

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet Member for Education and Learning Decisions

**Date & time**

Tuesday, 30 May
2023 at 11.30 am

Place

Woodhatch Place, 11
Cockshot Hill,
Woodhatch, Reigate,
RH2 8EF

Contact

Joss Butler
joss.butler@surreycc.gov.uk

Chief Executive

Joanna Killian

Cabinet Member
Clare Curran

AGENDA

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter

- i. Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- ii. Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.

2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

a Members' Questions

The deadline for Members' questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (23 May 2023).

b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (23 May 2023).

c Petitions

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

3 SEND CAPITAL PROGRAMME PHASE 4: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW ASD-DESIGNATED SEN UNIT AT EPSOM DOWNS PRIMARY SCHOOL (Pages 5 - 44)

To consider a report on SEND Capital Programme Phase 4: Proposal to establish a new ASD-Designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

Joanna Killian
Chief Executive
Published: 19 May 2023

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING****DATE:** 30 May 2023**REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER:** CLARE CURRAN, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND LEARNING**LEAD OFFICER:** RACHAEL WARDELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING**SUBJECT:** SEND Capital Programme Phase 4: Proposal to establish a new ASD-Designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School**ORGANISATION STRATEGY PRIORITY AREA:** Tackling Health Inequality, Empowering Communities, Enabling a Greener Future**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 and section 27 part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, Local Authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that:

1. There are sufficient schools for primary and secondary education in their areas.
2. As the local authority they keep under review the educational provision for children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities (SEND).

Surrey's latest sufficiency modelling projections to 2031-2032, which are based on the previous three year's trends from academic years 2019-2020 to 2021-2022, indicate significant growth in the total number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) resident in Surrey over the forecast period. This projected growth is expected to reach its peak in 2026/27 and 2027/28, before reducing slightly thereafter. By 2031/32, the total number of Surrey EHCP pupils in National Curriculum Years (NCY) 0-14 (age 4-19 years), is projected to be almost 1,700 higher than the 2021-22 total (from 10536 to 12228).

Primary age projections show moderately increasing demand for specialist places from 2,021 places in 2021-2022 which is expected to peak at 2,117 places in 2024-2025, before declining there after towards the end of the forecast period. This represents a 5% increase in demand for specialist school places over that 4-year period and is equivalent to almost 100 places. The most prevalent primary need for pupils aged 4-11 who require a specialist school placement is Autism and Communication & Interaction needs.

Surrey's existing state maintained specialist education estate which includes specialist school places in SEN Units in mainstream schools and in Specialist Schools, has around 4,000 places across all year groups and is at approximately 97% occupancy.

Surrey has a legal duty to manage its state maintained specialist education estate efficiently. This means ensuring the availability of specialist school places that are appropriately matched to need types, phases of education and geographic location so that all of Surrey's statutory school age children with an Education Health and

Care Plan (EHCP) that require a full-time specialist school placement in either a mainstream SEN Unit or specialist school have a named placement, ready for the beginning of the next academic year.

Increased demand for specialist school places over the past 5 years has created sustained reliance on high-cost independent school places to ensure all pupils are able to access a suitable full-time education.

The Council's priority is to further reduce reliance on the independent sector, but most importantly ensure local children and young people with additional needs and disabilities who require specialist school placements can have their educational needs met rooted in their local communities and better connected to local support services.

Surrey's Capital Programme is expanding and improving the specialist education estate at pace in order to ensure local children with additional needs and disabilities who require a specialist school placement can have their education needs met close to home and within state-maintained provision wherever possible.

Between 2019 and 2023 Cabinet approved the strategies and capital investment of c£260m for four phases of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the Alternative Provision (AP) Capital Programme. With this investment the programme is aiming to deliver 2,440 permanent additional specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 to create capacity for 5,760 state-maintained specialist places by 2030/31.

Aligning with the needs identified through updated 10-year SEND sufficiency modelling and local strategy, the expansion of local state maintained specialist provision is reducing the need for new Non-Maintained Independent (NMI) places to be commissioned.

Prior to the start of Surrey's capital investment, lack of sufficiency and high rates of NMI placements were a major contribution to the accumulation of Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block deficit, and equally the investment and development now being delivered and proposed is critical to the return to a financially sustainable position.

A table detailing the proposal below is attached as Annex 1.

Proposal: To create a new ASD-designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School to create an additional 25 places in Years R to 6 for autistic pupils with Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) who require a specialist school placement.

The proposal requires Surrey County Council to follow the statutory process outlined in the DfE guidance "Making significant changes ('Prescribed Alterations') to Maintained Schools," because it fits into one of the categories below:

- The proposals are adding new or expanding existing Special Educational Needs Provision
- The proposals are making changes to a Special Educational Needs Provision in a mainstream school.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning determines the statutory notices published thereby bringing into effect the formal commencement of the proposal to:

- Establish a new ASD-designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School from 1 September 2023

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning may:

1. reject a proposal
2. approve a proposal without modification
3. approve a proposal with modifications, having consulted the Local Authority and/or Governing Body (as appropriate)
4. approve a proposal, with or without modification – subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal referenced in this paper is aligned with the SEND Capital Programmes aims to deliver 2,440 permanent additional specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 to create capacity for 5,760 state-maintained specialist places by 2030/31.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning's approvals and recommendations completes the statutory process in accordance with the DfE guidance "Making significant changes ('Prescribed Alterations') to Maintained Schools."

DETAILS:

Demand for Specialist Places

1. The demand for specialist places for children and young people with SEND has increased significantly over the last 5 years, and this in turn has increased Surrey's sustained reliance on the independent sector to ensure all pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) who require a specialist school placement are able to access suitable full-time education.
2. Surrey's state-maintained specialist provision is full, and we are expanding this provision at pace to ensure children and young people can have their education needs met close to home and within state-maintained provision wherever possible.
3. The Council's Capital Programme forms one important aspect of Surrey's Additional Needs Strategy and Transformation Programme which aims to improve outcomes for children with additional needs and disabilities and embed financially sustainable practices to work within the level of funding

available. Prior to SCC entering into a Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE, the Council's High Needs Block was projected to reach a deficit of £118m at the end of 21/22.

4. The Council's Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE (March 2022), which aims to eliminate the council's Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Block deficit, includes a condition to deliver an ambitious Capital programme that will improve the long-term sufficiency of state-maintained specialist educational provision that meets the needs of communities across Surrey.
5. There has been significant investment in additional state-maintained specialist school places in Surrey over the past four years to enable children and young people to be educated locally to their families. Our strong partnerships with local specialist and mainstream schools have enabled this to happen alongside robust forecasting of demand to understand what the profile of need will look like county-wide over the coming years.
6. The Capital Programme is aligned with Surrey's Community Vision 2030, and Surrey County Council's Cabinet endorsed new Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-2026, which sets out the ambition that all Surrey's children and young people with additional needs and disabilities are enabled to lead their best life.
7. Annex 2 details the delivery tranches for 2023-2026 and committed projects under the SEND Capital Programme which will complete the long-term expansion of Surrey's state maintained specialist education estate.
8. Cabinet has approved the delegation of authority to Lead Cabinet Members for Education and Learning, Resources and Land & Property to allocate resources from approved budgets required for individual projects. This follows approval for individual schemes at Capital Programme Panel where quality assurance, due-diligence and financial assurance are rigorously assessed to ensure the proposals meet the objectives of the Capital strategy. Projects that do not meet these benchmarks and/or officer scrutiny will not be progressed.
9. Surrey's ambition is that the introduction of new or expanded SEN units in mainstream schools enables schools to strengthen their inclusion offer to all children and young people, therefore being of benefit to families, the local authority, and the school populations. This is in line with the [Surrey Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-26](#), which defines the Council's strategic priorities to ensure all children have the opportunity to attend a school local to them so that they can learn, grow and develop in their community. Local strategy includes the adopted county-wide commitment to root children in their local communities and ensure no one is left behind.
10. Epsom Downs Primary School is a Community school where the Cabinet Member decision is required for significant changes to maintained schools.

