

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2015****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF LYNE AND LONGCROSS CHURCH OF ENGLAND INFANT SCHOOL FROM A ONE FORM ENTRY INFANT SCHOOL TO A ONE FORM ENTRY PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM SEPTEMBER 2015****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

There is increasing pressure for primary school places in Runnymede. 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 net inward migration. The Governing Body of Lyne and Longcross Church of England Infant School has recently consulted on the proposed expansion of the school to a primary school from September 2015 and determined to publish statutory notices on their intention to proceed with the proposal. It is for the Cabinet Member to consider any representations to the notices before a final decision is made.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning approve to implement the proposal to expand the school as set out in the statutory notices.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Surrey. Demand for school places has increased significantly in Runnymede in recent years and the Local Authority has commissioned projects at a number of primary schools to provide more places (Trumps Green Infant School, St Ann's Heath Junior School, Darley Dene Primary School, Thorpe Church of England Primary School, and the Hythe Primary School).

Even with these additional places, most primary schools in Runnymede are expected to be full and continue to be full in the future. There is a need for more junior places in the area and this is an opportunity to create primary provision through a basic need project – a stated strategic policy of the Local Authority.

DETAILS:**The Proposal**

1. Governors of Lyne and Longcross Infant School, in partnership with Surrey County Council and the Diocese of Guildford, have proposed to expand the school from a 1-form entry infant school (capacity of 90 pupils) to a 1 form entry primary school (capacity of 210 pupils) from September 2015.

2. Alongside this proposal, the Local Authority is also consulting on a proposal to establish a formal feeder link between Meadowcroft Infant School and St Ann's Heath Junior School from September 2015 as part of the normal admissions consultation starting in November 2013. This proposal is mentioned in this document because the organisational change above is complemented by this associated proposal given that Lyne and Longcross pupils would ordinarily feed into St Ann's Heath Junior School.

Rationale

3. Demand for school places – Births per school year have increased in the Borough of Runnymede to just under a 1000 a year from a low of 814 in 2001. This increase is now reflected in the additional demand for school places in the Borough. Whilst the increase in births goes some way to explaining the recent increases in applications, it is unlikely to be the sole factor. Additional pupils from housing growth, inward and outward migration, parental preferences and the changing percentage of parents applying for independent or private provision will all affect the number of applications in any given year which can make projecting levels of demand difficult to model. Whilst the scale of demand can be difficult to judge with precision the Local Authority is of the view that the general upward trend in demand in the Borough is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. This proposal provides more school places and will help address this demand.
4. Additional Housing - The level of housing in the Borough will have an important impact on the demand for school places in the future. Runnymede Borough Council is responsible for housing. They are in the process of consulting on their core strategy and Local Plan which will, among other things, identify how many additional homes may be provided in the Borough in the future. Targets range from a minimum of circa 2400 to a high of 4500 additional dwellings in the Borough by 2028. How many additional dwellings are actually provided will depend on the availability and suitability of land in the Borough. Based on the housing forecasts provided by the Borough Council additional demand has been profiled into the County Council's projections below.
5. Creating Primary Provision – Whenever there is a case to invest capital into school to meet basic need, the Local Authority will always consider opportunities to create primary provision. Primary Schools (rather than separate infant and junior provision) is the Local Authority's preferred model for education. Given the need for additional junior places there is an opportunity to create primary provision at Lyne and Longcross. The school is rated by Ofsted as a 'good' infant school but the Local Authority believes that it can continue to become 'outstanding' as a primary school for the following reasons:
 - Seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (infant) to Key Stage 2 (Junior)
 - Improved pupil tracking and assessment
 - Greater opportunities for curriculum development through greater resources
 - Better opportunities for staff continuing professional development (CPD)
 - Better recruitment and retention of quality staff
 - Financially more viable as a bigger school
6. Parental Preferences - the Local Authority has a duty to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools. Lyne and Longcross is a popular

school rated 'Good' by Ofsted. This proposal creates more Church of England places in the area cited as a positive factor in the recent consultation.

- 7. Travel and Transport - There is currently a lot of traffic movement between infant and junior schools in Surrey as parents pick up and drop off pupils at separate sites. Although primary provision will reduce car journeys in the area, as parents would no longer need to drop children off at separate sites. This is a more sustainable pattern of provision in the area in line with SCC policy.

CONSULTATION:

- 8. Public consultation was undertaken on this proposal between 3 October 2013 and 6 November 2013. A consultation document was published to all statutory stakeholders including parents and local residents. A public meeting was held for parents, residents and other interested parties on 14 October. This meeting looked at the educational case for the proposal. There was also discussion with local residents and parents on the impact the proposal would have in terms of traffic, parking and local amenity issues though it was recognised that planning issues are subject to separate consultation organised by the Planning Authority.
- 9. There were a total of 45 responses to the consultation. This includes all written responses either through a response form or in email format. A breakdown of responses is given below. The totals do not add up to 45 because some respondents have multiple interests (e.g. local residents that are also parents of children at the school).

