

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 17 DECEMBER 2013****REPORT OF: MR TONY SAMUELS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS AND REGENERATION PROGRAMMES****MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****LEAD OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
PETER JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****SUBJECT SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAMME FROM SEPTEMBER 2014****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

There is significant demand for new schools places within Surrey, resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into Surrey County Council, which are addressed through Surrey County Council's five year 2013-18 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Queen Eleanor's, Wonersh and Shamley Green, Grayswood, St Bartholomew's, Holmesdale and Brookwood schools have been identified within the programme as requiring expansion through the provision of permanent adaptations and additions to their existing facilities, in order to meet the demand in the Guildford, Haslemere, Reigate and Woking areas.

Approval is sought for the individual business cases for expansion and to create an additional 720 new places at the following schools to meet the above demand.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the expansion of the following schools to create a total of 720 new places, as detailed in this report, be agreed in principle subject to the consideration and approval of the detailed financial information for each school as set out in Part 2 of this agenda (agenda item 17):

- (i) Queen Eleanor's Junior School (Increase by 120 places to 420 places)
- (ii) Wonersh and Shamley Green Primary School (Increase by 120 places to 210 places)
- (iii) Grayswood Infant School (Increase by 120 places to 210 places)
- (iv) St Bartholomew's Primary (Increase by 60 places to 420 places)
- (v) Holmesdale Infant School (Increase by 90 places to 360)
- (vi) Brookwood Primary School (Increase by 210 places to 420)

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The schemes deliver a value for money expansion to the schools, which supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places for local children in Surrey. The individual projects and building works are in accordance with the planned timetables required for delivery of the new accommodation at each school.

DETAILS:

Background

Queen Eleanor's - Increase by 120 places to 420

1. Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School is in the South Guildford primary planning area. It is a popular school that serves communities mainly in the Onslow Village area, but also further afield in the Guildford Town wider area.
2. Numbers of primary children in the wider area have been increasing over the years, and are continuing to increase. Additional permanent primary provision has been provided in other parts of Guildford Town, but not yet in the South Guildford area.
3. Owing to demand for places, Surrey County Council is providing an additional 'bulge' class at Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School for September 2013 and there is a need to provide facilities for the permanent expansion through the provision of a single storey 4 classroom block and associated facilities.
4. Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School is successful and popular school and it is entirely appropriate to expand the provision there.

Wonersh and Shamley Green - Increase by 120 places to 210

5. Wonersh and Shamley Green Church of England Infant School is a small school that serves the communities in the north of the Cranleigh primary planning area. Most of the Year 2 children in this area, including from Wonersh and Shamley Green Church of England Infant School, primarily progress onto Tillingbourne Junior Schools in the adjacent Tillingbourne Valley planning area.
6. Numbers of primary children in the wider area are increasing and there are fewer junior places than infant places, leading to a shortage of junior places. This demand for additional junior places could be met by Wonersh and Shamley Green Church of England Infant School becoming a primary school.
7. The scheme will deliver a new teaching block, together with the upgrading of an existing temporary building to permanent facility with associated infrastructure improvement.
8. Wonersh and Shamley Green Church of England Infant School is an outstanding school and it is entirely appropriate to expand the provision there.

Grayswood Infant – Increase by 120 places to 210

9. There is an increasing demand for infant places in Haslemere and Hindhead. This demand will result in a shortage of junior places in September 2015. Grayswood Church of England Infant School is one of the schools that has been identified for expansion to meet the need for places in the local area. It is proposed that the school will expand from a one form entry (1FE) infant school with 90 places to become a 1FE primary school with 210 places.
10. Grayswood Church of England Infant School is an outstanding school and it is entirely appropriate to expand successful and popular schools in line with government policy. In addition, a village primary school would serve the local community by securing long term local education for local children and would reduce travel movements as junior age children would not need to be transported to other schools.

St Bartholomew's – Increase by 60 places to 420

11. There is an increasing demand for infant places in the Haslemere and Hindhead planning area. There are not enough permanent primary places in the area.
12. St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School is one of the schools that have been identified for expansion. It is proposed that the school will expand to become a two form entry (2 FE) primary school with 420 places; the school currently has 375 places (1.5 FE at infant phase, 2 FE at junior phase).
13. The proposed scheme will deliver new group rooms, offices, and storage, pupil and staff facilities, together with a remodelling of the hall.
14. St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School is an outstanding school and it is entirely appropriate to expand successful and popular schools in line with government policy.

