

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 25 MARCH 2014****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 PROPOSED EXPANSION OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

There is significant demand for new school places within Surrey resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into the County. Since 2010 the Cabinet has approved the expansion of 8 primary schools in the Borough of Woking to meet basic need with further expansions planned in the future. As a result, expansions in the secondary sector are now required to meet the Local Authority's statutory obligations to provide secondary school places in the area.

Two Catholic primary schools in the area have recently completed expansions approved by Cabinet. St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School expanded by one form of entry in 2012 (210 additional places provided in total; 30 per year over 7 years) and The Marist Catholic Primary School expanded by half a form of entry in 2011 (105 additional places in total; 15 per year over 7 years). St Dunstan's and The Marist are direct feeder schools to St John the Baptist, which without expansion would be unable to meet the future demand for catholic secondary school places in the Borough.

Approval is now sought to expand St John the Baptist Catholic Secondary School by two forms of entry to meet the demand coming through the primary sector.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet approves:

- (i) A completed expansion of St John the Baptist Catholic Secondary School by two forms of entry in 2018. This will create an additional 400 places (which includes additional 6th form provision).
- (ii) Delivery of the scheme in two phases: Phase 1 to be delivered by September 2015 would provide 3 additional classrooms, 2 studio spaces, office accommodation, changing rooms (as a result of converting the

existing gymnasium) a new sports hall and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

- (iii) Subject to a detailed curriculum analysis, Phase 2 to be delivered by 2018 would comprise 12 additional classrooms to be provided through a mixture of new build and remodelling of existing spaces and additional 6th form rooms. Improved services and an allowance for fixtures and fittings will also be provided as part of the project. These approvals are subject to the detailed financial information for the school as set out in Part 2 of this agenda.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the County. Woking is an area where the demand for school places has increased significantly. St John the Baptist is an Ofsted rated Outstanding secondary school and has been oversubscribed even at existing levels of demand for many years. With the recent expansions at St Dunstan's and the Marist Catholic Primary schools, which are both direct feeders to St John the Baptist, there is a very strong case to expand the school.

It is recommended to divide the project into two phases. The site is restricted and completing the project in two phases will minimise disruption to the operation of the school and the early delivery of Phase 1 will release existing accommodation for conversion under Phase 2 of the expansion. This will address the existing deficiency in sports facilities at the school as early as possible and avoids inflationary costs in later years.

DETAILS:

Background

1. St John the Baptist is currently a six-form entry school. This means that it admits 180 pupils (6 classes of 30) at Year 7. There are currently 900 available places for 11-16 year olds at this school - 5 year groups each of 180 pupils between Years 7-11. The school also has a 6th form that offers post 16 provision for years 12 and 13 with capacity of 300 places - 150 in Year 12 and 150 in Year 13. This means that the total capacity of the school from Years 7-13 is 1200.
2. The Local Authority has a duty to respond to parental preferences and where possible, the County Council seeks to expand popular and successful schools to meet additional demand. St John the Baptist has been consistently oversubscribed by approximately 2 forms of entry on first preferences (60 places per year) for some time and, with the recent expansions at St Dunstan's (30 additional places per year commencing in 2012) and the Marist Catholic Primary school (15 additional places per year commencing in 2011), pressure for places will be even higher in the future as both schools are named feeder schools within the school's admissions criteria.
3. St John the Baptist School was originally built in 1969 for 600 students and there has been no improvement to sports facilities at the school since that date. It is unique in Surrey in only having one small gymnasium and no sports hall. Consecutive Ofsted inspections have identified the 'woeful lack of sporting facilities' and the school is currently unable to deliver the national curriculum in its

existing facilities. Department for Education (DfE) guidance demonstrates that a sports hall would be expected to be provided if the school was to expand by two forms of entry.