Key Outcomes and benefits for children, young people and families:

11. The provision of additional specialist places will support the county-wide inclusion plan as well as increasing the availability of places for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities to access in the county.
12. Children and young people with additional needs and disabilities can access the help and support they need to thrive and achieve within their local communities. They can go to local education provision that meets their needs, access services and play an active role in the community close to where they live.
13. Children, young people and families have access to the same level of high-quality support wherever they live in Surrey. We have a good, shared understanding of our children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities in Surrey and our support offer matches their identified needs.
14. Expanding Surrey's specialist provision aligns with the Next Steps programme and strategy for post-16 to create local further education and employment pathways such as apprenticeships and supported internships. This enables young people who have additional needs and disabilities to make a successful transition to adulthood and secure employment.
15. Capacity created locally will also ensure SEND home to school transport times are reduced in line with Department for Education recommendations, improving congestion and traffic flow around the county.
16. Increasing capacity in the Specialist Education Estate is essential to Surrey delivering a sustainable High Needs Block. Achievement of cost containment targets aligned with SCC's Safety Valve Agreement with the DfE that results in an in-year balance in the DSG HNB by 2029/30 allows Surrey to continue to deliver services and support for children, young people, and families, whilst remaining financially sustainable.

CONSULTATION:

17. For Epsom Downs Primary School, an informal consultation was published from 15 December 2022 to 10 February 2023 and further statutory notices were published from 24 March to 05 May 2023. All consultation documents are available at www.surreysays.co.uk. The full statutory notices are also attached as Annex 3 of this report.
18. A summary of the consultation analysis for the proposal is attached as Annex 4.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

19. Sufficiency data requires close monitoring and frequent ratification to ensure projected demand for learners with EHCPs is up to date and accurate. This guarantees an appropriate availability of specialist school places, which are aligned to need, phase of education and geographical location. Latest sufficiency modelling demonstrated a clear need for the additional and changed specialist provision that the proposal will create.
20. The Local Authority needs to be satisfied that the appropriate fair and open local consultation and or representation has been conducted and that the

proposer has given full consideration to all responses received. To ensure that this is the case the consultation and decision-making processes are quality assured.

21. Surrey County Council has worked closely with the school to ensure that parents, carers and young people know about the consultation proposals and have had sufficient opportunity to share their views through a number of channels including public and stakeholder meetings, written responses, email correspondence and online response forms.

Financial and value for money implications:
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22. The capital project is part of Phase 4 of the SEND Capital Programme agreed by Surrey County Council Cabinet on 25 January 2022.
23. The capital investment for the project was approved under the 2023/23 delivery tranche by Surrey County Council Cabinet on 28 March 2023. The building works at Epsom Downs Primary School are planned to be completed by September 2023.
24. The projected revenue benefits and associated projected cost containment comes from the reduced unit cost of a placement within a Surrey maintained school compared to a Non-Maintained Independent setting. As part of the wider Additional Needs and Disabilities Transformation Programme, places created and filled such as this contribute to reducing Surrey's High Needs Block annual deficit.

Table 1: Local and Non-Maintained Independent Cost Containment (full year costs)

School	Capital Investment	Proposed additional places	Maintained Places Revenue costs: Average (£53k)	Non Maintained - Revenue costs: Average (£53k)	Overall cost containment (annually)
Epsom Downs Primary School	£1.9m	25	£575,000	£1,325,000	£750,000

Section 151 Officer commentary:
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25. Significant progress has been made in recent years to improve the Council's financial resilience and the financial management capabilities across the organisation. Whilst this has built a stronger financial base from which to deliver our services, the increased cost of living, global financial uncertainty, high inflation and government policy changes mean we continue to face challenges to our financial position. This requires an increased focus on financial management to protect service delivery, a continuation of the need to be forward looking in the medium term, as well as the delivery of the efficiencies to achieve a balanced budget position each year.

26. In addition to these immediate challenges, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2023/24 remains uncertain. With no clarity on central government funding in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority, in order to ensure the stable provision of services in the medium term.
27. The recommendations within this paper support the expansion of SEN provision in Surrey to meet demand and deliver financial sustainability in line with the DfE Safety Valve agreement. The Section 151 Officer therefore supports the proposal.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer:

28. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the Council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs (including special educational needs) of the population in its area. In doing so, the Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community.
29. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in its area.
30. Section 27 Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on the local authority to keep under review the educational provision for children and young people who have special educational needs and or a disability.
31. The local authority has published statutory notices thereby bringing into effect the formal commencement of the proposal prior to the consultation stage in accordance with statutory requirements. The notices were published between 29 March 2023 and 10 May 2023.
32. In considering this Report, the Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning must give due regard to the results of the informal consultation as set out in the report and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making a final decision.

Equalities and diversity:

33. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposal is attached to this report as Annex 5.

Other implications:

34. The potential implications for the following Council priorities and policy areas have been considered.

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	Set out below
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	Set out below
Environmental sustainability	Set out below
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications:

35. The creation of additional specialist places directly supports both the Surrey Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Additional Needs and Disabilities Strategy 2023-2026.
36. The proposal would provide increased provision for pupils who need a specialist placement in a mainstream school in Surrey, thereby ensuring that those who are Looked After and/ or who have additional needs and disabilities are closer to home, more connected to local communities and support services.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults' implications:

37. 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 schools will continue to apply good practise around safeguarding as they do currently. In addition, safeguarding is a key area for monitoring when Ofsted conducts inspections.
38. The creation of additional specialist school places closer to home supports highly effective joint agency monitoring to safeguard children, to reduce placement breakdown and increased demand on statutory care services.

Environmental sustainability implications:

39. The provision of education places closer to home will reduce the average journey times for learners with EHCPs and is aligned with the vision and aspirations of the Home to School Travel Assistance transformation programme.
40. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. Any new infrastructure will be built to the local planning authority's adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

41. Subject to the Cabinet Member determination, Surrey County Council and the Governing Body will proceed to implement the proposal:

To establish the SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

The significant change will be implemented from 1 September 2023.

Contact Officer:

Peter Speers, Ext Commissioning Manager

Consulted:

Headteacher of Epsom Downs Primary School

Parents of children attending Epsom Downs Primary School

Children and young people who attend the Epsom Downs Primary School

Governing body and staff members of Epsom Downs Primary School

Local residents in Surrey

Local Councillors

Cllr Clare Curran, Cabinet Member for Education and Learning

Rachael Wardell, Executive Director for Children, Families and Lifelong Learning

Liz Mills, Director Education and Learning

Hayley Connor, Director Commissioning

Eamonn Gilbert, Assistant Director Commissioning

Annexes:

Annex 1 Table of proposals

Annex 2 SEND Capital Programme list of all projects

Annex 3 Statutory Notices (Full) – Epsom Downs Primary School

Annex 4 Consultation Analysis (Summary)

Annex 5 Equality Impact Assessment – Epsom Downs Primary School

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Annex 1

Table of proposals

Name of School	Current status of school				Proposal	Current No. of Specialist Places	Changes to number of places	Further information about the proposal	Next steps and Implementation Timescales (subject to the Lead Cabinet Member for All Age Learning agreeing the recommendations)
	Type	Phase	Type of need and Designation of Specialist SEN provision	Age range and gender					
Epsom Downs Primary School	Community	Primary (Mainstream)	SEN Unit for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs	4-11 years old Mixed	Creation of new SEN Unit on existing site	0	Final capacity of 25 pupils (10 in first year)	1. The creation of the unit will be for up to 25 autistic children in Years R to 6. 2. There will be no change to the mainstream published admission number (PAN) of 60. 3. The SEN Unit pupils will be above the mainstream published admission number (PAN). 4. There will be no change to the number of nursery places at the school. 5. The main intake point will be key stage transfer groups in Year R and Year 3 although, where there are spaces and demand, new children may be accepted in the school in non-key stage transfer groups. 6. All pupils placed at the SEN Unit by Surrey County Council would have an EHCP specifying the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.	If the proposal is approved, the works can commence, which will include a new bespoke building. This is due to be completed by September 2023 but temporary arrangements will be made if the works cannot be completed in time.

