

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2014****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO PUBLISH STATUTORY NOTICES ON A PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE, REBUILD AND EXPAND HURST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL IN WEST MOLESEY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

School rolls have been rising steadily across Elmbridge Borough since 2002 and there is an immediate requirement for additional places in the Moleseys Primary Planning area. To ensure sufficient provision of primary school places in West Molesey, Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of Hurst Park Primary School to two Forms of Entry (2FE) with effect from 1 September 2015. This proposal also recommends that Surrey County rebuilds the school on a new site approximately a half a mile away on Hurst Road.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The Cabinet Member should consider whether to publish Statutory Notices to the effect that:
 - Hurst Park Primary School is enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 1 FE to 2 FE) on 1 September 2015
 - The school will be relocated to the former John Nightingale School site on Hurst Road, West Molesey
2. An associated building programme goes ahead to provide a new Hurst Park Primary school

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Based on the most recent forecast of pupil numbers, which projects the requirement for school places up to 2020 and beyond, two additional forms of entry in this planning area would meet the basic need. Expansion of existing schools is the logical and most financially prudent response to this issue.

Hurst Park Primary School is a popular and successful school which delivers a high quality education. It was rated as a good school by OFSTED at its last full inspection (May 2013). The provision of additional places at Hurst Park Primary School meets the Government's policy position to expand successful and popular schools, in order to provide quality places and meet parental preferences.

DETAILS:

Business Case

1. There is a clear need for additional primary school places in the Moleseys planning area. This area is served by five schools: Chandlers Field Primary, St Alban's Catholic Primary School (which is also currently proposing to expand by 1 FE in order to meet the needs of catholic residents in the wider deanery); Orchard Infant, St Lawrence Junior (due to be rebuilt under the government's Priority Schools Building Programme) and Hurst Park Primary School.
2. Hurst Park Primary School has previously expanded temporarily by taking additional reception 'bulge' classes in 2012 and 2013 to help relieve the pressure for places in the area. It therefore already has two cohorts of 60 pupils in the present Reception and Year 1.
3. Hurst Park Primary School is willing to permanently expand in the longer term and is keen to do so with the promise of new accommodation which is designed to enhance the quality of the educational opportunities on offer. The staff and governors have been working closely with Surrey County Council to agree a design for the new school on the John Nightingale site. The governing body is also keen to improve the access to the school for pedestrians and vehicles in response to parents' and residents' concerns about the volume of traffic and safety on Hurst Road. Advice has been taken from Surrey County Council's Highways Department in this regard.
4. A number of residents living adjacent to the proposed new school site have raised concerns about the location of the new school's main entrance and the impact this will have on residents due to parental parking at key times.
5. If the school and County Council receive agreement to go ahead with the expansion a planning application will be made which takes into account the issues outlined above.
6. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places. It is not currently possible to expand one of the other local schools in the immediate planning area or to increase the size of Hurst Park on its present site. Building a new school on land already owned by the council seems to be the best option and affords the best educational opportunity, since the new school will benefit from the existing leadership and expertise of a Headteacher and staff with a proven track record for success.
7. Based on the most recent pupil projections the County Council is forecasting a need for two additional forms of entry in the Moleseys in the immediate future. This proposal forms one part of a wider area strategy with a further form of entry planned for St Alban's Catholic Primary School.

CONSULTATION:

8. A public consultation was carried out between 2 December 2013 and 6 January 2014. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all parents and other stakeholders and interested parties. In addition, two meetings were held at the school on 3 December; these were attended by approximately sixty parents and residents. On 27 November the school held

an open presentation meeting for stakeholders to view the draft plans for the design of the new school. This was also well attended. The consultation document was also published on the Surrey County Council website and the local Borough and County Councillors were sent copies of the document.

9. The Council had received 33 written responses in total by the close of the consultation; five responses arrived soon after the deadline and so have been included in this analysis. A summary of all the consultation response forms is given in the table below. **Please note that some residents are also parents of pupils on roll at Hurst Park so will be counted in both categories, therefore the numbers in the individual columns won't always total 38 :**

Respondent	Number of Forms /emails received	Against	For	Don't Know/undecided
Total Responses received	38	5	22	12
Employee of the school	0	0	0	0
HP School governor	1	0	1	0
Parents of children on roll	(5)	0	5	0
Other parents or reps of other schools	0	0	0	0
Residents	37	5	20	12

