Consulted:

School

Informed:

Sources/background papers:

Surrey Scheme for Financing Schools

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 13 DECEMBER 2012****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: TO DETERMINE A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND WEST EWELL INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

School rolls have been rising steadily across Epsom and Ewell borough since 2006. To ensure sufficient provision of infant school places in the area Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of West Ewell Infant and Nursery School with effect from 1 September 2013.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The school is enlarged by one form of entry (from 3 FE to 4 FE) allowing for a roll of 360 pupils in total plus the 98 existing nursery places
2. Additional classrooms are provided through a building project to meet the requirements of a larger roll
3. This expansion is effective from 1 September 2013

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

West Ewell Infant and Nursery is a popular school which delivers a high quality education. It was rated by OFSTED at its previous two inspections as 'Outstanding'. The provision of additional places here meets the government's policy position to expand successful schools in order to meet parental preferences.

DETAILS:**Business Case**

1. There is a need for additional places in the Ewell planning area and this school has already been expanded on a temporary basis; it has accommodated additional classes in previous years by adapting existing space, but this is no longer possible.
2. The school has the capacity to expand on its existing site, and is keen to do so with some remodelling of existing buildings, some new building and the removal of an old Horsa building. The planned programme of works will improve the overall provision and the flow of movement around the site.

3. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. Based on the current projections the County Council is forecasting a need for two plus additional forms of entry in the Epsom and Ewell Borough in the short term. This proposal forms one part of an area strategy which includes the expansion of the St Martin's Infant and Junior schools in Epsom in 2014; the planned expansion of Stamford Green Primary in 2015 and the commissioning of additional junior provision in Danetree Junior School in due course. Riverview Church of England VA Primary is also part of the Guildford Diocese's capital rebuilding programme.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

4. A public consultation was carried out between 22 October and 23 November 2012. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all parents and other stakeholders and interested parties. In addition a meeting was held at the school on 6 November 2012; this was, however not well attended and only one parent and four governors of the school were present. The consultation document was also published on the Surrey County Council website and the local Borough and County Councillors were sent copies of this.
5. The Council has received 21 written consultation responses. An analysis of these is given in the table below:

Respondent	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Parent (in an early years setting or the school)	11	0	7
Potential Future parent	0	1	1
Parent of child at another school	0	0	1
Employee of the school	0	0	0
School governor	0	0	0
Other stakeholder	0	0	0

6. Eleven responses are in agreement with the proposal. 7 respondents state that they do not know whether or not they are in favour; one respondent is against the proposal; one respondent was in favour but commented that they would prefer West Ewell to become a primary school and one response was void (so counted as a 'don't know'). The main concerns raised by respondents were that the access to the school was difficult and expansion may cause further traffic problems. A number of people commented that they wanted assurance that Danetree Junior would have sufficient places in Year 3 for children to transfer. The size of the infant school, the possible impact on standards, the family ethos and access to resources was also raised as an issue of concern to some parents. Those in support of the proposal supported the provision of places in quality settings.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

7. The key risk to this proposal is the dependency on a successful planning application to develop the site. This scheme has been discussed informally with planners throughout the design and development process and a planning application is ready for submission.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

8. The cost of the proposed project will be funded through the Schools Basic Need Capital Programme and was approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Planning process.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

9. The *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007* contain the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations. The DCSF has published two pieces of Guidance relating to prescribed alterations: *Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form* and *Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School (Other than Expansion)*. These contain both statutory guidance (i.e. guidance to which proposers and decision makers have a statutory duty to have regard) and non-statutory guidance on the process for making changes to school provision.

Equalities and Diversity

10. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. However, the increase in provision will be open to all applicants with the highest priority given to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for our most vulnerable children.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

11. The school has a robust Safeguarding Policy which is monitored by the designated Child Protection Lead Officer, is regularly reviewed by the governing body and is subject to OFSTED inspection. Site access and security, both during the proposed building programme and afterwards, have been considered and addresses in the planning of this project.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

12. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.
13. The additional school provision is centred close to the demographic demand and as a result will enable parents and children to attend a local school and thus reduce either the need for, or length of school journeys.

Section 151 Commentary

14. The section 151 officer confirms that the high level financial implications have been considered as part of this report and confirms that funding is available for this scheme. The detailed financial and business implications will be considered as part of the next stage.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval, Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to expand the school will be published. The Cabinet Member would then receive a report to determine the proposed expansion within two months of the expiration of the Statutory Notices.
- The outcome of this consultation will be published on the Surrey County Council website and parents of pupils at the school will be notified by letter from the Governing Body.

Contact Officer:

Melanie Harris

School Commissioning Officer NE Surrey tel. 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Parents of pupils and prospective pupils at West Ewell Infant and Nursery School

Local Councillors

Local residents via the consultation document published on the SCC website

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers:

School Organisation Consultation Proposal

21 Consultation responses