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Annex 2

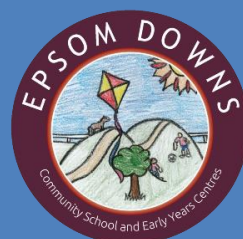
Portfolio	Approved Budget/ Pipeline	School	School Designation	Accommodation for Additional Places	Reprovided Places	Target Delivery date	Placement type	Planning	Project Type
Schools: SEND & AP	2023 Delivery Tranche: 15 Projects								
	Approved Budget	Meadhurst Primary School	ASD	18	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	N/A	Expansion of redesigned SEN Unit. Refurbishment and internal adaption of existing space.
	Approved Budget	Phillip Southcote School @ The Meads Post 16 (PART 1 (Delivered) & PART 2)	MLD	0	0	May-23	Special School	Permitted Development	External works (Post delivery of new accommodation for 30 places Sep 21). Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Portesbery School (PART 1)	SLD/ PMLD	8	8	Aug-23	Special School	Permitted Development	Decant, refurbishment and internal adaptations of existing space.
	Approved Budget	Freemantles School	Complex ASD	72	54	Oct-23	Special School	Determined	New build extension.
	Approved Budget	Woodfield School	MLD	60	0	Aug-23	Special School	Determined	New build extension. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Stepsgates Community School	SLCN	8	21	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Full Application	Rebuild and extension of existing SEN Unit on Nursery footprint.
	Approved Budget	Woodfield School @ Carrington School	MLD	40	0	Dec-23	Special School Satellite Site	Permitted Development	Refurbishment and internal adaption of existing space.
	Approved Budget	Dovers Green School	ASD	8	16	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	Refurbishment and new build extension of existing SEN Unit.
	Approved Budget	St Matthews C of E Primary School	ASD	13	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	New build extension of existing SEN Unit.
	Approved Budget	Hythe Primary School	ASD/MLD	16	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	Refurbishment of existing space and new build extension. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Phillip Southcote School @ Epsom & Ewell High School	MLD	20	0	Aug-23	Special School Satellite Site	Permitted Development	Refurbishment and internal adaption of existing space.
	Approved Budget	Woking High School	VI	8	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	New build extension of existing SEN Unit.
	Approved Budget	Brooklands College (PART 1)	ASD	30	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	Refurbishment and remodel of existing capacity. SDA with Brooklands College
	Approved Budget	Bramley Oak Academy (PART 1)	SEMH	0	61	Aug-23	Special School	Permitted Development	DfE & SCC suitability and conditions work prior to new build extension (Part 2). Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Epsom Downs Primary School	ASD	25	0	Aug-23	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	New Build modular unit
	TOTAL			326	160				
	Approved Budget/ Pipeline	Project	School Designation	Accommodation for Additional Places	Reprovided Places	Target Delivery date	Placement type	Planning	Project Type
	2024 Delivery Tranche: 20 Projects (1 DfE)								
	Approved Budget	The Abbey School	MLD	60	0	Jun-24	Special School	Determined	New build expansion
	Approved Budget	Ashford Park School	ASD	4	21	Apr-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	Permitted Development	Refurb & New Build extension. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Philip Southcote School (Main School campus)	MLD	26	24	Aug-24	Special School	Determined	New build extension. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Philip Southcote School Hydrotherapy Pool	MLD	0	0	Aug-24	Special School	Permitted Development	Rebuild on existing site
	Approved Budget	St Andrews C of E Primary School	MLD	20	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	N/A	Internal Refurb only
	Approved Budget	Fordway School	AP	24	21	Jan-24	Alternative Provision School	Full Application	Decant & New build extension
	Approved Budget	Three Rivers Academy	ASD	30	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	Full Application	Remodel & New build
	Approved Budget	Hopescourt School @ Thamesfield Farm South	ASD	200	0	Aug-24	Special School	Full Application	SCC New Special Free School
	Approved Budget	Bramley Oak Academy (PART 2)	SEMH	49	6	Aug-24	Special School	Full Application	New Build extension
	Approved Budget	Sunnydown School	ASD	40	0	Aug-24	Special School	Full Application	Refurb/ Remodel of existing capacity
	Approved Budget	St John the Baptist School	ASD	30	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	Full Application	New build
	Approved Budget	Portesbery School (PART 2)	SLD/ PMLD	25	0	Aug-24	Special School Satellite Site	Change of Use	Refurb/ Remodel (includes acquisition costs @£850k)
	Approved Budget	Woodlands School @ Bridgehead House	SLD/ PMLD	40	0	Jul-24	Special School Satellite Site	Full Application	Refurb & Internal Adaptions/ Demolish & Rebuild TBC
	Approved Budget	Matthew Arnold School	ASD	20	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	Likely Permitted Development	Refurb & Internal Adaptions
	Approved Budget	Pond Meadow School	SLD/ PMLD	40	0	Aug-24	Special School	Full Application	New build extension
	Approved Budget	Sponsor TBC	ASD	30	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	TBC	TBC, pending competitive process
	Approved Budget	Sponsor TBC	TBC	30	0	Aug-24	Mainstream SEN Unit	TBC	TBC, pending competitive process
	Approved Budget	Wey Valley College	AP	44	0	Aug-24	Alternative Provision School	Full Application	Decant, Refurb & New Build extension
	Approved Budget	Reigate Valley College @ Park Hall	AP	72	62	Dec-24	Alternative Provision School	Full Application	New Build on new site
	TOTAL			784	134				
	Approved Budget/ Pipeline	Project	School Designation	Accommodation for Additional Places	Reprovided Places	Target Delivery date	Placement type	Planning	Project Type
	2025/2026 Delivery Tranche: 16 Projects								
	Approved Budget	Thomas Knyvett College	ASD	24	0	Aug-25	Mainstream SEN Unit	Likely Permitted Development	Refurb & Internal Adaptions
	DfE CAPITAL	Betchwood Vale Academy	ASD	180	0	2025	Special School	Full Application	DfE New Special Free School
	Approved Budget	North West Short Stay School @ Land adjacent to Roe Valley	AP	40	24	Aug-25	Alternative Provision School	Full Application	New Build on new site
	Approved Budget	North East Short Stay School @Thamesfield Farm North	AP	60	45	May-25	Alternative Provision School	Full Application	New Build on new site
	Approved Budget	Manor Mead School @ Former Christ Church C of E Infant School, Virginia Water	ASD/SLD	0	60	Aug-25	Special School Satellite Site	Full Application	Refurb & New Build permanent expansion. Includes decant
	Approved Budget	Limpsfield Grange School (PART 1: Post 16)	ASD	40	0	Aug-25	Special School	Full Application	Remodel & New Build expansion
	Approved Budget	Limpsfield Grange School (PART 2: Pre 16)	ASD	50	0	Aug-25	Special School	Full Application	Remodel & New Build expansion. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Walton Leigh School @ Former Hurst Park Primary School site (PART 1)	SLD/ PMLD	60	0	Aug-25	Special School Satellite Site	Full Application	Refurb & Internal Adaptions/ Demolish & Rebuild TBC
	Approved Budget	Walton Leigh School (PART 2)	SLD/ PMLD	0	20	Aug-25	Special School	Permitted Development	Refurb & New Build of end of life modular
	Approved Budget	Gosden House School	MLD	62	0	Aug-25	Special School	Full Application	Remodel & New Build expansion. Includes decant.
	Approved Budget	Brooklands School @ Allingham Road (TBC)	ASD/SLD	36	0	Aug-25	Special School Satellite Site	Permitted Development	Refurb & External works
	Approved Budget	Guilford County School	ASD	25	0	Aug-25	Mainstream SEN Unit	TBC	TBC
	Approved Budget	Sponsor TBC	TBC	30	0	Aug-25	Mainstream SEN Unit	TBC	TBC
	Approved Budget	Brooklands College (PART 2)	ASD	60	0	Aug-25	FE SEN Unit	Full Application	New Build (as part of College Rebuild)
	Approved Budget	SEMH Free School North @ Lakeside Frimley	SEMH	170	0	Jul-26	New Special School	Full Application	New Special Free School
	TOTAL			837	149				

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Statutory Notice

Proposal to establish a New SEN
(Special Educational Needs) Unit at
Epsom Downs Primary School

March 2023



School Organisation Statutory Notice

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, as amended by the Education Act 2011 and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013, that Surrey County Council intends to make a significant change to Epsom Downs Primary School by establishing an ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorders) designated SEN Unit with 25 places.