10. The governing body plus twenty-two respondents are in agreement with the proposal. Twelve people state that they do not know whether or not they are in favour, with a number stating that they want more information about the building development before deciding. Five respondents who sent in forms or emailed comments are against the proposal.
11. The main concerns raised by respondents was the anticipation of parking problems associated with the entrance to the new school building being located on the design plans on Freeman Road, within the Bishop Fox estate. They would prefer this to be on the main Hurst Road served by reinstating the old slip road that existed when the John Nightingale Special School was on this site.
12. The residents on the estate point out that the roads are too narrow to accommodate the volume of traffic and pedestrians a school may bring. Some residents also objected to the potential noise, litter and intrusions to their properties from pupils at the school.
13. Unfortunately the postal delivery to the residents of the Bishop Fox estate did not arrive until after the public consultation meetings at the school. Although the primary purpose of these two meetings was to inform parents about the educational impact of this proposal, and was not to discuss the design or planning issues, some residents who were not parents of children currently on roll at Hurst Park Primary have contacted the Local Authority expressing their dissatisfaction at not being able to attend a meeting and hear about the proposal first hand. The houses that did receive a copy of the consultation document were those that are immediately adjacent to the proposed new building and campus entrances; these being the residents most likely to be affected by the change of school site. Other residents were not leafleted but many people are aware of the consultation via word of mouth and have

access to the document which is published on the Surrey County Council and school websites. Hard copies are also available upon request.

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14. A number of respondents supported the proposal to rebuild on the John Nightingale site; however many also raised concerns about traffic and road safety issues on Hurst Road. Various solutions were put forward and these have been forwarded to our Project Manager and Travel Consultants for their consideration prior to a planning application being made.
15. Those people in support of the proposal recognised the need for more places and welcomed the opportunity to provide these at a purpose built primary school with more space for pupils to play. However, even some of these people expressed reservations about the entrance being on Freeman Drive. Some people qualified their support for expansion on the understanding that traffic management measures would be assured.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

16. The key risk to this proposal is the dependency on a successful planning application to develop the site which includes mitigation of the impact of additional school traffic as far as possible.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

17. The 2014/19 Capital Programme includes this scheme. Funding for the scheme was approved as part of the 2013/18 medium term financial plan and it is expected that the 2014/19 medium term financial plan for the school basic need capital programme will be approved by Full Council in February.
18. A full business case for this scheme will be developed and the full financial implications will be considered at this stage. The estimated scheme costings will be updated as part of the business case development and this will inform future years funding.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

19. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 contain the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations. The DCSF has published two pieces of Guidance relating to prescribed alterations: Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form and Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School (Other than Expansion). These contain both statutory guidance (i.e. guidance to which proposers and decision makers have a statutory duty to have regard) and non-statutory guidance on the process for making changes to school provision. This guidance has been followed.

Equalities and Diversity

20. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. The increased provision will be open to all applicants irrespective of race, gender, faith, ethnicity or ability. The Admissions arrangements will give the highest priority to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for our most vulnerable children. Children with siblings will receive

the next priority, followed by those children living closest to the school. There is no proposal to amend the Admissions criteria.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

21. The school has a robust Safeguarding Policy which is monitored by the designated Child Protection Lead Officer, is regularly reviewed by the governing body and is subject to OFSTED inspection. Site access and security, both during the proposed building programme and afterwards, have been considered and addressed in the planning and design of this building project. Consultation responses will be taken into account when the final design is submitted.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

22. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. A safe walking route to the new site school has been identified for use by children and families. In addition, the design for the new school will include facilities on campus to encourage children to cycle or use scooters to come to school.

23. The additional school provision is centred close to the demographic demand and as a result will enable parents and children to attend a local school and thus should reduce either the need for, or length of school journeys.

24. The design of the new school is energy efficient and follows all local guidance and standards in this respect.

Section 151 Commentary

25. There is approved funding for this scheme in the current 2013/18 medium term financial plan. More detailed costings will be compiled for the business case and Investment Panel approval.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval, Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to rebuild and expand the school will be published. The Cabinet Member will then receive a further report to determine the proposal within two months of the expiration of the Statutory Notices.
- The outcome of this consultation will be published on the Surrey County Council website and parents of pupils at the school will be notified by letter from the Governing Body.

Contact Officer:

Melanie Harris

School Commissioning Officer NE Surrey tel. 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Parents of pupils and prospective pupils of Hurst Park Primary School
Local Councillors
Local residents via the consultation document published on the SCC website

Annexes: none

Sources/background papers:

School Organisation Consultation Proposal
Consultation responses to be tabled at the meeting
