

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 24 APRIL 2014****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH THE PROPOSED EXPANSION TO RELOCATE, REBUILD AND EXPAND HURST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, 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 the school is re-built on a new site.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. The Cabinet Member approve the proposal that:

- Hurst Park Primary School is enlarged by 1 form of entry (from 1 FE to 2 FE) on 1 September 2015;
- The school is 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 therefore 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 has also recently secured agreement 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.
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 expectation 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 and a full traffic survey has been undertaken.
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. Advice on traffic calming measures and parking arrangements has been incorporated into the planning application.
5. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and 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.
6. 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 therefore forms one part of a wider area strategy with a further form of entry planned for St Alban's.

## **CONSULTATION:**

7. 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 Tuesday 3 December 2013, which were attended by approximately sixty parents and residents. On 27 November 2013 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.

8. 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

9. Statutory notices were published, and a four week consultation concluded on Monday 24 March 2014 at 12 noon. No further responses were received
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 is 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 object 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 contacted the local authority expressing their dissatisfaction at not being able to attend a meeting and hear about the proposal first hand. The Governing Body and the School Commissioning Officer therefore convened a further meeting for the residents on 20 March

2014. Verbal comments were noted and residents were informed that they could still submit a representation to the Surrey County Council Planning Officer prior to the application being considered by the committee.

14. A number of residents supported the proposal to rebuild on the John Nightingale site; however many shared the concerns about traffic and road safety issues on Hurst Road.
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 pedestrian 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 Hurst Park Primary School scheme is included within 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan. Detailed options and costings will be developed as part of the scheme business case at each phase of construction. Options for build solutions and delivery will be considered as part of the business analysis to ensure Value for Money.

#### **Section 151 Commentary**

18. The Section 151 officer confirms this scheme is included in the 2014/19 Medium Tern Financial Plan and a detailed business case is expected to be developed and will go to Investment Panel for approval.

#### **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 Department for Education 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 which is fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

**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 school site 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.

**WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval, planning approval will be sought.
- The outcome of the consultation and Cabinet Member’s decision 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

**Annexes:** none

**Sources/background papers:**

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

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