Local Authority Details:

Local Authority	Surrey County Council
Address	Quadrant Court 35 Guildford Road Woking GU22 7QQ

School Details:

Name of School	Epsom Downs Primary School
Phase of School	Primary school
Type of School	Community school
URN	125127
Address	St Leonard's Road, Epsom Downs, Surrey
Postcode	KT18 5RJ

Introduction

This paper outlines a proposal for the development of places for primary age pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and who have autistic spectrum conditions (ASC) identified as their primary need. The processes and timescales are outlined below to establish a new ASD designated SEN Unit provision at Epsom Downs Primary School with 25 places. This document explains the proposed process and timescales to make this change to the school.

Proposal

In agreement with the school's Headteacher and Governing Body, Surrey County Council is proposing that Epsom Downs Primary School establish a new ASD designated SEN Unit with 25 places in total. All pupils placed by Surrey County Council in the SEN Unit will be autistic and/or have communication and interaction needs and will have an EHCP specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.

Table 1 shows the proposed timeline for the changes to take place from 1 September 2023. Dates and steps in the timeline may change based on the outcome of this consultation.

Table1: Proposed timeline

Phase	Date
Informal Consultation	Thursday 15 December 2022 – Friday 10 February 2023
Review of consultation responses	February 2023
Outcome of the consultation published on www.surreysays.co.uk	March 2023
Statutory notices	Wednesday 29 March 2023 – Wednesday 10 May 2023
Lead Cabinet Member Decision	30 May 2023
Implementation	1 September 2023

It is proposed that:

1. The new ASD designated unit will be for up to 25 autistic children and those with communication and interaction needs Years R to 6.
2. There will be no change to the mainstream published admission number (PAN) of 60.
3. The SEN Unit pupils will be above the mainstream published admission number (PAN).
4. There will be no change to the number of nursery places at the school.
5. The main intake point will be key stage transfer groups in Year R and Year 3 although, where there are spaces and demand, new children may be accepted in the school in non-key stage transfer groups.
6. All pupils placed at the SEN Unit by Surrey County Council would have an EHCP specifying the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs. Children who attend the SEN Unit will also be integrated into mainstream classes around 40-50% of the school day every day but withdrawn for specialist teaching in small groups, and for speech and language therapy. Further details on the admissions process for SEND specialist provision in Surrey can be found on the [Surrey Local Offer website](#). The document '[SEND admissions processes for referrals for specialist placement for school age children](#)' describes how this process works and is available on the Surrey County Council website.

Making Representations, Objections and Comments

1. This is a four week consultation which starts on Wednesday 29 March 2023 and concludes on Wednesday 10 May 2023.
2. A number of organisations are available locally to support families of children who have special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND) and young people who have SEND to share their views. Please see [Information, Advice and Support – SEND Advice Surrey](#)
3. Any person can make comments, agree, or object to the proposal by sending representations to the Local authority through the following channels:

Website	www.surreysays.co.uk
Email	schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk
Post	Peter Speers Education Place Planning Surrey County Council Quadrant Court 35 Guildford Road Woking GU22 7QQ

Background

Epsom Downs Primary School is a two-form entry (2FE) primary school in the borough of Reigate and Banstead in Surrey. The school was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2018.

Current Specialist Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision at the school

Epsom Downs Primary School is a primary school with a mainstream published admission number (PAN) of 60 with an overall mainstream capacity of 420 (excluding nursery). The proposed SEN Unit at the school will have 25 planned places for autistic children and those with communication and interaction difficulties and have an EHCP. There are 393 pupils currently on roll across the whole school plus 42 in nursery. **Table 2** shows the number of pupils on roll in each year group across the school.

Table 2: Number of Pupils on roll at Epsom Downs Primary School by National Curriculum Year (NCY) Group (provided by the school census, October 2022)

Number of pupils	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Mainstream school	60	48	59	59	60	53	54	393

Staff

The set up and running of the provision of the SEN unit within the school would be led and managed by a strong existing team with additional staff employed as the pupil numbers increase. All of the Unit staff will have specialist training and development. The Lead Teacher, in addition to her teaching qualification, will have additional specialist qualifications relevant to working with autistic children and those with communication and interaction needs. Both teachers and support staff will undertake a programme of training which keeps them up to date with all the specialist skills necessary for working with children with special educational needs/additional needs.

Curriculum

Unit staff will work closely with the mainstream class teachers so that each child will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that is personalised to meet their needs. Teachers will differentiate their learning to enable them to make progress. This may mean that there will be different levels of work set within a lesson, often at an individual level. The school day will be the same as the mainstream school.

The quality of teaching and learning in the centre will be overseen by a Lead Teacher and as part of the whole school monitoring programme. Training and learning for all staff will support the development of meaningful inclusion throughout the school. Targets from the Annual Reviews feed into termly target setting and then into daily planning.

More information about the school's vision and curriculum can be found on the school website: [Epsom Downs Primary School](#).

Pupils attending Epsom Downs Primary School would be in addition to the mainstream Published Admission Number (PAN) of the school, as there is an expectation that a minimum of 50% of the school day would be spent in the Unit. This would enable meaningful inclusion into the mainstream classes which is wholly individualised to the needs of the pupil. Some pupils may spend more time in the Unit than others and it would be the responsibility of the school to manage the specialist offer and inclusion levels in partnership with the parents and the local authority.

What do we want to achieve?

Surrey's SEND Capital Programme:

The SEND Capital Programme is aligned with Surrey's Community Vision 2030, and Surrey County Council's Cabinet endorsed new Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-2026, which sets out the ambition that all Surrey's children and young people with additional needs and disabilities are enabled to lead their best life.

There has been significant investment in additional state-maintained specialist school places in Surrey over the past four years to enable children and young people to be educated locally to their families. Our strong partnerships with local specialist and mainstream schools have enabled this to happen alongside robust forecasting of demand to understand what the profile of need will look like county-wide over the coming years.

Between 2019 and 2022 Cabinet approved the strategies and capital investment for four phases of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Capital Programme. With this investment the programme is aiming to deliver at least 2,440 permanent additional specialist school places in Surrey between 2019-2026 to create capacity for 5,760 state maintained specialist places to meet projected demand for up to 6,000 specialist places in total by 2030/31.

As of academic year 2022/23, Surrey's state-maintained specialist education estate has been increased by approximately 800 places, from around 3,320 in 2019 when the Capital programme started to around 4,000 places now. These specialist school places are almost full, noting that new places are being phased in and some of the existing accommodation needs to be re-provided as it is not fit for purpose.

Epsom Downs is a well-established community school with a good reputation. Pupils and families benefit from a well-established ethos, clear vision, values, and a skilled, innovative, energetic, and committed staff team with a strong record of providing high-quality education. This is a fantastic opportunity to extend that offer to a greater number of local Surrey pupils and their families.

Epsom Downs Primary School Vision

Epsom Downs Primary School has as its mission to enrich the lives of every child by providing engaging and transferable learning, cultural and life experiences. The nurture principles and school values underpin the development of all involved to reach full potential. Learning Together: Succeeding Forever involves:

- Enabling children to thrive in an inclusive, enriched environment
- Enabling staff to further develop their expertise through collaboration, support and challenge.
- Enabling all members of the community to work in partnership to ensure the best start in life for all children.

