

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 22 APRIL 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 SPELTHORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL FROM A 2 FORM OF ENTRY PRIMARY 420 PLACES TO A 3 FORM OF ENTRY PRIMARY 630 PLACES CREATING AN ADDITIONAL 210 PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2015****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

There is significant demand for new schools places within Spelthorne, resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into the County. This demand is addressed through the County's five year 2014-19 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Spelthorne Primary School has recently amalgamated into an all through primary school from separate infant and junior schools. As part of the amalgamation the school is expanding from two forms of entry (420 places) to three forms of entry (630 places) from September 2015 providing an additional 210 places.

Spelthorne Primary School has been identified as requiring expansion to meet the demand in the Spelthorne area and this project is being carried out in 3 phases. Phase 1 was an enabling works package and delivered a new staffroom in September 2012. Phase 2 delivered the refurbishment of the Foundation unit providing 60 new places and completed in September 2013.

Cabinet is asked to agree the business case for the final phase of the overall expansion project. This will encompass the whole school and provide a further 150 places, taking the total new primary places to 210 by September 2015. The work is planned to take place over the summer 2014 and 2015 in order to minimise disruption to the school.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the school as set out in agenda item 16 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for phase 3 of the project to expand Spelthorne Primary School be approved.

## **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the Spelthorne area.

## **DETAILS:**

### **Background**

1. There is an increasing demand for primary places in Spelthorne. This demand will result in a shortage of primary places in September 2015. Spelthorne Primary School has been identified for expansion to meet the need for places in the local area.
2. It is proposed that the school will expand from a 2 form entry (2 FE) primary school with 420 places to become a 3 form of entry (3 FE) primary school with 630 places providing an additional 210 new primary places.
3. Whilst the expansion is not required until September 2015, the nature of the project involves considerable internal alteration work. In order to minimise disruption to the school, the expansion is being delivered in 3 phases utilising the summer holiday periods wherever possible.
  - a. Phase 1 delivered in Summer 2012 undertook enabling works, which prepared the site for future phases and created a new staffroom;
  - b. Phase 2 delivered in Summer 2013 created a foundation unit and provided an additional 60 places; and
  - c. Phase 3 will provide additional junior classrooms by relocating the library and a community space, rationalisation and refurbishment of existing classrooms, improved storage and the provision of toilets to the first floor. The works also include some minor improvements at the main entrance to the school and remodelling of the pedestrian access to improve security and safeguarding of pupils. Phase 3 will deliver the balance of 150 places to provide the total of the 210 places required.
4. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for Phase 3. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 16 in Part 2 of the agenda for Members. Subject to approval, the works will be tendered and a contract awarded. The balance of 150 places will be delivered by September 2015 to provide a total of 210 new primary school places to meet the demand within Spelthorne.

## **CONSULTATION:**

5. The recommendation to increase the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 - 90 in September 2014 was approved by Cabinet on 26 February 2013.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

6. There are risks associated with the projects and project risk registers have been compiled and are regularly updated. A contingency allowance

appropriate to the scheme has been included within the project budget to mitigate for potential identified risks.

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

7. The scheme will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as it progresses. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated as item 16 in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to Members to ensure commercial sensitivity in the interests of securing best value.

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

8. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the funding for this scheme is in the current medium term financial plan and the estimated costs are expected to reduce following the tender.

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

9. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a 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.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

10. The expansion of this school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
11. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
12. 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.
13. 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.

#### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

14. 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**

15. 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 authorities adopted core planning strategy.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

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If approved, to proceed to tender and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

**Contact Officer:**

Bill Christie, Senior Project Manager (Schools), Property, Tel: 020 8541 9509  
Melanie Harris, Schools Commissioning Officer, Schools and Learning, Tel: 020 8541 9556

**Consulted:**

Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services  
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager, Business Services  
Ian Beardsmore, Local Member for Sunbury Common and Ashford

**Annexes:**

None - Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 15

**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
  - Consultation on Surrey's Admission Arrangements for September 2014 for Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools and Co-ordinated Schemes – 26 February 2013
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