Notice of Meeting

Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement Decisions



Date & time Thursday, 8 September 2016 at 9.30 am Place Room G44, County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2DN Contact
Andrew Baird or Joss
Butler
Room 122, County Hall
Tel 020 8541 7609 or 020
8541 9702

Chief Executive David McNulty

andrew.baird@surreycc.gov.uk joss.butler@surreycc.gov.uk



We're on Twitter: @SCCdemocracy

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, eg large print or braille, or another language please either call 020 8541 9122, write to Democratic Services, Room 122, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN, Minicom 020 8541 8914, fax 020 8541 9009, or email democratic.services@surreycc.gov.uk.

This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Andrew Baird or Joss Butler on 020 8541 7609 or 020 8541 9702

Elected 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.

2 PROCEDURAL ITEMS

a Members' Questions

The deadline for Members' questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (02/09/16).

b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (01/09/2016).

c Petitions

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

3 REVOCATION PROPOSAL: EXPANSION OF FURZEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

(Pages 1 - 8)

At the Cabinet Member Meeting of 3 March 2016, it was formally decided to determine a Statutory Notice that brought "into effect the formal expansion of Furzefield Primary School by 1 Form of Entry (1FE) for September 2016." However, subsequent to this decision, it has become apparent that the Council and the school are unable to come to agreement on the built solution required to deliver this expansion. As such, the Council has undertaken consultation to revoke this proposed expansion.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the rationale for revocation and summary of the consultation process/feedback provided within this report and, on that basis, decide whether to determine the associated Statutory Notice.

4 PROPOSAL FOR A NURSERY ON THE SITE OF THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL

(Pages 9 - 14)

Following the academy conversion in 2015 of The Pilgrim's Way school (now known as Highfield South Farnham School) The Ridgeway school no longer had access to the shared nursery facility on the Highfield site. Since this time The Ridgeway School has made a greatly reduced nursery offer for pupils with significant levels of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in a small room that is well below the required size outlined in the Department for Education's required baseline standards. This proposal will provide nursery provision on the main site of The Ridgeway school.

5 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Recommendation: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PART 2 - IN PRIVATE

6 PROPOSAL FOR A NURSERY ON THE SITE OF THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL

(Pages 15 - 20)

This is Part 2 report related to item 4. The report contains information which is exempt from Access to Information requirements by virtue of paragraph 3 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including commercially sensitive information to the bidding companies).

The information contained within may not be published or circulated beyond this report and will remain sensitive until contract award in February 2017.

Confidential: Not for publication under Paragraph 3
Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular

person (including the authority holding that information)

David McNulty Chief Executive

Published: Wednesday, 31 August 2016

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Those attending for the purpose of reporting on the meeting may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode to send electronic messages about the progress of the public parts of the meeting. To support this, County Hall has wifi available for visitors – please ask at reception for details.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings with the Chairman's consent. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that the Chairman can grant permission and those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to the PA or Induction Loop systems, or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

It is requested that if you are not using your mobile device for any of the activities outlined above, it be switched off or placed in silent mode during the meeting to prevent interruptions and interference with PA and Induction Loop systems.

Thank you for your co-operation



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

LEAD JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OFFICER:

SUBJECT: REVOCATION PROPOSAL: EXPANSION OF FURZEFIELD

PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

At the Cabinet Member Meeting of 3 March 2016, it was formally decided to determine a Statutory Notice that brought "into effect the formal expansion of Furzefield Primary School by 1 Form of Entry (1FE) for September 2016." However, subsequent to this decision, it has become apparent that the Council and the school are unable to come to agreement on the built solution required to deliver this expansion. As such, the Council has undertaken consultation to revoke this proposed expansion.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the rationale for revocation and summary of the consultation process/feedback provided within this report and, on that basis, decide whether to determine the associated Statutory Notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member determines the Statutory Notice, thereby revoking the formal expansion of Furzefield Primary School by 1 Form of Entry (1 FE) for September 2016.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Subsequent to the determination of the Statutory Notice to expand the school, it has become apparent that the Council cannot, meet the aspirations of the school in relation to the proposed build solution within the defined parameters of what it considers to be 'Basic Need'. As the school does not, therefore, wish to proceed with the expansion, it is proposed that the original decision be revoked. In line with this, Surrey County Council has undertaken the requisite statutory consultation to inform the decision making process and no objections have been received as part of this. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member determines the Statutory Notice (appended to this report as Annex 1), so as to formally revoke the decision to expand the school.

