

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING****DATE: 21 NOVEMBER 2012****REPORT OF: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: DARLEY DENE INFANT SCHOOL CHANGE TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL - DECISION****KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

To decide whether to approve the proposal that Darley Dene Infant School become a primary school with a Published Admission Number of 30 on 1 September 2013.

**DETAILS:**

1. Some years ago numbers of primary pupils in the Addlestone & Ottershaw and Chertsey planning areas were falling. This has now changed. Numbers of primary children are increasing and there is now forecast to be a shortage of junior places. Additional junior places could be provided by Darley Dene Infant School becoming a primary school. This would also provide a clear progression route for infant children at Darley Dene.

**Proposal**

2. The notice period has expired and the Cabinet Member needs to consider the proposal and act as Decision Maker and, giving regard to the Decision Maker's Guidance, to examine the Prescribed Information (Annex A) and determine the proposals - decide whether to approve the proposals that:
  - Darley Dene Infant School would become a primary school and extend its age range by 1 year each year from 1 September 2013 until 1 September 2016
  - all children would remain on roll at Darley Dene Primary School
  - the age range would extend by a further year each year
3. Additional classrooms would be built to accommodate the additional pupils and increase the capacity of the school from 90 to 210 places

**Issues****Educational advantages**

4. There would be advantages if Darley Dene Infant School changed into a primary school:
  - There would be a clear progression route for infant children at Darley Dene
  - there would be an enhancement in community cohesion were there to be a primary school rather than an infant school
  - there would be a significant reduction in travel, including car journeys, as junior children would not need to travel to another school.

5. A primary school has the following advantages:
  - A seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors)
  - greater opportunities for curriculum development
  - greater opportunities for staff development
  - greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively
  - greater opportunities for staff recruitment
  - it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit headteachers, and the range of teaching and learning in a primary school would be more likely to attract aspiring headteachers in future.

### **Pupil Numbers in the area**

6. Darley Dene Infant School is in the Addlestone and Ottershaw primary planning area. The Addlestone and Ottershaw area is a mainly urban planning area in Runnymede with the Chertsey area to the north, with the Egham and Thorpe area beyond that to the north west; and the Virginia Water & Englefield Green area to the west and north west. There is pupil movement across the planning area as well as across the boundaries of the planning areas. Therefore, it is appropriate to consider places in the wider area as well as the local area.

### **Births**

7. All births in the Addlestone & Ottershaw and Chertsey areas have increased each year since the Millennium except 2003 to 2004. The births are now about 33% higher than around the Millennium, and they are projected to increase slightly beyond that. Births are now about 14% higher than 4 years ago, which means there will be about 14% more children needing a primary school place in 4 years than need a place now.

### **Housing developments**

8. Despite a slowdown in building owing to the recession, some housing developments are taking place. There are large housing developments proposed at the former Civic Offices & Police Station site and Land at Aviator Park. This will lead to more families living in the area and the children will need school places, further increasing demand for places in the area. Pressure from housing developments is not only felt close to the development, but the increased numbers of pupils apply pressure on all schools in the wider area.

### **Historic Numbers on Roll and Forecast demand for primary places**

9. Applications for places in the area have steadily increased apart from a dip in the 2008/09 school year. Numbers entering reception also dipped in 2008 but have steadily increased since then.
10. Numbers are forecast to increase significantly in line with the increase in births. The forecast assumes increasing births and additional new housing which already has planning permission and housing as identified in the borough's housing trajectory.
11. An expansion of primary provision by over two forms of entry (2FE) of infant places and over 4FE of junior places is needed in the wider area. Darley Dene

Infant School has been identified as an appropriate school to expand in order to meet part of this additional demand.

### **Are there choices?**

#### **Option 1: No Change**

12. There would be insufficient primary places in the area. Surrey County Council (SCC) would fail to meet its statutory duty of providing sufficient primary school places for those that need them. The children attending Darley Dene Infant School and their families would not have certainty of progression in their primary education.
13. Therefore, no change is not an acceptable option.

#### **Option 2: Proceed with the proposal with modification**

14. The only modification available would be to amend the implementation date. The additional junior school places are needed now and a delay in the implementation date would delay the provision of additional places.
15. Therefore, the implementation date should not be modified.

#### **Option 3: Proceed with the proposal**

16. This would enable SCC to meet its statutory duty of providing sufficient primary school places for those that need them. It would also be beneficial to the children being educated at Darley Dene Infant School.
17. Therefore, it would be appropriate to approve the proposals.

