

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY 15 JANUARY 2014**

**LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE HYTHE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM 1 TO 2 FORMS OF ENTRY**



#### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

As with other areas of the county, 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 of Runnymede as a result of additional housing and net inward migration. The Local Authority has recently consulted and published statutory notices on the proposed expansion of The Hythe Primary School in partnership with the Governing Body of the school.

The Cabinet Member must now determine whether to implement the proposals as set out in the notices.

#### **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. Expansions have recently been commissioned at a number of primary schools in Runnymede including Darley Dene Infant School, Trumps Green Infant School, St Ann's Heath Junior School and Thorpe Church of England Infant School. Even with these additional places, most primary schools in Runnymede are expected to be full and to continue to be full in the future with more schools places needed. Pupil mapping data indicates that there are large number of pupils living within the Egham and Hythe area and that further reception places will be required to keep up with demand.

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **The Proposal**

1. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governors of The Hythe Primary School is proposing that the school expands from a one form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 30 (total capacity of 210 pupils), to a two form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 60 (total capacity of 420 pupils). An extension to the existing building will bring the teaching accommodation up to the required standard in order for this change to happen. It is envisaged that the expansion will be complete by September 2015.

## Rationale

2. Demand for school places – There are a number of different factors that can affect the demand for school places in an area. The most important is the birth and fertility rates in an area. Based on figures provided by the Office for National Statistics, births in Runnymede dipped from 1996 to a low point in 2001 with just over 800 births per academic year. This rose a little before flattening out until 2005. Births have risen since 2006 to just under a 1000 per academic year. Over the last two years the number of applications for a place in a reception class at primary schools in Runnymede have increased by over 140. It should be noted that the recent increases in applications are unlikely to be the result of the number of births alone. There are other factors such as additional pupils from housing growth, inward and outward migration, parental preferences and the changing percentage of parents applying for independent or private provision - all of which can affect the number of applications in any given year making application yields difficult to model.
3. Although the school count data is not currently available for 2013, it is clear from the number of applications that have been accepted that the projections underestimated demand in Runnymede in 2013 for reception places. As the projections are trend based (usually over three years) any uplift in applications can take some time to work through the model. It is therefore likely that future demand in 2014 and 2015 will be underestimated as well. On the basis of this the Local Authority is preparing to provide a minimum of two additional forms of entry in the Borough by 2015. The project at the Hythe will provide one of these forms of entry.
4. Housing development in the Borough - Runnymede Borough Council is responsible for housing. They are in the process of consulting on their core strategy 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 2026. How many additional dwellings are actually provided will depend on the availability and suitability of land in the Borough. Although the number of houses and the timeframes for when development will take place are not yet certain, it should be noted that all primary schools in the Borough are currently near capacity already. It is therefore important to build capacity now and in the future.
5. 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. The Hythe Primary School is a popular school being oversubscribed in both 2012 and 2013. This proposal therefore meets parental preferences.
6. Location of pupils – Parental preference is important, but the Local Authority is mindful that popularity can be transient and that additional provision, where possible, should be located as local to the demand as possible. Surrey County Council believes that local schools should serve their local communities. Pupil mapping exercises have demonstrated that the Hythe Primary School is in good proximity to a large pupil population in the Borough which should enable as many parents to walk to school as possible. For example, if every child that applied for a place in 2013 went to their local school then 189 pupils will have been placed at schools in the Egham and Thorpe planning area where the Hythe is located. There are currently only

120 places available at reception in the schools in this area indicating that from a spatial point of view this area is currently underserved.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

7. Public consultation was undertaken on this proposal at the start of the academic year. A consultation document was published to all statutory stakeholders including parents and local residents were informed. The document was published on 5 September 2013 with consultation responses required by 11 October 2013. In addition to this, two public meetings were held at the school on 12 September 2013. This was an opportunity for parents, pupils, school staff and local residents to learn in a bit more detail what the proposals are and to ask questions to the school and the Local Authority.
8. The results of the public consultation was summarised in the previous report to the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on 13 November 2013.
9. Since the publication of notices there have been no formal representations on this proposal.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

10. Surrey County Council will be delivering and managing this project. The in house project management team will have compiled a project risk register and will monitor and update this document at regular intervals. The Hythe Primary School is on a tight site with difficult access arrangements. The preferred option is to extend the existing building in order to coherently suite classrooms into year groups separated by a central corridor. This is a more complicated delivery method than constructing a new stand alone building. It will be important that the school, contractor and Surrey County Council project manage work closely together to manage the risks in this regard to ensure the site is safe, the compound and access points are sensible and that pupil safety is paramount.
11. 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.

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

12. This scheme is included within the 2013/18 Medium Term Financial Plan. A more detailed business case will be developed prior to contract tender.

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

13. The section 151 officer confirms that this scheme is in the 2013/18 medium term financial plan. The detailed financial and business implications will be considered as part of the business case.

### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

14. 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**

15. 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.
16. The new school building will comply with all DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations. The expanded school will provide additional employment opportunities in the area.
17. 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.
18. 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**

19. 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:**

20. 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:**

Kieran Holliday, School Commissioning Officer (North West), 020 8541 7383

#### **Consulted:**

All schools in Runnymede  
Pupils and parents of The Hythe Primary School  
The Governing Body of the Hythe Primary School  
Local Residents  
Local Members

**Sources/background papers:**

- Proposal to expand The Hythe Primary School by one form of entry by 2015. A copy of this report can be found here on the SCC website by navigating to, or clicking on, the following: [Learning > Schools > Education Consultation and Plans](#)
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