DETAILS:

- 1. On 18 January 2016, Surrey County Council published a proposal to:
 - Enlarge Furzefield Primary School from two forms of entry (2 FE) at Reception to three forms of entry (3 FE) at Reception, to allow for a roll of 630, comprising three classes of 30 pupils in each year group.

- Build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.
- 2. It was proposed that the above enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2016 and that the school would grow incrementally, year-on-year, as the higher intake of 90 pupils worked its way progressively through the age range.
- 3. Consultation on this proposal was undertaken between 18 January and 15 February 2016, with a mixed response, with respect to support/opposition to the proposal to expand. On the basis of the education rationale and taking into account the comments received, the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement formally determined the Statutory Notice on 3 March 2016, thereby formally bringing into effect the expansion of the school from September 2016.
- 4. Subsequent to the above decision being taken, further design workshops were held between the Council and the school, which resulted in the production of a Feasibility Study, considering the options for the built solution, required to facilitate the expansion of the school. Upon presentation of this study to the school, it became apparent that the school's aspirations for the expansion scheme were somewhat removed from the scope of works that could be justified under the Council's definition of 'Basic Need'.
- 5. As a consequence of the above, the Governing Body of Furzefield Primary School decided that it did not wish to proceed with the expansion on the basis of the buildings offer being made by Surrey County Council. As it is important that the Council takes a fair and universal approach to its definition of 'Basic Need', it was felt that the school's aspirations for the built expansion could not reasonably be met, within the scope of the current programme. As such, by mutual agreement with the school, it has been decided to propose the formal revocation of the expansion proposal. The Statutory Notice in this respect was published on 6 June 2016.
- 6. It should be noted that this proposal will not alter the intake of the school for September 2016. Assuming that the expansion proposal is revoked, it has been agreed with the school that it will take 90 pupils in this year group, in the form of a "bulge class". Whilst an interim solution is workable for the 2016/17 academic year (owing to additional space flexibility in the Reception Block), it is likely that an additional temporary classroom will be required to house this bulge class from the 2017/18 academic year.
- 7. As stated in the Cabinet Member Report pertaining to the expansion decision of 3 March 2016, there is a long-term primary pupil place need in the wider Reigate and Redhill area, which the original expansion proposal was directed at meeting. However, the Council is currently working on alternative proposals to meet this pupil place deficit and is confident of having alternative arrangements in place from September 2017 onwards.

CONSULTATION:

8. As a Community school, the proposal to revoke the decision to expand Furzefield Primary School was the subject of a Council-led consultation process which was held for a 4-week period, between 6 June and 4 July 2016. The Statutory Notice was published at the beginning of the consultation

- period and separately circulated to those key stakeholders who had been directly engaged in the previous consultation process (i.e. the school community, local admissions authorities, the School Admissions Forum, relevant unions and local elected representatives).
- No responses were received to the consultation, reflecting the fact that the decision to revoke the expansion proposal is accepted by the school and wider community.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

10. As the education consultation has been completed in compliance with the relevant legislation governing such decisions, there is no outstanding risk in this respect.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

11. The building project associated with this proposal is included in SCC's Basic Need Capital Programme element of its 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). Should it be decided to formally revoke the expansion proposal, this scheme will be removed from the MTFP and an alternative sought. The project to deliver the bulge classroom would then be included within the demountables element of the MTFP to be delivered in 2017/18.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

12. The basic need expansion scheme for this school is included in the 2016-21 MTFP. If the decision to revoke expansion at Furzefield goes ahead, then this particular scheme will be removed from the capital programme. An alternative scheme will need to be developed to ensure adequate provision of school places in the Reigate and Redhill area. The cost of any alternative scheme has yet to be estimated.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Public Sector Equality Duty

13. The public sector equality duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) applies to the decision to be made by the Cabinet Member in this report. There is a requirement when deciding upon the recommendations to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations between such groups, and eliminate any unlawful discrimination. These matters are dealt with in the equalities paragraphs of the report.

Pre-consultation

14. There is a clear expectation in public law that the Council should carry out a consultation process whenever it is considering making significant changes to service provision, particularly including the closure of any of its resources. There is a statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in the School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers dated January 2014 and the School Admissions Code 2014.