### **Financial and value for money implications**

18. This scheme is in the School Basic Need Capital Programme approved by the County Council in February 2012. The level of funding available for the capital programme was approved on the basis that through more cost effective build solutions and joint procurement efficiencies with Hampshire, financial savings could be made. All schemes within the capital programme have therefore been allocated a provisional budget which includes a savings target to be achieved. The cost of all schemes will be evaluated, monitored and reported against their target budget.
19. The expansion should be cost-effective as two additional classes can be provided by internal adaptations and only two further additional classrooms will be required. Therefore the total cost of this scheme should be kept within the total budget allocated to it.
20. Additional school places would need to be funded wherever they are located, and so there would be no net effect on the revenue budget.

### **Consultation**

21. The consultation included all those persons who are required to be consulted according to statutory requirements. The following were consulted: the governing body of the School; the families of pupils, teachers and other staff at the school; the trade unions who represent staff in Surrey schools; all primary

schools in the Borough; the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses in which the school is located; the local MP; the local SCC Members; local borough councillors; the Primary Care Trust; SCC Early Years and Childcare Service; the local Early Years setting – the nursery at the school.

22. Public consultation has taken place on the proposal to expand the School, and a Consultation Booklet was issued. Two public meetings were held at the School. A relatively large number of people attended the consultation meetings.

### **Statutory Notice**

23. There were no representations made in response to the publication of the Statutory Notice.

### **Consultation Response analysis**

24. There were 74 responses received by the deadline for submitting responses. Of these 33 were parents/carers of a child at the school. There are about 90 pupils at the schools, so this is a response rate of about 18% to 33% of the parents/carers of children at the schools depending on whether each child has one or two parents/carers and the number of children in the families. This is a high response rate.
25. There was unanimous support for the proposals.
26. All of the respondents supported the proposal, 0% neither supported nor opposed the proposal, and 0% of respondents opposed the proposal.
27. Details are provided in the document " Darley Dene Infant School Expansion Consultation Analysis "

### **Equalities implications**

28. This educational provision would 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. Ofsted has judged that the school promotes equality and tackles discrimination successfully. There is no discrimination because pupils learn to respect and understand different beliefs. This helps the school to make a good contribution to community cohesion. Therefore, changing the school into a primary school would promote equalities.
29. The proposal is for an expansion of provision, so more staff would be employed. Employment opportunities would increase with a larger school. The range of opportunities would be enhanced by the expansion of the school and there would also be greater professional development opportunities.

### **Risk management implications**

30. A project to provide additional classrooms for September 2013 will be required. There is a low risk that these classrooms will not be available in time.

### **Implications for the Council's Community Strategy priorities**

31. The provision of sufficient school places at an inclusive school contributes to the children and young people strand of the Community Strategy.

32. Expansion of community infrastructure in appropriate locations is in accordance with housing, infrastructure and environment policy.

### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

33. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change.

### **Legal implications/legislative requirements**

34. Section 1 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 inserts section 13A into the Education Act 1996, which places a duty on local education authorities (ie Local Authorities with responsibility for the functions of education in their area) to promote high standards and the fulfilment of potential. A local education authority shall exercise its functions with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to educational opportunity, and promoting the fulfilment by every child concerned of his educational potential. The duty of promotion means a local education authority should be proactive in the discharge of its functions.
35. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient primary education is available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local education authorities to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education are available in their area. Section 5 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places a duty to promote high standards. Therefore, there is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.
36. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 contains the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations. The former DCSF, now DfE 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.

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

37. This proposal would provide increase 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.

### **Section 151 Officer commentary**

38. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is part of the approved capital programme and that provisional funding has been allocated. The full costs of this scheme will be evaluated during the procurement process and reported to Cabinet in September.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the proposals are approved such that:

- Darley Dene Infant School would become a primary school on 1 September 2013
- the Published Admission Number (PAN) would be 30
- Darley Dene Infant School would extend its age range by 1 year each year until 1 September 2016
- the school would increase its number of places by 30 pupils each year from 2013 until it has become an all through primary school.

Additional classrooms would be built to accommodate the additional pupils and increase the capacity of the school from 90 to 210 places

## **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Additional junior places in the area are necessary. The expansion of Darley Dene Infant School would increase parental certainty of progression for their children and provide effective long-term provision to meet the needs of local children, promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to educational opportunity, and promoting the fulfilment by every child of their educational potential.

## **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

Subject to Cabinet Member approval, Surrey County Council will implement the proposals. There will be a separate approvals process to authorise the spending of funds on the scheme.

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### **Contact Officer:**

Mark Burton, School Place Planning Manager, tel 020 8541 9142

### **Consulted:**

David Hodge, Leader

John Furey, Member for Addlestone

Nick Wilson, Strategic Director – Children Schools & Families

Julie Fisher, Strategic Director – Change & Efficiency.

### **Informed:**

Finance

Legal Services

### **Sources/background papers:**

The Education Act 1996; the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; the Education Act 2002; the Education Act 2005; the Education and Inspections Act 2006. Consultation Booklet regarding the expansion of Darley Dene Infant School  
Darley Dene Infant School Expansion Consultation Analysis.

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