Holmesdale Infant School – Increase by 90 places to 360

15. Retaining and expanding provision of the number of spaces within Reigate and Banstead is vital in ensuring that Surrey County Council performs its statutory duty of educating all pupils who request a school place.
16. This area and the wider Reigate area have seen a significant increase in parental demand for school places reflecting both migration into the area and an increase in the local birth rate.
17. Holmesdale Community Infant School is currently a 3FE infant school with 26 FTE nursery places in addition.
18. The proposal is to expand the school by one form of entry, increasing the capacity by 90 places to 360 places (3 year groups of 120 pupils).
19. Holmesdale has been asked to take a bulge class in each of the last three years and temporary accommodation, in the form of demountable classrooms, was provided under temporary planning approval to accommodate these children, because of this the school has a sufficient amount of classroom teaching spaces for a 4FE infant school. The proposal is to clad and enhance the demountable buildings installed in recent years to become part of the permanent expansion.

and to gain permanent planning approval. In addition existing areas such as the hall, the kitchen and the office accommodation which are insufficient for a school of this size will be enlarged.

Brookwood Primary School – Increase by 210 places to 420

20. There is currently a considerable pressure for primary school places in Woking. In addition to the demand generated by an increasing birth rate, there is a need to provide more school places in the Borough as a result of additional housing and increasing numbers of families returning to Pirbright Barracks as part of the Ministry of Defence's rebasing plan.
21. The proposal is to expand Brookwood Primary School from a one form entry primary school (capacity of 210 pupils) to two forms of entry (capacity of 420 pupils) by building a junior school building on a new site adjacent to the new Brookwood Farm housing development. Infant children would operate from the existing primary school site and junior age children would be located in new accommodation on the new site.
22. Following discussions with Woking Borough Council, an area of land adjacent to the new Cala Homes Housing Development has been identified as a suitable location for the new school building for junior age children. The land will be transferred by Woking Borough Council into the ownership of Surrey County Council.
23. The building will comprise 8 classrooms. There will be suitable WC and cloak provision, a hall space with dining facilities, a kitchen, a staff room, suitable office accommodation and a practical room. Externally we have allowed for a car park, playing fields, playgrounds, fencing, a habitat area and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).
24. In order to ensure continuity and operational efficiency between the Infant and Junior School buildings, Property have worked closely with the Countryside Access team to design a secure lighted footpath and a small swing bridge across the canal to link the two sites.
25. The creation of this link is vital for parents with siblings based in either the infant or junior buildings, reducing local traffic and highway pressures, by encouraging parents to walk and not drive the circuitous route between the two buildings.
26. The external playing fields will be made available for out of hours community sports use, by arrangement between the School and Woking Borough Council.

CONSULTATION:

27. Full statutory consultation for a prescribed alteration has taken place, where required. The following were consulted: the governing bodies of the Schools; the families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the schools; the trade unions who represent staff in Surrey schools; all primary schools in the Boroughs; the local MP; the local Surrey County Council members; local borough councillors; Surrey County Council Early Years and Childcare Service.
28. Local consultations have taken place for each proposal. These consultations have included; the governing body of the school; the families of pupils, teachers

and other staff at the school; secondary schools in the Borough and District; the local Surrey County Council Members.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

29. Risks associated with the projects are identified in the individual project business cases and a risk register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis for each.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

30. The schemes will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as they progress.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

31. The Section 151 Officer has included comment on each of the individual scheme reports, as the financial and business issues differ depending on the scheme.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

32. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient primary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, Surrey County Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools or providing primary and secondary education are available in its area. There is a legal duty on Surrey County Council therefore to secure the availability of efficient education in its area and sufficient schools to enable this.

Equalities and Diversity

33. The new classroom buildings will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The newly expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
34. The schools will be for children in the community served by the school. If there is sufficient provision available, then it would be beneficial for all children, including vulnerable children.
35. The schools will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to provide the normal range of before and after schools clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

36. This proposal would provide increased provision in the area, which would be of benefit to all in the community served by the school. This means it would therefore also be of benefit to any looked after children who will attend the school.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

37. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The Schools will be built to the local planning authorities adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

38. If approved, the expansions will proceed to contract award with a continued focus on driving value for money.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

- Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services
- Denise Le Gal, Cabinet Member for Business Services
- Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager, Business Services
- David Goodwin, Local Member for Guildford South West (Project at Queen Eleanor's)
- Mrs Victoria Young, Local Member for Waverley Eastern Villages (Project at Womersley and Shamley Green)
- Nikki Barton, Local Member for Haslemere (Projects at Grayswood and St Bartholomew's)
- Barbara Thompson, Local Member for Earlswood and Reigate South (Project at Holmesdale)
- Linda Kemeny, Local Member for Woking South West (Project at Brookwood)

Annexes:

Part 2 report and annexes attached as agenda item 17

Sources/background papers:

- The Education Act 1996
 - The School Standards Framework Act 1998
 - The Education Act 2002
 - The Education and Inspections Act 2006
 - Report to Cabinet: Schools Capital Budget Allocations 2010-2014 – 30 March 2010
 - Investment Panel: Report 28 September 2010
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