

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Petitions

(i) Details of decision

That the response attached as an Appendix be agreed.

(ii) Reasons for decision

To respond to the petition.

(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 petitioner confirmed they would provide a copy of their submission to officers to receive responses to the points raised.

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

Date of Decision: 12 February 2014

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 12 February 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 February 2014

CABINET MEMBER RESPONSE TO PETITION

“We the undersigned petition Surrey County Council to open a new secondary school in Thames Ditton.”

Presented by Louise McDonagh, Thames Ditton

Further details from petition creator:

With current and projected increases in school-age populations in the Thames Ditton Area, Hinchley Wood School is already struggling to admit children currently in the catchment area. This means we are now in need of a good quality school, within reasonable travel distance to serve our community.

RESPONSE

We monitor the demand for school places carefully and have had several meetings with all parties regarding the sufficiency of secondary school places in Elmbridge, particularly in the south part of the Borough. Our present forecast data indicates that there are sufficient places in the borough overall; for 2014 these will be provided by Esher High School, Heathside, Hinchley Wood, RES and The Cobham Free School. We have also planned for additional places to be available from 2015 onwards in line with our forecast data.

Surrey County Council is also concerned that its secondary schools are large enough to provide the breadth of curriculum and subject options required by young people in order to equip them for the future. This means that our secondary schools need to be at least six forms of entry (i.e. 180 students per year group) to be viable and possibly even larger than this in future. Where we only need one or two additional forms we would always look to expand existing successful schools in the first instance.

We are keeping a close eye on the situation in Elmbridge and will adjust our strategy if and when we feel there is a need. However as local authorities can no longer promote new community schools any new secondary school would have to be an academy or Free School.

**Mrs Linda Kemeny
Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning
12 February 2014**

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

West Byfleet Infant and Junior Schools: expansion

(i) Details of decision

That the expansion of the infant and junior schools, from two to three forms of entry, from September 2015 be approved.

(ii) Reasons for decision

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Surrey. There is a need for more primary places in Woking and this project is essential to meeting that need. Following the decision by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning to publish notices a four week period of representations was given for any further comments on the scheme. There have been no representations made so there are no reasons to reject the implementation of the proposal since notices were published.

(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected

None.

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

None.

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

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CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

Hurst Park Primary School

(i) Details of decision

Approved that Statutory Notices are published to the effect that:

- Hurst Park Primary School is enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 1 FE to 2 FE) on 1 September 2015
- The school will be relocated to the former John Nightingale School site on Hurst Road, West Molesey

Approved that:

- An associated building programme goes ahead to provide a new Hurst Park Primary school

(ii) Reasons for decision

Based on the most recent forecast of pupil numbers, which projects the requirement for school places up to 2020 and beyond, two additional forms of entry in this planning area would meet the basic need. Expansion of existing schools is the logical and most financially prudent response to this issue.

Hurst Park Primary School is a popular and successful school which delivers a high quality education. It was rated as a good school by OFSTED at its last full inspection (May 2013). The provision of additional places at Hurst Park Primary School meets the Government's policy position to expand successful and popular schools, in order to provide quality places and 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

None.

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.

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