What will be provided through the creation of the new SEN Unit?

As part of Surrey's SEND Inclusion and Additional Needs Strategy 2023-2026, there are five key principles of transformation:

1. Children with additional needs and disabilities are identified earlier and supported in a timely and effective way in order to improve their outcomes and wellbeing.
2. There is an increased focus on earlier intervention and prevention to offer help and meet needs at the earliest opportunity, reducing the demand on high cost, high need interventions.
3. Children and young people are helped to become resilient and independent so that they can lead independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities.
4. The voices of our children, young people and families are heard so they can shape and inform how we work together to get the best results.
5. Surrey's early years settings, schools, colleges and other providers are able to support children to live, learn and grow up locally and achieve their full potential.

Reasons for creating a new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

Demand for SEN Unit provision in the South East of Surrey for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs is high. As a result, other specialist provisions in Surrey are operating at or above capacity. The provision of an additional SEN Unit offering 25 places will help support local families who would otherwise have to travel further afield. This will increase availability of specialist school places that are matched appropriately to need-type, phases of education and geographic location, as well as reduce home to school journey times and associated costs.

Demand for specialist unit places in Surrey

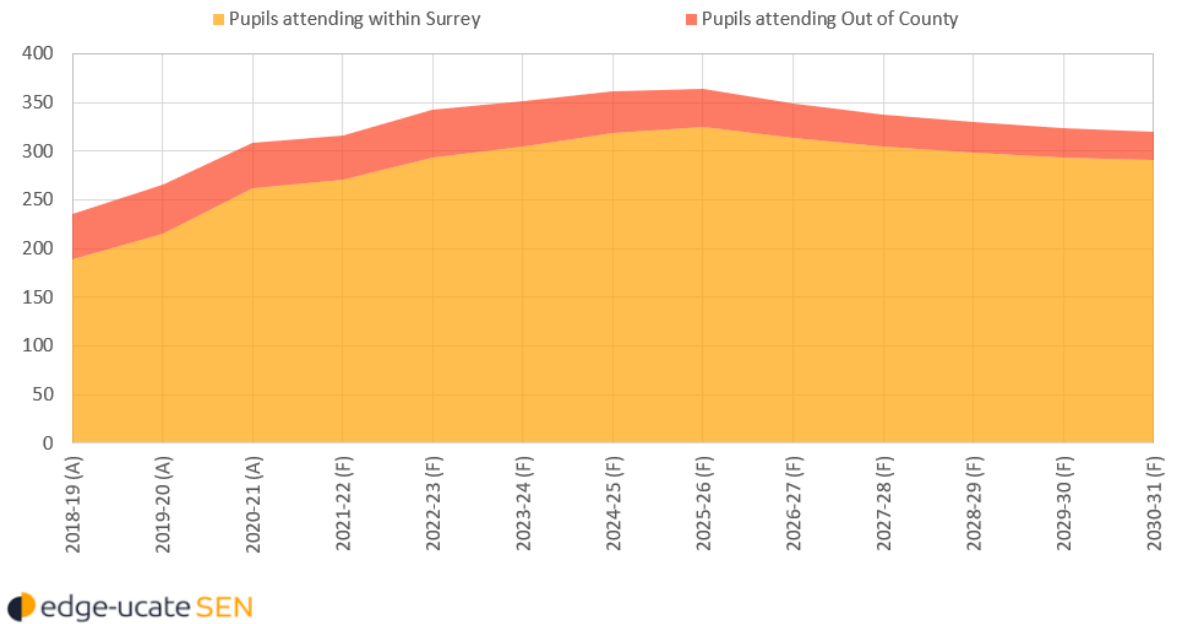
Demand data for both special schools and SEN Units is included in the graphs below. There are fewer SEND unit places than special school places and pupils tend to attend SEN units closer to home. Where SEN unit places are not available, autistic pupils and those with communication & interaction needs may be placed out of the county in non-maintained independent schools. Therefore, the data shown below is forecasting the number of pupils who need a specialist place either in a SEN unit or specialist school.

In the academic year 2020-2021, 1190 of Surrey resident pupils aged 4-11 years old who are autistic or have communication & interaction needs attended SEN units or specialist schools. 13% of this cohort were placed out of county due to a lack of placement availability in Surrey. Latest sufficiency modelling projects growth of 15% from 1190 in 2020-21 to 1368 in 2025-2026.

Due to the location of the school being close to the border of the north-east quadrant of Surrey, it is reasonable to expect that pupils may attend the SEN Unit from both the south-east and north-east quadrants. Therefore, the data below has been provided for both.

Graph 1 shows that south-east projections indicate 18 % growth in the total number of autistic pupils and those with communication & interaction needs, with EHCPs who need a specialist school or SEN unit place from 2020-21 (309) to the peak in 2025-26 (364).

Graph 1: Number of autistic pupils living in south-east Surrey with an EHCP who need a specialist or SEN Unit place.



Graph 2 shows that north-east projections indicate 17% growth in the total number of autistic pupils and those with communication & interaction needs, with EHCPs who need a specialist school or SEND unit place from 2020-21 (309) to the peak in 2023-24 (363), with 12% growth remaining in 2025/26 (345).

Graph 2: Number of autistic pupils living in north-east Surrey with an EHCP who need a specialist or SEN Unit place.

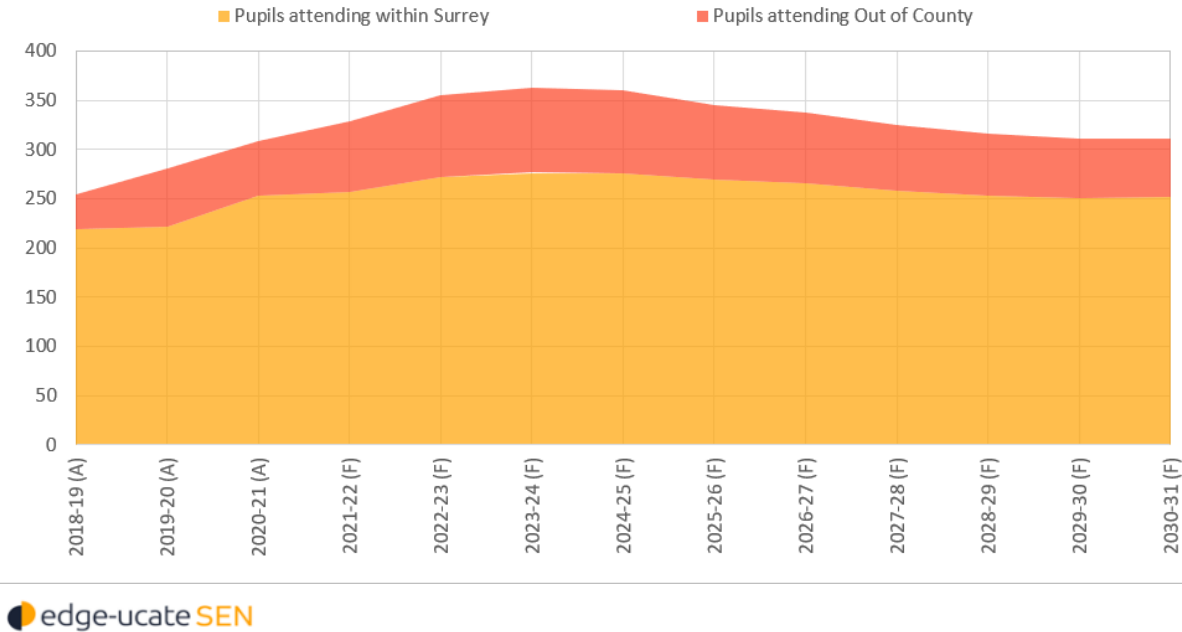


Table 3: SE and NE quadrant resident autistic pupils or those with communication and interaction needs in Years R-6 who attend specialist units and projected demand for additional places in 2024-25 and 2030-31

District or Borough	Actuals 2020-21	Projected demand for places in 2024-2025	Projected growth from 2020-21 to 2024-2025	Projected demand for places in 2030-2031	Projected growth from 2020-2021 to 2030-31
South East	43	66	53%	61	42%
North East	52	47	-10%	47	-10%
Rest of Surrey	80	94	18%	101	26%



This data illustrates the projected demand for additional specialist unit places in and across Surrey over the next ten years. The South East of Surrey is forecast to have the highest percentage growth over the forecast period. There is a small forecast decrease for specialist places needed in North East Surrey and a smaller increase in demand for specialist ASD SEN Unit placements across the rest of Surrey.