Parent of child at Lyne and Longcross Infant School (Nursery) - 6
 Parent of child at Lyne and Longcross Infant School (main school) – 17
 Parent of child at Meadowcroft Infant School – 8
 Parent of child at another school or who may go to one of the schools - 6
 Member of staff (any school) – 13
 Governor (any school) – 5
 Local Resident / Other – 6

- 10. Given that there are collectively a number of pupils across the two schools which this proposal affects, the response rate was moderate but this is not untypical for consultation exercises of this nature and the public meeting was well attended. With this in mind, it is hard to say that the conclusions of the consultation provide a truly representative view of what people in the local community think, but all stakeholders have been given the opportunity to make their views known.
- 11. There were two questions in the consultation form and the responses for each are broken down below: and across all the responses the following results were recorded:

Question 1 - "More junior places are needed in the area"

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Agree: | 34 |
| Disagree: | 0 |
| Don't know / no response: | 11 |

| | |
|-------|----|
| Total | 45 |
|-------|----|

Question 2 – “Lyne and Longcross should expand to become a primary school by September 2015”.

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|--------|----|
| Agree: | 41 |
|--------|----|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Disagree: | 1 |
|-----------|---|

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Don't know / no response: | 3 |
|---------------------------|---|

| | |
|-------|----|
| Total | 45 |
|-------|----|

12. Given the overall responses and the percentage of people in favour of the proposals there is little value in trying to breakdown the responses further (e.g. by respondent type or by school) to understand any differences between different groups because all groups essentially agree with the proposal. The one person that disagreed with the proposal is a parent who currently has a child at Lyne and Longcross and a sibling at St Ann's Heath Junior.
13. There were no schools that formally responded to the consultation. This reflects the level of informal consultation that has already taken place with all Head teachers and Chairs of Governors of primary schools in Runnymede prior to the publication of this consultation.
14. Analysis has been undertaken on the commentary received from consultees on the proposals. Not everyone provided additional commentary in their return and it is not possible to recognise each individual comment, however, the feedback received can be grouped into the following key themes and in the order of the total number of times they were mentioned (number of entries in brackets).
 - a. Need for more junior places in the area (34) – There was a high level of consensus amongst those that responded to the consultation that there is a need for more junior places in the local area.
 - b. Quality of school provision (15) – this was raised by parents from either Lyne and Longcross or Meadowcroft. With respect to Lyne parents they were pleased with the quality of provision at the school and wanted that to continue into Key Stage 2. In the case of Meadowcroft parents, they supported the associated proposal of a link into St Ann's Heath Junior School which they believe is a good school that they would want to attend in the future. Establishing the link between the two schools was seen as important to provide the infant school with more certainty over KS1/2 transition.
 - c. Traffic / parking concerns / child safety (8) – The main issue regarding the expansion is with respect to additional traffic, parking concerns and concerns over child safety (although child safety was cited to a lesser extent). This is both an issue for local residents as well as parents that will be travelling into the school. Some residents currently suffer from inconsiderate parking practices from parents and congestion during pick up and drop off hours. There were concerns raised about the availability of parking places in and around the school generally.

- d. Additional Church School places / Faith provision (6) – this was cited mainly by parents at Lyne and Longcross who supported the proposals because of the increased church places that would be created as a result of the proposal.
- 15. The remaining comments have not been categorised here as they were only mentioned by one to two comments each so could not be considered significant concerns / advantages raised by respondents. They include disruption due to building works, additional noise, traffic movements and lack of public transport, the length of time it would take to build the new buildings, child safety during construction works, impacts upon educational standards, transport issues and whether subsidised bus provision could be provided.
- 16. There were no written representations made following the publication of statutory notices.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 17. This project will be managed by the Diocese of Guildford. The Diocese and their consultants are experienced in capital projects on school sites and will maintain a project risk register which will be monitored and updated at regular intervals. Given the size of the site and the nature of the project (demolition and rebuild) there are risks to this project. A decant strategy has been prepared and the Diocese are working with the school to plan the works on the school site to reduce disruption to the school as much as is practicably possible.
- 18. Other risks relate to the capital budget and programme for the scheme. A full planning application has not yet been submitted so it is not yet clear what mitigation measures might be necessary in terms of local amenity and traffic as well as the capital budgets that might be required for their implementation. This risk will be managed by ensuring a contingency sum is budgeted as part of this project. In terms of timescales, September 2015 is considered achievable and there is some allowance in the programme for delays with the planning application or during the construction phase but the programme remains tight.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 19. The full financial and value for money implications will be considered as part of the full business case. Preliminary work has suggested that this is the most appropriate school to expand to satisfy the increasing demand in school places for this area.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

- 20. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is included in the current funded capital programme for school basic need.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

- 21. 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 of their area. Section 5 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places a duty to promote high standards. Therefore, there is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.

Equalities and Diversity

22. A full equalities impact assessment has not been undertaken on this proposal as it is unlikely that the proposal would have a negative impact on any groups with protected characteristics. The school does serve both traveller families and families from the armed services but this proposal ensures that there will be sufficient places for children from these groups to attend the school in the future. The proposal does not change the nature of the admissions criteria for the school.
23. The new school building will comply with all DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations. The expanded school will provide additional employment opportunities in the area.
24. The school 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.
25. The school 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.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

26. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The new buildings will comply or exceed Building Regulations. The contractor will be required to provide a Site Waste Management Plan.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

27. If there is a decision to proceed to implement the proposal, a planning application will be prepared and a full business case that will be considered by Cabinet prior to tendering for a contractor to undertake the works.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

All schools in Runnymede
 Pupils and parents of Lyne and Longcross Infant School
 The Governing Bodies Lyne and Longcross Infant School
 The Diocese of Guildford
 Local Residents
 Local Members

Sources/background papers:

Proposal to expand Lyne and Longcross Church of England Infant School can be found here on the SCC website by navigating to, or clicking on, the following: [Learning > Schools > Education Consultation and Plans](#)