- 4 A two form entry expansion means that the school will offer 240 places at Year 7 from 2018 increasing the 11-16 capacity from 900 to 1200 (300 additional places by 2022). In order to offer the same proportion of 6th form places at the school it is proposed to increase the total capacity of the 6th form from 300 to 400. This represents an increase of 100 additional 6th form places with 50 additional places in each of year 12 and 13. Therefore the proposal is to create a total increase of 400 places at the school across all year groups 7-13, giving a total capacity of 1600 places.
- 5 An analysis of the school's current accommodation by the Local Authority, the school and the school's consultants has identified a requirement for additional facilities to be provided to enable the school to expand. It is proposed to expand the school in the following phases:
 - a. Phase 1 will provide 3 additional classrooms, 2 studio spaces, a small office and changing rooms as a result of converting the existing gymnasium. A new sports hall and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) will also be provided. If approved, work will start on this phase in 2014 for completion in 2015. See Annex 1 for a block plan.
 - b. Phase 2 will comprise 12 additional classrooms. These will be provided through a mixture of new build and remodelling of existing spaces. Improved services and an allowance for fixtures and fittings will also be provided as part of the project. If approved the second phase will start in 2016 or 2017 for completion in 2018.
6. It is recommended to phase the delivery of the scheme into two phases for the following reasons:
 - The early delivery of part of the expansion will avoid inflationary costs in later years at a time when costs in the construction industry are rising. It will also reduce the level of risk on the scheme, given the complexity of the project, and minimise the overall disruption for the school if the project were to be implemented in a single phase.
 - The early delivery of Phase 1 will release existing accommodation for conversion under Phase 2 of the expansion.
 - It will address the significant existing deficiency in sports facilities at the school as early as possible.
 - The site is restricted in space making the delivery of the project in one phase difficult to manage taking into account the Local Authority's duty of care to pupils at the school as well as Health and Safety considerations.
7. Given their knowledge of previous projects, the school will be managing the project within an agreed budget set by Cabinet with a project board made up of Governors, Head Teacher and County Council staff overseeing the procurement and delivery of the project alongside the school's appointed consultants.

8. Early market research indicates that there should be a strong list of locally based contractors capable of carrying out the work and achieving value for money on this important project to meet the council's target of up to 60% of projects being undertaken by Surrey based businesses.

CONSULTATION:

9. Although it is no longer a statutory requirement, the Local Authority considers it good practice to consult before making proposals that involve changes to school organisation. Consultation for this expansion will be carried out by the Governing Body prior to any Phase 2 works, as it is at this stage that formal proposals will be made to increase the capacity and published admission number of the school.
10. However, it should be noted that the school has extensively consulted on an informal basis with parents, pupils and the local community on Phase 1. In the consultation meetings for the expansions of St Dunstan's and The Marist Catholic Primary School the issue of secondary expansion at St John the Baptist has also been widely discussed in the local community.
11. The school received planning permission for Phase 1 of the proposal from Woking Borough Council last year. No objections were received by the Borough Council in considering the application.

Risk Management and Implications:

12. 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. Phasing the construction work will allow for risks to be effectively managed throughout the duration of the project.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

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

Section 151 Officer Commentary

14. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is included in the 2014-19 medium term financial plan and expects the total cost to remain within the funding available. Any overspends on building work and all associated costs including the additional costs of enlarging the Sports Hall with 2 additional courts and any specialist equipment are to be funded by the school. This is to be confirmed in a letter jointly signed by Surrey County Council and the Chair of Governors of St John the Baptist Secondary School before works commence.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

15. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities (with responsibility for education) to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of the population in its area.

This report sets out how the Authority will meet that duty in response to the increasing demand for school places in the Woking area.

16. The first phase of the expansion will not require any formal school organisation proposals. However, in the second phase the school's capacity will be increased together with the published admission number for the school, and this will require a consultation and publication of notices, as set out in paragraph 9 above.

Equalities and Diversity

17. The new classroom buildings, the sports hall and ancillary accommodation will comply with DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations. The newly expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
18. The school will be for children in the community served by this school. If there is sufficient provision available, then it would be beneficial for all children, including vulnerable children. Officers are of the view that the proposal will not have significant implications for equalities and that an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.
19. 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.

Public Health implications

21. Promoting physical activity is a key theme in the Joint Strategy Needs Assessment (2012) as well as the Surrey Obesity Strategy (2007) and is a key strategic aim for Woking Borough Council. 53% of Surrey children are not participating in more than three hours of PE and sport per week and childhood obesity is becoming an increasingly expensive public health issue in the County. The provision of enhanced sports facilities at St John the Baptist School will increase the sporting/activity opportunities for a significant population of pupils in Woking.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

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

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

23. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The school will be built to the Local Planning Authority's adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

1. If approved, to proceed to tender and contract award for Phase 1 to obtain optimum value for money.
2. Phase 2 of the St John the Baptist School expansion will be subject to a further Cabinet report at a later stage.

Contact Officer:

Bill Christie, Senior Project Manager (Schools), Property, Tel: 020 8541 9509
Kieran Holliday, Schools Commissioning Officer, Schools and Learning, Tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services
Denise Le Gal, Cabinet Member for Business Services
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager, Business Services
Will Forster, Local Member for Woking South

Annexes: Annex 1 – St John the Baptist Block Plan and Elevations

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