ASD-Designation SEN Unit provision in Surrey

More details of our specialist unit provision can be found in the booklet “Finding the right primary school in Surrey” on the [Surrey Local Offer website](#).

Table 4 provides a summary of SEN Unit designated to meet the needs of autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs.

Table 4: ASD designated SEN Units in Surrey primary phase schools (NE and SE)

School	District	Planned Places	Age Range	Occupancy as of Sept 2021	Planned Expansion under Surrey's SEND Capital Programme
Ashford Park Primary School	Spelthorne (NE)	25	Primary 4-11 years	92%	Planned redesignation to ASD
Bell Farm Primary School	Elmbridge (NE)	21	Primary 3-11 years	86%	N/A
Chandler's Field Primary School	Elmbridge (NE)	20	Primary 4-11 years	100%	Growing to capacity of 25 places by 2024/25
Cuddington Community Primary	Epsom & Ewell (NE)	14	Primary 4-11 years	100%	N/A
Eastwick Infant Academy	Mole Valley (SE)	22	Infant 4-7 years	100%	N/A
Eastwick Junior Academy	Mole Valley (SE)	22	Junior 7-11 years	100%	N/A
Epsom Primary & Nursery School	Epsom & Ewell (NE)	12	Primary 4-11 years	100%	Expanding by 21 places
Meadhurst Primary School	Spelthorne (NE)	20	Primary 3-11 years	95%	Expanding by 18 places
St Matthew's C/E Primary School	Reigate & Banstead (SE)	16	Junior 7-11 years	100%	Planned expansion by 13 places

Key Outcomes and Benefits

Expanding sufficient and sustainable specialist primary school provision in Reigate and Banstead will provide local children who have additional needs and disabilities and their families with:

- Enhanced opportunities to be better connected to the local communities where they live.
- Greater choice and control so that children and young people who have additional needs and disabilities can attend their nearest, most appropriate school closer to home, as local pupils who do not have additional needs and disabilities do.
- Availability of specialist school places that are matched appropriately to children and young people's need-type, phases of education and geographic location.
- Reduced travel time between home and specialist school provision so they can play an integral part in their local communities. This also maximises opportunities for developing independent travel skills, which in the medium to long term will reduce local congestion and traffic flow around school sites.
- More opportunities to be educated by local specialist providers and supported by local family-oriented support services, who have the expertise, which enables better long-term outcomes, so they are fully prepared for adulthood.

An Equality Impact Assessment is being completed throughout the consultation process and will be published as part of the Lead Cabinet Member Decision Meeting.

Implementation Plan

Finance and Resourcing

Revenue income: Epsom Downs Primary School will receive £6,000 per pupil per year for each agreed planned place commissioned (25 places). The school will also receive a "top up" sum for each pupil on roll at the SEN Unit, appropriate to the needs of individual children.

Staffing

Epsom Downs Primary School will continue to employ staff at their current site.

Capital planning and buildings

The capital project is part of Phase 4 of the SEND Capital Programme agreed by Surrey County Council Cabinet on 25 January 2022. A feasibility study informed modular extension requirements and to existing space on the school site to accommodate the SEN Unit. Capital works will be funded by Surrey County Council.

Growth Model

The proposed expansion of Epsom Downs Primary School's SEN Unit will provide additional primary places (Years R to 6) for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs. The Unit will deliver an additional 25 places starting with a first cohort in September 2023.

Table 5: Growth model for the SEN unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
2023/24	3	3	0	4	0	0	0	10
2024/25	3	3	3	4	4	0	0	17
2025/26	3	3	3	4	4	4	0	21
2026/27	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	25

Consultations, approvals and overall timescales

1. It is proposed that the expansion commences from 1 September 2023. The proposed expansion requires a period of consultation, the publication of Statutory Notices and the agreement of Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Learning if the proposal is to proceed.
2. The first stage of consultation was open Thursday 15 December 2022 – Friday 10 February 2023. During this period the Surrey County Council shared proposals with the wider professional network, schools including headteachers and chairs of governors, with unions, parent representatives, partner agencies and with the staff and parents of the school subject to the proposals. The associated documentation was published on the Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.
3. The consultation analysis is published at www.surreysays.co.uk on the Statutory Notice webpage alongside this document.

Key points from the consultation responses:

- There were 14 responses to the consultation.
 - Of those, **13 agreed with the proposal** to open the SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School.
 - Respondents commented on the **positive** impacts for children and young people and the school and the clear need for this type of provision.
 - The one respondent who did not agree cited a lack of space, impact on existing children and pressure on staff.
4. Statutory Notice is now open for a four-week period from Wednesday 29 March 2023 to Wednesday 10 May 2023. The publication of Notices is when the local authority formally states that it intends to implement the proposed changes. This will be the final opportunity for consultees to make their views known before a final decision is taken. Following the consultation period officers will summarise the feedback and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning.

What happens next?

You can make representations, objections and comments using the online form at www.surreysays.co.uk. Alternatively, you can respond by email or post at the addresses given below:

FAO Peter Speers
SEND Epsom Downs Primary School
Education Place Planning
Quadrant Court
35 Guildford Road
Woking
GU22 7QQ

Email: schoolorg@surreycc.gov.uk with the subject: FAO Epsom Downs Specialist Unit Proposal

Annex 5 - Summary of consultation responses

The table below is a summary of the consultations for the proposals. A full consultation analysis is available for each of the proposals. All consultation documents can be accessed at www.surreysays.co.uk by searching the name of the school.

Name of School	Informal Consultation Dates	Total no. of responses	Quantitative Analysis		Qualitative Analysis themes) (List of key themes)	Public Meeting	Statutory Notice publication dates	Total no. of responses	Quantitative Analysis		Qualitative Responses (List of key themes)
Epsom Downs Primary School	15 December 2022 - 10 February 2023	14	<div><div></div></div> 93%	agree	1. Need for more specialist places 2. Impact on existing provision at the school	A public meeting was held online for 12 January 2023.	29 March - 10 May 2023	35	<div><div></div></div> 80%	agree	1. There is a clear need for more specialist places 2. Epsom Downs is very well placed to provide a SEN Unit 3. Risk of negative impact on existing school 4. Potential issues with pick up / drop off
			<div><div></div></div> 7%	disagree					<div><div></div></div> 17%	disagree	
			<div><div></div></div> 0%	don't know					<div><div></div></div> 3%	don't know	

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Equality Impact Assessment for the Proposal to expand the existing SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School

Did you use the EIA Screening Tool?

Yes

1. Explaining the matter being assessed

This is a:

- A change to a service or function

Epsom Downs Primary School is a two-form entry (2FE) primary school in the borough of Reigate and Banstead in Surrey. The school was rated 'Good' by Ofsted in December 2018.

In agreement with the school's Headteacher and Governing Body, Surrey County Council is proposing that Epsom Downs Primary School opens a new ASD-designated SEN Unit with 25 places in total. All pupils placed by Surrey County Council in the SEN Unit will have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and will have an EHCP specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.

The proposal will impact:

- Pupils currently attending Epsom Downs Primary School
- Staff at Epsom Downs Primary School
- Parents and families of pupils currently attending Epsom Downs Primary School or likely to attend the school in the future.