Revocation of Proposals

- 15. The April 2016 statutory guidance for proposers and decision makers sets out the duty on a proposer where a proposal cannot be implemented because circumstances have changed so that implementation would be inappropriate or unreasonably difficult.
- 16. These duties have been adhered to in accordance with the statutory guidance and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

General Decision-Making

17. In coming to a decision on this issue, the Cabinet Member needs to take account of all relevant matters. The weight to be given to each of the relevant matters is for the Cabinet Member to decide. Relevant matters in this context will include the statutory requirements, the policy considerations, the impacts of the options on service provision, the medium term financial plan, the Council's fiduciary duty, any relevant risks, the results of the consultation and the public sector equality duty.

Fiduciary Duty

18. The Council owes a fiduciary duty to its Council tax payers, analogous to that owed by trustees responsible for looking after property belonging to other people. Accordingly, in deciding to spend money a local authority must take account of the interests of Council taxpayers who have contributed to the Council's income and balance those interests against those who benefit from the expenditure. It will also need to act in a prudent way having regard to the short and long term consequences of the decision.

Best Value Duty

19. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.

Equalities and Diversity

20. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), as no group with protected characteristics will be specifically affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

21. Naturally, by reducing the overall number of places available in the area, the revocation of this proposal will also reduce the availability of places available to Looked After Children. However, the Council is working on the development of alternative proposals for the 2017/18 academic year onwards, which will meet the long-term pupil place needs in the area and thereby deliver sufficient places for all children and young people, including those Looked After.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

22. It is not anticipated that the revocation of this proposal will have any adverse consequences in relation to climate change/carbon emissions. Any alternative proposals that are developed will be within suitable proximity to demand, in accordance with the Council's general strategy in this respect.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 23. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of the recommendation of this report, the next steps are:
 - To implement revocation of the proposed expansion from September 2016.
 - To develop a proposal to house the "bulge class" that will then represent 1FE of the September 2016 intake.
 - To continue the development of alternative proposals to meet the longterm primary pupil place demand, from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.

Contact Officer:

Oliver Gill, School Commissioning Officer, Tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

Furzefield School Governing Body
Parents of pupils attending the school
Local residents
Local Headteachers
Liz Mills, Assistant Director, Schools and Learning
Bob Gardner, Local County Council Member for Merstham & Banstead South
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
Unions (NUT, NASUWT, NAHT, ATL, GMB, UNISON)
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Furzefield Primary School Statutory Notice

Sources/background papers:

N/A





Statutory Notice

Revocation Proposal: Expansion of Furzefield Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that Surrey County Council intends to revoke a previous decision to expand Furzefield Primary School.

The Council had previously proposed to enlarge Furzefield Primary School (Delabole Road, Merstham, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 3PA) from two forms of entry (2FE) at Reception to three forms of entry (3FE) at Reception, with effect from 1 September 2016. Implementation of this proposal would have resulted in the school being enlarged from a 420-place Primary School, 60 places per year from Reception to Year 6, to a 630-place Primary School, 90 places per year from Reception to Year 6.

The statutory notice relating to the original proposal was published on 18 January 2016 and approval for the expansion (via determination of the associated statutory notice) was granted at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 3 March 2016. However, subsequent to this approval being given, it has become clear that the Council and the School are unable to achieve joint approval for the built solution required to facilitate this expansion. The Council is therefore of the view that implementation of the proposal would be inappropriate and is therefore seeking to be relieved of the duty to implement in this respect.

The approval of the original proposal was made on the grounds of meeting projected increased demand in the area. As such, the Council is currently exploring alternative options for delivering the requisite additional local capacity on a long-term basis.

The Council is required by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 to formally publish revocation proposals in instances where it does not intend to proceed with a previously approved proposal. At the conclusion of the Notice period, if permission is granted by the Surrey Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement, Surrey County Council will proceed with the revocation of the proposal.

Within four weeks of the date of publication of this proposal, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to: Oliver Gill, Surrey County Council, Room 326, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 2DN, email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk. Alternatively, interested parties can obtain further information and submit comments via the Council's website: www.surreysays.co.uk

Signed: Julie Fisher, Acting Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families, Surrey County Council

Publication Date: 6 June 2016



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2016

LEAD JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER

OFFICERS: LIZ MILLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE NURSERY PROVISION ON THE

SITE OF THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL, FARNHAM

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Following the academy conversion in 2015 of The Pilgrim's Way school (now known as Highfield South Farnham School) The Ridgeway school no longer had access to the shared nursery facility on the Highfield site. Since this time The Ridgeway School has made a greatly reduced nursery offer for pupils with significant levels of Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) in a small room that is well below the required size outlined in the Department for Education's required baseline standards. This proposal will provide nursery provision on the main site of The Ridgeway school.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member:

- 1. Approves the business case for the project to extend the Ridgeway School to include a Nursery providing for 8 full time equivalent (FTE) places.
- 2. Approves the arrangements by which a variation of up to 10% of the total value may be agreed by the Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement, the Cabinet Member for Business Services and Resident Experience and the Leader of the Council.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This proposal will replicate arrangements across the county in all the other severe learning and development difficulties (SLDD) schools. The Ridgeway School will again be able to offer early support and education for up to 8 full time equivalent places to the most vulnerable pupils in the South West area of Surrey.

