

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 24 JUNE 2014****REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES****LEAD OFFICER:****JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER****PETER- JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****SUBJECT: WEST BYFLEET INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS, PROPOSED EXPANSION FROM A 2 FORM OF ENTRY INFANT (180 PLACES) TO A 3 FORM OF ENTRY INFANT (270 PLACES) AND A 2 FORM OF ENTRY JUNIOR (240 PLACES) TO A 3 FORM ENTRY JUNIOR (360 PLACES) CREATING AN ADDITIONAL 210 PLACES****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of West Byfleet Infant and Junior Schools from a 2 form of entry infant (180 places) to a 3 form of entry infant (270 places) and a 2 form of entry junior (240 places) to a 3 form of entry junior (360 places) creating 210 additional places in West Byfleet to help meet the basic need requirements in the Woking area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 22 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 form of entry (210 places) infant and junior places in West Byfleet 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 Woking area.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Governors of West Byfleet Infant School and West Byfleet Junior School, is proposing that both schools expand from two to three Forms of Entry (FE) with a new Published Admission Number of 90. This would increase the capacity of the infant school from 180 to 270 and the capacity of the junior school from 240 to 360 pupils. The proposal would be effective from September 2015.

2. Demand for school places has increased significantly in Woking in recent years. In 2011, the County Council commissioned over a thousand additional school places in the Borough, permanently expanding primary schools including Maybury Primary School, Westfield Primary, Beaufort Primary, St Dunstan's Primary, The Marist Primary and Goldsworth Primary. Even with these expansions, all primary schools in Woking are expected to be full and to continue to be full in the future. Three further projects are being planned in the Woking area with the West Byfleet Infant and Junior expansion proposal being one of those projects.
3. 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 Woking dipped from 1997 to a low point in 2001. Births then rose quite sharply year on year to 2007 before flattening out through to 2008. Births then rose again in 2009 and 2010. 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 applications more difficult to model.
4. Woking Borough Council is the responsible authority for housing; it is for Surrey County Council to ensure there is sufficient infrastructure associated with population growth from housing. Between the period 2010 and 2027, Woking Borough Council are looking to provide just short of 5000 additional homes in the Borough to meet its housing targets – 35% of this will be affordable housing. Most development will be on previously developed land and although the expected additional units in West Byfleet are likely to be modest, there is anecdotal evidence of additional units in the area being generated from the existing housing stock (larger houses being divided into two or three units).
5. On top of an increasing birth rate and additional housing, it would appear that Woking has in the past couple of years experienced net inward migration (more people moving into the area than out) which is consistent with the profile of Woking as an urban area with good employment opportunities and transport links to London.
6. In light of the above, it is clear that Woking's population is growing - it is second only to Epsom and Ewell in Surrey in terms of population growth since the last census but its 0-4 population has grown significantly more than any other Borough. There are about 1600 more 0-4 year olds now than in 2001 - a 28% increase. It is crucial that sufficient educational provision is commissioned in the Borough to keep pace with the growing population of school age children.
7. 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. West Byfleet Infant School and West Byfleet Junior School are both popular schools and have been heavily oversubscribed against their published admission number of 60 for the last seven years by about a class of children. The Local Authority has a presumption to expand popular and successful schools where the demand for those places is demonstrable. West Byfleet Infant School was judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted at its last inspection in 2011 and, while the Junior School was judged 'Requires Improvement' in 2013, it has

subsequently had a very positive monitoring inspection and remains a popular local school.

8. The presumption to expand successful schools is not an absolute. The Local Authority must also consider the location of pupils in relation to schools as it also seeks to plan provision as close to the pupil population as possible so that local pupils can attend local schools. In mapping the location of all 2013 applicants looking for a reception place in Woking this year (and those that will be seeking junior provision in 2016) there were 75 children living within 0.5 miles of the school with 197 pupils living within a mile of the school. The figures were very similar in 2012 with 70 children living within half a mile of the school and 189 living with a mile. There are a large number of pupils within good proximity to the school with a high percentage of those pupils with the potential to walk, scoot or cycle into school.
9. Based on the most recent forecast of pupil numbers, which projects the requirement for school places up to 2020 and beyond, one additional form of entry in this planning area would meet the basic need. Expansion of an existing school is the logical and most financially prudent response to this issue.
10. The scope of works includes:
 - Infants School
 - New Hall, servery, reception classroom and new year 1 classroom (attached to existing) with associated accommodation
 - Remodelling of existing hall into ICT and creation of 2 offices.
 - Refurbishment of main entrance, administration area, staff, year 1 and amenities
 - Hard & soft play areas and landscaping
 - Junior School
 - New 3 classroom block with associated accommodation
 - Remodelling of existing amenities
 - Conversion of art room to classroom, conversion of ICT room to art room
ICT to be relocated to first floor classroom.
 - Hard & soft play areas and landscaping, including car park area.
11. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for the expansion of the schools. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 22 in Part 2 of the agenda. Subject to approval, the works will be tendered and a contract awarded. The project will be delivered by autumn 2015 to provide a total of 210 additional primary school places to meet the demand within West Byfleet.

CONSULTATION:

12. 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. The document was published on 17 October 2013 with consultation responses required by 21 November 2013. In addition to this, two public meetings were held at the schools on 11 November 2013 – both at the infant and junior schools. This

was an opportunity for parents, pupils, school staff and local residents to learn in more detail expansion proposals and address questions to the school and the Local Authority.

13. The public meetings were relatively well attended with 80-90 people attending in total but there has been little response to the consultation with only 16 responses received during the four week period. This includes all written responses either in response form, email or petition format. A breakdown of responses is given below:
 - Parent (Nursery, pre-school or main school) - 12
 - Parent of a child who may go to these schools / other school - 6
 - Pupil - 2
 - Local Resident – 1
14. Of those that responded, 9 people agreed that more school places were needed in the area, 3 did not answer either way, and 1 person disagreed. On the second question, 8 people agreed that West Byfleet Infant and Junior School should expand, 2 people disagreed and the remaining 6 people didn't offer a view either way or raised concerns without clearly stating their answer to the question.
15. In broad terms, there was very little disagreement with the need for more places – most parents and residents accepted that more school places are needed in the area. However there were concerns raised by parents and residents, with regard to the building solution and any proposed loss of provision and traffic issues exacerbated by the expansion, both of which are being addressed through the design and planning and highways process.
16. Given there are just short of 420 pupils at the two schools, the response rate to the consultation was low but not untypical for consultation exercises of this nature. There were a reasonable number of people in total who attended the public meetings and there was discussion with parents making their views known. It may be that following this meeting that parents didn't feel a need to formally respond to the consultation based on the information and responses provided at these meetings.
17. Having considered the responses to the consultation, the Cabinet Member published notices on 12 December 2013. Following this notice there have been no representations received.
18. The SCC Local Member has been consulted on the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

19. The planning application was validated on 9 May 2014 and a decision is expected by 4 July 2014.
20. 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

- 21. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as they progress. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated as item 22 in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity in the interests of securing best value.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

- 22. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the funding for this scheme is included in the 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

- 23. 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

- 24. The expansion of the schools will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
- 25. The new school buildings will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
- 26. The schools 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.
- 27. The schools 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

- 28. 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 schools.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

- 29. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The schools will be built to the local planning authorities adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

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

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
Richard Wilson, Local Member, The Byfleets, Woking
Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services

Annexes:

None - Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 22

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 Service update based on latest or most appropriate report year and version
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