How does your service proposal support the outcomes in [the Community Vision for Surrey 2030](#)?

- Children and young people are safe and feel safe and confident
- Everyone benefits from education skills and employment opportunities that help them succeed in life
- Communities are welcoming and supportive, especially of those most in need, and people feel able to contribute to community life

Are there any specific geographies in Surrey where this will make an impact?

- Reigate and Banstead

Assessment team

Detail here who you have involved with completing this EIA:

- Rachael Wardell, Surrey County Council, Executive Director Children Families and Learning
- Liz Mills, Surrey County Council, Director of Education and Learning
- Mike Singleton, Surrey County Council, Service Manager, Education Place Planning
- Emily George, Surrey County Council, Assistant Director, SEND Transformation
- Emilie Williams Jones, Surrey County Council, Programme Manager SEND Capital Programme
- Peter Speers, Surrey County Council, Commissioning Manager, Education Place Planning
- Anya Salisbury, Epsom Downs Primary School, Headteacher
- Surrey County Council Capital Programme Board

Consultation Information:

Surrey County Council and Epsom Downs Primary School consulted on the proposal to open a new ASD-designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School with 25 places in total.

The aim of the consultation was to seek views on the proposal from all interested parties, particularly from pupils and their families who attend Epsom Downs Primary School, pupils and their families who may attend the school in the future, and the views of the local community.

The informal consultation was open from Thursday 15 December to Friday 10 February 2023. The associated documentation was published on the [Surrey County Council 'Surrey Says' website](#) and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

There were 14 responses to the consultation. 93% of respondents agreed with the proposal to open the SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School.

A public meeting was held on 12 January 2023 at 6pm.

Statutory Notices were published from 29 March – 10 May 2023. The associated documentation was published on the [SurreySays Website](#) and circulated to local stakeholders. Interested parties were invited to return responses to the consultation via an online form or alternatively email or post responses.

During this period 35 responses were received, of which 80% were in favour of opening the SEN Unit.

2. Service Users / Residents

Who may be affected by this activity?

There are 9 protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010) considered in the proposal. These are:

1. Age including younger and older people
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Pregnancy and maternity
5. Race including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
6. Religion or belief including lack of belief
7. Sex
8. Sexual orientation
9. Marriage/civil partnerships

Though not included in the Equality Act 2010, Surrey County Council recognises that there are other vulnerable groups which significantly contribute to inequality across the county and therefore they should also be considered within EIAs. If relevant, you will need to include information on the following vulnerable groups:

- Members/Ex members of armed forces
- Adult and young carers*
- Those experiencing digital exclusion*
- Those experiencing domestic abuse*
- Those with education/training (literacy) needs
- Those experiencing homelessness*
- Looked after children/Care leavers*
- Those living in rural/urban areas
- Those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage*
- Out of work young people)*
- Adults with learning disabilities and/or autism*
- People with drug or alcohol use issues*
- People on probation
- People in prison
- Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers
- Sex workers
- Children with Special educational needs and disabilities*
- Adults with long term health conditions, disabilities (including SMI) and/or sensory impairment(s)*
- Older People in care homes*
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities*
- Other (describe below)

(*as identified in the Surrey COVID Community Impact Assessment and the Surrey Health and Well-being Strategy)

Impacts have been identified under the protected characteristics **Age including younger and older people** and **Disability**. The following vulnerable groups have also been identified, **Children with Special educational needs and disabilities** and **those experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage**.

Equality Impact Assessment

Disability

(Including Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Adult and Young carers)

Pupils at the school

There are 393 pupils currently on roll at Epsom Downs Primary School (October 2022 School Census)

Table 1: Number of Pupils on roll at Epsom Downs Primary School by National Curriculum Year (NCY) Group

Number of pupils	Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total
Mainstream school	30	29	30	30	30	30	31	210

(3 spaces in SLCN unit – 1 in Reception, 1 in Year 1, 1 in Year 2 February 2023)

Pupils who may attend the school in the future

The proposal is to open a new ASD-designated SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School with 25 places in total. All pupils placed by Surrey County Council in the SEN Unit will have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and will have an EHCP specifying the specialist provision within the school as an appropriate placement to meet their individual needs.

The specialist unit at Epsom Downs Primary School will cater for children from across South East Surrey with a smaller number likely to come from the North East of the county.

The number of children living in the South East of Surrey with an EHCP in Years R to 6 with a primary need of ASD has increased by 26% since 2018. Latest sufficiency modelling projects growth of 41% by 2025-2026, along with a 13% shortage of specialist unit places within this timescale.

Graph 1 illustrates that the demand for specialist unit places for pupils with a primary need for ASD in Years R-6 will peak in 2024-2025. This is then followed by a forecast small decrease in the number of specialist unit ASD places required by 2030-2031. This follows the county-wide demographic trend as pupils born at the peak in 2012 will be leaving the primary sector.

Equality Impact Assessment

Graph 1: Demand for specialist unit places from children in South East Surrey with an EHCP in Years R-6 and a primary need of SLCN

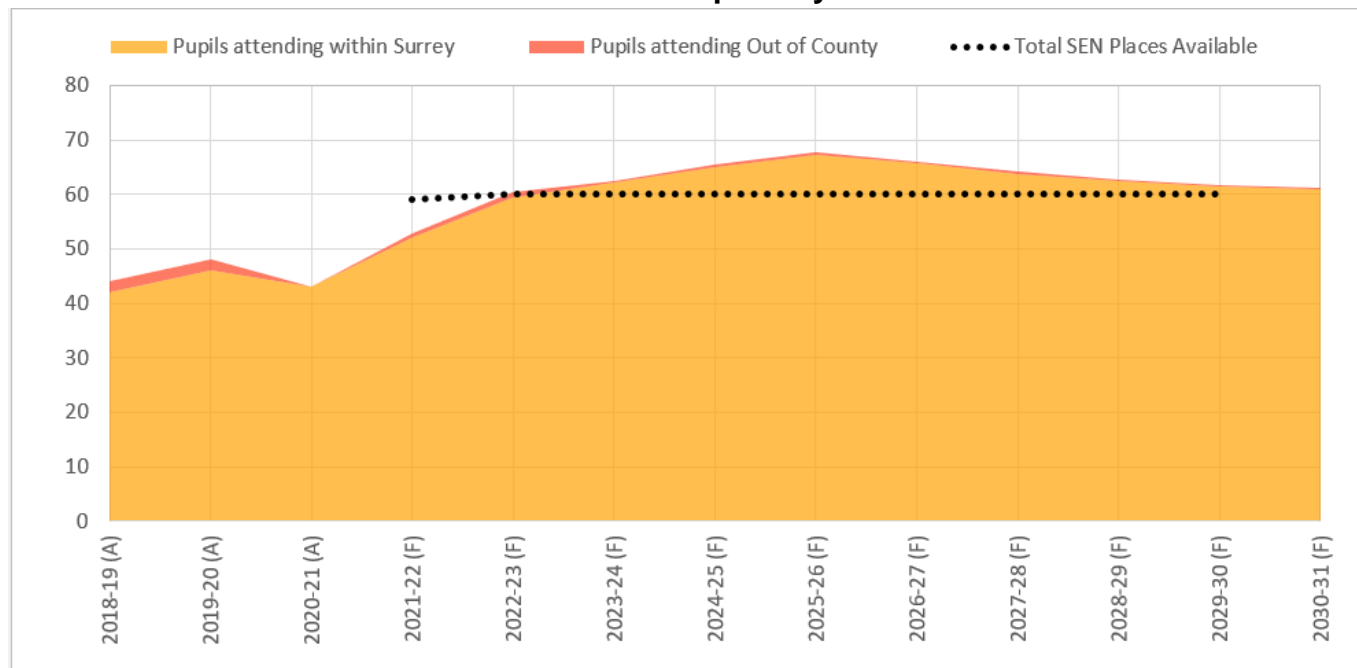


Table 2: NW and NE quadrant residents in Years R-6 who attend specialist units with ASD identified as their primary need and projected demand for additional places in 2025-26 and 2030-31

District or Borough	Actuals 2020-21	Projected demand for places in 2025-2026	Projected growth from 2020-21 to 2025-2026	Projected demand for places in 2030-2031	Projected growth from 2020-2021 to 2030-31
South East	43	66	53%	61	42%
North East	51	46	-10%	46	-10%
Rest of Surrey	81	100	23%	102	26%



This data illustrates the projected demand for additional specialist unit places in and across Surrey over the next ten years. The South East of Surrey is forecast to have the highest percentage growth over the forecast period. There is a forecast decrease for specialist places needed in North East Surrey and a smaller demand for specialist ASD unit placements across the rest of Surrey.