DETAILS:

Business Case

- 1. The Ridgeway School is located in Farnham and offers educational provision for children and young people from 2 to 19 years of age with severe learning and development difficulties (SLDD). The Ridgeway was rated as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted during its last inspection in June 2013. The Ridgeway is currently going through the conversion process to become an academy school.
- 2. The cohort of pupils that attend the school are those in the school community with the most profound difficulties. Some pupils have significant disabilities, other are ambulant with severe learning difficulties, some have autism and/or exhibit significant behavioural challenges and other pupils have differing medical diagnosis and needs. All pupils require significant levels of highly individualised and supported programmes of education.
- 3. The Ridgeway nursery offers an assessment placement and early intervention provision to pre-school children with SEND. It is beneficial for nursery aged pupils to receive assistance through specialist interventions and for families to access this type of specialist environment at the earliest stage. The early offer from the age of 2 years old means that parents are supported within the maintained specialist education environment and as a result, work with the school and the Local Authority and do not seek placements at expensive NMI schools as an alternative option, when their child reaches statutory school age. This approach is in keeping with the SEND 2020 strategy and is the best outcome for the school and families of SEND pupils.
- 4. Until July 2015 The Ridgeway School had a shared nursery facility with The Pilgrim's Way School which was a local maintained primary school. Pilgrim's Way School converted to an academy in 2015 and is now called Highfield South Farnham School. Following the academy conversion it was not possible to continue with the shared nursery at the Highfield site and The Ridgeway School no longer had access to the facility.
- 5. Ordinarily The Ridgeway nursery would provide the equivalent of up to 8 full time places for pupils with SLDD. Dependent on the age of pupils they generally attend for a small number of hours per week building up to 15 hours per week. The number of pupils that will be able to access this provision may therefore be higher than 8 due to the part time nature of programmes. In the academic year 2014-15 on the Highfield site 11 children attended the nursery (6 pupils in the morning and 5 in the afternoon). Since September 2015 the school has been making a very limited offer which has comprised of 6 children (3 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon) on the main school site in a very small room. This space is well below the baseline standards as specified in the Building bulletin 104 published in December 2015.
- 6. From September 2015 discussions with County Council officers, the Headteacher and Governors have taken place as to the future of the specialist nursery provision at The Ridgeway School. Working in partnership with the local authority, the senior leadership team at the school are fully in agreement with the proposal to develop a nursery on the main site of the school.

- 7. Due to the constraints of the current school space other sites were considered to identify a potential location for the nursery. Eventually an area of the primary playground has been agreed by the school as a suitable location, which will be a purpose built extension with specialist equipment and additional space for pupils with this high level of need. There are multiple benefits for this approach as utilisation of existing resources will be available to the nursery pupils (such as the sensory room, soft play area and hydrotherapy pool) without having to replicate these on another site.
- 8. There will be no change to pupil admissions. Pupils will continue to access the school according to the processes that are currently in place for children with an Education Health Care plan or that have been identified as benefitting from early intervention due to their emergent needs and prior to a statutory assessment process starting.

CONSULTATION:

- 9. The Ridgeway School is registered for pupils from the ages of 2 to 19. The development of the nursery is not a new addition to the school and therefore no formal consultation has been required.
- 10. No formal process is required regarding the move of location that is less than 2 miles from the original school site. Highfield South Farnham and The Ridgeway School are within a distance of 2 miles from each other.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 11. There is significant pressure on expenditure for Special Educational Needs and Disability provision and a duty for the authority to ensure that this funding is used to maximum effect. If the nursery was not provided on the school site then there is a risk that SEND resources would not be used as effectively as possible.
- 12. If the nursery provision is not available there is the risk that pupils and their parents would not have the opportunity to receive very early interventions from a highly specialist school and skilled staff.
- 13. The risk with not making nursery provision for this age group of pupils is that parents will look to the NMI sector for statutory education for their child resulting in at a much higher per pupil cost.
- 14. There is a risk of an adverse judgement for any Ofsted inspection as the space being used for nursery pupils is significantly under the baseline standards required. This would have a significant impact on the school, as it is a teaching school and would lose the status to provide this. It would also impact on the Council's local offer and would be less appealing to parents of SEND children.
- 15. There are risks associated with building projects, a risk register will be compiled and regularly updated. A contingency allowance appropriate to the school has been included within the project budget to mitigate for potential identified risks.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 16. The Capital Expenditure will be met from the SEN capital funding in the Medium Term Financial Plan. The business case for this scheme was considered by the Council's Investment Panel on 19 July 2016, the panel supported the rationale for the project.
- 17. Non-maintained and Independent School costs for this type of provision are between approximately £55-75,000 per year. The offer of maintained provision from the age of 2 years old means that parents of children with significant and profound needs are supported within the maintained specialist education environment. As a result, parents work with the school and the Local Authority and do not seek placements at expensive NMI schools as an alternative option, when their child reaches statutory school age. This approach is in keeping with the SEND 2020 strategy and is the best outcome for the school and families of SEND pupils

Section 151 Officer Commentary

18. The project at the Ridgeway school is included in the 2016-21 MTFP SEN capital programme. Although not providing additional places, the project will potentially avoid increasing costs through maintaining inclusion in mainstream by working with families. This fits with the SEND 2020 strategy by continuing to maximise resources and improve outcomes.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Public sector equality duty

19. The public sector equality duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) applies to the decision to be made by Cabinet in this report. There is a requirement when deciding upon the recommendations to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, foster good relations between such groups, and eliminate any unlawful discrimination. These matters are dealt with in the equalities paragraphs of the report. It was identified that the extension of the Nursery provision at the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact assessment (EIA) as no group with protected characteristics will be adversely affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise. The school will be able to offer nursery provision a higher level than it has since the previous shared nursery was discontinued in July 2015.

No Requirement for formal Consultation

- 20. There is a clear expectation in public law that the Council should carry out a consultation process whenever it is considering making significant changes to service provision. However in this case the Ridgeway School is registered for pupils from the ages of 2 to 19. The development of the nursery is not a new addition to the school and therefore there is no statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.
- 21. No formal process is required either regarding the move of location where the distance is less than 2 miles from the original school site (School

Organisation Maintained Schools Annex A Further information for proposers January 2014 Paragraph 20).

General Decision-Making

22. In coming to a decision on this issue the Cabinet needs to take account of all relevant matters. The weight to be given to each of the relevant matters is for the Cabinet to decide. Relevant matters in this context will include the statutory requirements (no formal consultation required), the policy considerations, the impacts of the options on service provision, the medium term financial plan, the Council's fiduciary duty, any relevant risks, the results of the consultation and the public sector equality duty.

Fiduciary Duty

23. The Council owes a fiduciary duty to its Council tax payers, analogous to that owed by trustees responsible for looking after property belonging to other people. Accordingly in deciding to spend money a local authority must take account of the interests of Council taxpayers who have contributed to the Council's income and balance those interests against those who benefit from the expenditure. It will also need to act in a prudent way having regard to the short and long term consequences of the decision.

Best value duty

24. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.

Equalities and Diversity

- 25. The extension of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), as no group with protected characteristics will be adversely affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise. The school will be able to offer nursery provision at a higher level than it has since the previous shared nursery facility was discontinued in July 2015.
- 26. The new building will comply with the Equality Act (EA) regulations.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

27. Safeguarding vulnerable children is a high priority in all Surrey schools. Schools have considerable expertise in safeguarding vulnerable children and adhere to robust procedures. The school will continue to apply good practice in the area of safeguarding that it is currently. In addition, safeguarding is a key area for monitoring when Ofsted carries out inspections.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 28. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of the proposal and the capital investment The Ridgeway School will have a purpose built nursery on the main school site from 1 September 2017.
- 29. If approved, to proceed to complete tenders for the building and subsequent award of a contract under delegated decision.

Contact Officer:

Julie Beckett, School Commissioning Officer, Tel: 01483 518109 Keith Brown, Schools and Programme Manager, Tel: 02085417376

Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for the Built Environment

To be sent to the newly elected Member for Farnham South - Waverley after the by election on 18 August 2016.

Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families

Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services Paula Evans, Local Education Officer for the south west area The Ridgeway School Document is Restricted



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

