

CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Decision:

TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO PERMANENTLY EXPAND TOWN FARM PRIMARY SCHOOL IN STANWELL

(i) Details of decision

It was agreed that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement:

- I. determine whether there is sufficient evidence to permanently expand Town Farm Primary School (a two form entry school with a PAN of 60) by one form of entry (new PAN of 90) in 2017/ 2018; and
- II. subject to the approval of Recommendation 1 note the proposed solution for adding accommodation to the school and anticipate the Cabinet report seeking the release of funding for the scheme.

(ii) Reasons for decision

1. The most recent forecast of pupil numbers indicates a need for one more form of entry in Stanwell. This forecast is based on the local birth rate, the housing trajectory and a three year trend of admissions both in and out of the area.
2. The pattern and trends of admissions in this area make the forecast methodology less secure than in other parts of the borough because the forecast is affected by the number of pupils in the neighbouring London boroughs that apply for, and obtain a school place in Surrey. This has varied from year to year depending on parental preference for certain schools and the availability of places in Hounslow and Hillingdon.
3. The most recent bulge class was added to Town Farm in September 2016. Creating 90 Reception places in this school; the cohort actually admitted was 80 pupils at the last school census, leaving ten Reception vacancies at Town Farm and a further three vacancies at Stanwell Fields. The total Reception cohort being 137 against a combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of 120. The forecast for 2016 was 132.
4. It was anticipated that another bulge class may be needed in September 2017 but the admissions applications do not currently support this, although this is an area where historically we have received a number of late applications.
5. It is therefore recommended that The Cabinet Member considers the data and local context set out in more detail below and determines whether it is the right time to expand Town Farm Primary school.
6. If the decision is taken to expand Town Farm permanently then the school will require a building programme to add four more classrooms. The school already has three spare classrooms that are currently being used to accommodate previous bulge classes. There is money allocated in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for this project.

(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 School Commissioning Officer highlighted that birth rates as well as residential and infrastructure developments in the Stanwell area of the County suggested that additional school places would be required at Town Farm Primary School. The Cabinet Member was further advised that Surrey County Council would only offer schools places in the London Borough of Hounslow on an individual basis if specifically requested by parents but that there were few instances of this happening in the past. It was therefore felt that the projected deficit in school places could not be covered by Hounslow should the expansion of Town Farm Primary school not take place.

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, Skills and Educational Achievement

Date of Decision: 14 March 2017

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 14 March 2017

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Education and Skills Board):

22 March 2017