Equality Impact Assessment

Positive Impacts:

- The new SEN Unit will provide specialist education for autistic pupils and those with communication and interaction needs who would also benefit from being part of a wider mainstream school community.
- A school place that is closer to home will positively impact students, parents and carers who will have the opportunity to be part of a school community closer to home as well as reducing potential travel time for centre pupils and their families.

The Report to Surrey County Council on 25 January 2022 [Developing Local Special Educational Needs And Disability \(Send\) Provision In Surrey To Meet Demand From 2023/24 Onwards](#) outlines the delivery of additional specialist school places and intended benefits to Surrey's children, young people and residents:

1. Benefits realisation ensures Surrey's maintained specialist education provision is fit for purpose and creates additional employment/supported internship opportunities for residents around areas of expansion.
2. Children, young people, and families can access the same level of high-quality support wherever they live in Surrey. We have a good, shared understanding of our children and young people who have SEND in Surrey and our support offer matches their identified needs.
3. Expanding Surrey's specialist provision aligns with the Preparation for Adulthood programme and strategy for Post-16 to create local further education and employment pathways such as apprenticeships and supported internships. This enables young people who have SEND to make a successful transition to adulthood and secure employment.
4. Capacity created locally will also make certain that SEND home to school transport distance and costs are reduced so that pupils attend their closest most appropriate school with shorter journey times. Opportunities for developing independent travel skills can be maximised as a result of children and young people being educated closer to home. This will also address local congestion around school sites as well as traffic flow around the county, which will be of benefit to Surrey's Green Agenda
5. The distribution and occupancy of current Specialist Schools and SEN Units in mainstream schools clearly illustrates that there is insufficient provision of Autism and Communication & Social Interaction Needs, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Social Emotional Mental Health Needs Special places.
6. The approved remodification and expansion programme will ensure that additional places are matched appropriately to need type, phases of education and geographic locations.

Equality Impact Assessment

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

The proposal to open a new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School is part of the strategy developed by Surrey County Council to expand the specialist education estate by more than 2,300 places to meet projected demand in the long-term.

SEND Capital Programme Cabinet Report 25 January 2022:

[Developing Local Special Educational Needs and Disability \(Send\) Provision in Surrey to Meet Demand From 2023/24 Onwards](#)

Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

No

Equality Impact Assessment

Age including younger and older people

The proposal positively impacts pupils with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) aged 4 years to 11 years old, who require a specialist school place with access to inclusion in a mainstream school.

Describe here suggested mitigations to inform the actions needed to reduce inequalities.

N/A

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

The proposed expansions of the SEN Units at Dovers Green School and St Matthew's Primary School are part of the strategy developed by Surrey County Council to expand the specialist education estate by more than 2,300 places to meet projected demand in the long-term.

SEND Capital Programme Cabinet Report 25 January 2022:

[Developing Local Special Educational Needs and Disability \(Send\) Provision in Surrey to Meet Demand From 2023/24 Onwards](#)

Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

No

Equality Impact Assessment

Socio economic disadvantage

[The Indices of deprivation 2019](#) finds that 2 out of 53 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Runnymede are between 20% - 30% most deprived area in the country. 11 out of 53 areas are more deprived than 50% of England. 7 out of 53 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOA) in Runnymede are in the least deprived 10% in the country, however there are pockets of deprivation in the borough.

Positive impact: More families will be able to access specialist provision closer to home.

Describe here suggested mitigations to inform the actions needed to reduce inequalities.

Placements co-ordinated through the SEND admissions process will place pupils at the appropriate placement identified through the Education Health and Care Plan. Additional local places will mean more pupils will be able to attend provision local to home.

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

The proposed opening of a new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School is part of the strategy developed by Surrey County Council to expand the specialist education estate by more than 2,300 places to meet projected demand in the long-term.

SEND Capital Programme Cabinet Report 25 January 2022:

[Developing Local Special Educational Needs and Disability \(Send\) Provision in Surrey to Meet Demand From 2023/24 Onwards](#)

Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

No

Equality Impact Assessment

3. Staff

Any impacts for staff with protected characteristics will be considered by the Governing Body of Epsom Downs Primary School.

Positive impact: Development opportunities for staff with the opening of a SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School.

Describe here suggested mitigations to inform the actions needed to reduce inequalities.

Communication and consultation with staff throughout the decision-making process.

What other changes is the council planning/already in place that may affect the same groups of residents? Are there any dependencies decision makers need to be aware of?

The proposed new SEN Unit at Epsom Downs Primary School is part of the strategy developed by Surrey County Council to expand the specialist education estate by more than 2,300 places to meet projected demand in the long-term.

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Any negative impacts that cannot be mitigated?

No.

4. Recommendation

Based your assessment, please indicate which course of action you are recommending to decision makers. You should explain your recommendation below.

- **Outcome One: No major change to the policy/service/function required.** This EIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact, and all opportunities to promote equality have been undertaken
- **Outcome Two: Adjust the policy/service/function** to remove barriers identified by the EIA or better advance equality. Are you satisfied that the proposed adjustments will remove the barriers you identified?
- **Outcome Three: Continue the policy/service/function** despite potential for negative impact or missed opportunities to advance equality identified. You will need to make sure the EIA clearly sets out the justifications for continuing with it. You need to consider whether there are:
 - Sufficient plans to stop or minimise the negative impact
 - Mitigating actions for any remaining negative impacts plans to monitor the actual impact.
- **Outcome Four: Stop and rethink the policy** when the EIA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. (For guidance on what is unlawful discrimination, refer to the [Equality and Human Rights Commission's guidance and Codes of Practice on the Equality Act](#) concerning employment, goods and services and equal pay).

Recommended outcome:

- **Outcome One: No major change to the policy/service/function required.** This EIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact, and all opportunities to promote equality have been undertaken.

Explanation:

No negative equalities impacts have been identified.

5. Action plan and monitoring arrangements

There is no current action plan as no negative impacts have been identified

6a. Version control

Version Number	Purpose/Change	Author	Date
0.1	Draft	Peter Speers	14 Dec 2022
0.2	Amendments to draft at end of Informal Consultation	Peter Speers	11 Feb 2023
0.3	Final draft at the end of the Statutory Notice period	Peter Speers	11 May 2023
1	Final version for Cabinet Member of Education and Learning Decision Meeting	Peter Speers	19 May 2023

6b. Approval

Secure approval from the appropriate level of management based on nature of issue and scale of change being assessed.

Approved by	Date approved
Head of Service - Liz Mills	
Executive Director – Rachael Wardell	
Cabinet Member – Clare Curran	
Directorate Equality Group – Liz Mills	

EIA author: Lauren Comer, Commissioning Manager, Education Place Planning

6c. EIA Team

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Team Role
Peter Speers	Commissioning Manager	SCC	Author, Project Manager
Emilie Williams Jones	Programme Manager, SEND Capital Programme	SCC	Programme Manager
Anya Salisbury	Headteacher	Epsom Downs Primary School	Service Expert
Liz Mills	Director of Education and Learning	SCC	Sponsor

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, on CD or in another language please contact us on:

Tel: 03456 009 009

Textphone (via Text Relay): 18001 03456 009 009

SMS: 07860 053 465

Email: contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk