

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

DATE: 17 JULY 2014

LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

SUBJECT: THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE GREVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL ASHTEAD



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council has consulted on a proposal to expand The Greville Primary School by one form entry from September 2015.

The education consultation was conducted between 7 March 2014 and 22 April 2014.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the comments received during the consultation period and on that basis determine whether to publish Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to pursue the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the publication of Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to expand the Greville Primary School subject to satisfactory consideration and, where appropriate, mitigation of the concerns raised in the consultation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This action is reflective of an increasing demand for school places in the Ashtead area, resulting from both an increase in birth rate and new house building.

The provision of places both meets the increased demographic pressures in the area and will allow the Council to admit those people who name the school as their preferred option, meeting the wider statutory duty to offer all applicants a school place.

A programme of building works will provide a modern teaching environment.

DETAILS:

The Current Position

1. The Greville Primary School has permanent accommodation for 450 pupils. The school has generally admitted 30 pupils each year into the Reception and a further 60 pupils into year 3. In September 2012, 2013 and September 2014 the school will have admitted 60 pupils into the Reception. This has been achieved through remodelling existing accommodation and providing a mobile classroom on the school site.

The Proposal

2. Surrey County Council is proposing to:
 - Enlarge the premises of The Greville Primary School to allow for a roll of 660, comprising of 180 Key Stage 1 pupils (6 class of 30 pupils, 2 in each year group) and 480 Key Stage 2 pupils (16 classes of 30 pupils, 4 in each year group), by the school admitting up to 60 Reception pupils per year and a further 60 pupils at year 3.
 - Build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.
 - The enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2015.
3. Growth at the school will take place over four years. The school's current potential number on roll is 510, which is reflective of the school admitting two temporary classes in 2012 and 2013. By 2018 the school would reach its proposed capacity of 660, which is an increase of 29% on current numbers.

Year	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2011	30	30	30	90	90	90	90	450
2012	60	30	30	90	90	90	90	480
2013	60	60	30	90	90	90	90	510
2014	60	60	60	90	90	90	90	540
2015	60	60	60	120	90	90	90	570
2016	60	60	60	120	120	90	90	600
2017	60	60	60	120	120	120	90	630
2018	60	60	60	120	120	120	120	660

Reasons for the proposal

4. Demand for primary school places has been rising in Ashtead. Much of the increase is as a result of the rise in the birth rate locally, some is due to housing development and a significant amount is a result of inward migration of families moving to existing housing in the area.
5. Births have increased across Mole Valley in excess of 11% since a low point in 2002. In order to provide for all children the Council has provided additional temporary provision at a number of schools. There is a clear requirement to now provide permanent provision in this area.
6. The Ashtead Planning area includes the following Schools: St Peter's Catholic Primary School currently providing 30 reception places per year and subject to a separate expansion proposal; West Ashtead Primary School providing 30 reception places per year and an additional 30 junior places per year; St Giles CE Infant School providing 40 reception places per year, and Barnett Wood

Infant School providing 52 reception places per year. Combined these schools currently provide places for 182 pupils. It is currently forecast that The Greville Primary School and all other Ashtead schools will be full.

- The school is on an attractive site close to pupil demand. The school has a strong reputation – it is currently rated as Ofsted Good, and is oversubscribed for entry places. For September 2012 the school received 36 1st, 70 2nd and 51 3rd preference applications for 30 planned places. For entry in 2013 these figures were 35, 63 and 53, and for 2014 were 48, 65 and 43. Applications have increased both for The Greville School and in the wider planning area as a whole.

Year	Ashtead	The Greville
2010	182	25
2011	200	38
2012	239	36
2013	210	35
2014	224	48

- As detailed above, there is a demand for additional school places in the local area. This proposal, by providing 210 additional primary places within Ashtead, will enable the authority to meet the rising demand as part of school reorganisation changes in the area. This also includes supporting the expansion of St Peter’s Catholic Primary School to cater for an increase in demand of Catholic faith based places in the wider area.
- The school is a vital part of the Council’s education offer in the local area. Increasing the number of school spaces within Ashtead is essential in ensuring that the County Council performs its statutory duty of educating all resident pupils who request a school place.

Planning and capital considerations

- A two-phase building programme is required to provide accommodation for the expanded school. Appropriate capital has been approved to achieve this through the School’s Basic Need capital programme. Detailed work has been undertaken with Surrey County Council Property Services and consultants to develop a scheme of works to provide the expansion in an appropriate manner, and a separate planning application is being submitted pursuant to this.
- Phase-one of the building programme is required to account for the existing pupils on roll at the school and those being admitted in September 2014, and to mitigate against current deficiencies in accommodation. Phase one of the building works will therefore be pursued irrespective of the outcome of this consultation.
- The larger phase-two element of the programme, to provide the accommodation relevant to the future increase in pupil numbers, is dependent on the outcome of this consultation. The proposal and programme is currently being developed and

further public consultation is scheduled as part of the pre-planning application process.

13. As part of the planning process a traffic assessment has been undertaken and has identified a number of mitigations required outside of the school site to enable the expansion. These have been included within the programme and would need to be pursued during any construction phase.

CONSULTATION:

14. A consultation was undertaken by Surrey County Council with relevant stakeholders including the issuing of consultation documentation and the holding of a public meeting, which was well attended.
15. School Governors and the local members have been regularly consulted, both during the consultation process and throughout the development of proposals.

Comments Received during consultation

16. A total of 19 formal written responses were received during the consultation, and in addition a petition against the expansion has been received containing 111 signatories. The public meeting was attended by in excess of 85 parents and other interested parties.
17. Whilst there is a general consensus that additional school places are required within Ashted, significant concern has been raised at both the public meeting and in the written responses to the proposed expansion at the Greville Primary School.
18. Of the 19 written responses, 15 disagreed with the proposal to expand the school, two agreed with the proposal to expand the school, and two did not know or offer a position.
19. Concern about the proposal can be themed in four areas, these will be summarised and responded to in the following sections.

Facilities

20. Concern was raised that there would be inadequate dining facilities within the school. Currently the school has insufficient internal hall space to allow for all pupils to eat meals inside. Pupils have space provided to eat meals in external covered areas.
 - As part of the building proposals it is anticipated that the existing main hall will be extended and the secondary hall, currently subdivided into a classroom and small hall space, will be reverted back to a single hall space. This measure would significantly increase the school's hall area and therefore, available space for dining. The total available hall space would be above Department of Education's building bulletin guidance.
21. Concern has been raised by a respondent, the school leadership team and the Governing Body relating to the level of resource space within the proposed building plan. This includes the number of group and intervention spaces, the total amount of administration space and the level of storage space within the

school. This is in the context of the proposal to expand the school to 660 pupils, making it one of the largest primary schools within Surrey.

- There is a need to appropriately assess the amount of ancillary space, including group space, administration space and storage space, within the proposal, both in relation to the schools requirements and the appropriate guidance on school building standards. The school is working with the Surrey County Council property team with specific reference to the phase-two elements of the building proposal to ensure that these elements are considered within the development of the programme. Both phases of development will be subject to the planning process and there will be the opportunity for interested parties to interrogate the proposed plans.
22. Many respondents highlighted that the proposed building would both increase pressure on the existing hard play space and reduce the soft play areas, as the bulk of phase-two would need to be built on non-marked playing field.
- An increase in the number of pupils at the school will increase the need for accessible hard play. The proposed scheme is providing additional hard play areas and the school has clear arrangements in place to ensure that their future use is managed effectively and safely. The significant building elements of phase-two are proposed to be provided on the non-marked play field. The school will retain a field that is in line with requirements and provides enough space for marked pitches and running track. The existing soft play elements will be re-sited to the rear of the proposed block and there will not be a loss of that facility. It is however accepted that whilst retaining sufficient space, the increase in playing field area is not being increased as part of the proposal.

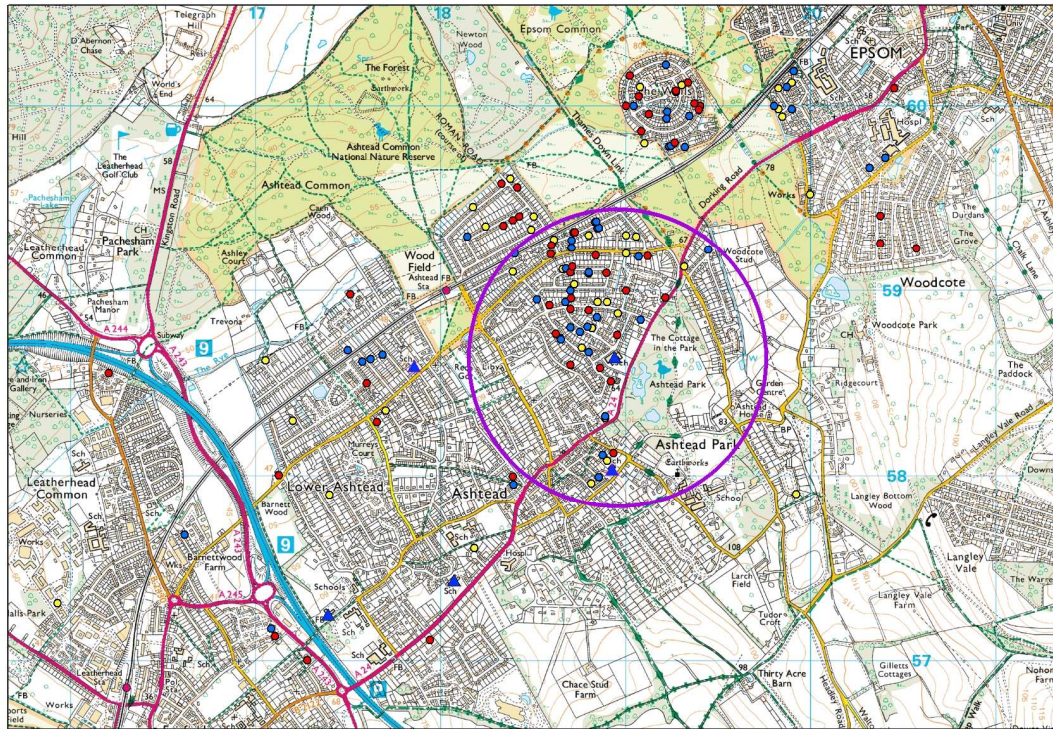
Size

23. Respondents raised a concern that an increase in the number of pupils would damage the ethos of The Greville School as a small village primary school, which is the reason for parents listing the school as a preference. Concern was further expressed that the school would not be able to offer the level of additional activities that are currently provided, and that appropriate funding support would not be given to the growing school.
- The Greville School has managed a number of expansion programmes over the past 10 years. Significant effort has been made by the school's leadership and Governing Body to ensure that the ethos of school is maintained and enhanced throughout. This has been achieved through careful management of year groups to enable smaller groupings throughout the school. The proposed works enable this approach to continue through the siting of year groups in specific areas throughout the school. Whilst the delivery of education at the school is the responsibility of the school's leadership and Governing Body, the school's new budget will provide the additional funding to ensure that there is no reduction in pupil to teacher ratio at the expanded school. The school will manage additional activities at the school and is not anticipating a reduction in the availability of these for additional pupils.
24. Concern was expressed by a number of respondents that the school would not have the leadership support or capacity to manage the school expansion.

- No concern has been expressed about the capacity of the school at a leadership or governance level to manage the proposed expansion by professional advisors. Current indicators of school performance data indicate that the school is performing well, and Council officers have a high degree of confidence that the expansion can be managed without detriment to existing standards. In addition, the School Governors and Head Teacher have been making use of professional advice to develop appropriate curriculum models relevant to the expanded school. Furthermore, the school has also been consulting with outstanding schools of a similar size to ensure that an effective curriculum, leadership and governance structure is in place to enable the expansion to take place effectively. The school will also use the expertise within the local school partnership to ensure that plans are tested and refined.

Strategy of local provision

25. Concern was expressed that the expansion of places would provide places for non local residents.
- The school has accepted two additional Reception age classes in 2012 and 2013. There has not been a significant change in the distance to which the school recruits in each of these years. The locus of population from which school draws is local to the Ashtead area and there is not a significant intake from the Leatherhead area. The map below indicates the last 3 years' Reception intake at the school - the purple circle is 0.5 miles from the school.
 - The school does recruit, and has traditionally recruited, from the Wells area of Epsom. The Greville Primary School is the closest non-faith school to this area and it is not anticipated that the pattern of admission will alter in this area.
 - Demand for school places has risen specifically in the Ashtead area and the proposal is to provide places to meet that demand.



26. Concern was expressed about the future organisation of the school that would have significantly more junior spaces than primary spaces.
- The split in admissions arrangements is required to meet the demands of the existing pattern of provision that includes local infant schools whose pupils require Junior education. However should the proposal be pursued, the school would have 180 infant age pupils and 480 junior age pupils. Whilst proportionately this is less significant than the current difference at the school, this structure does place emphasis on the school to arrange and manage resources appropriately in order to deliver the curriculum in an effective manner. The school's leadership has taken the opportunity to visit schools with the same structure to ensure that best practise can be implemented across the school.
27. Questions were raised by respondents as to why The Greville Primary School was being expanded and other schools within the area were not being impacted.
- The proposal to expand The Greville Primary School has been considered as part of a programme of expansion to meet the increase in demand in the area. All schools within the planning area were considered as part of the process, including discussions with the Planning and Highways Authority. One other school in the area, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, is also being expanded.
 - It is anticipated that growth will increase in the area to reflect increases in demographics in the area. In addition it is expected that future housing in the Ashted area will significantly add to demand patterns. If these current trends continue, and with a view to further potential housing across the District, it is anticipated that demand for school places will continue to grow and that further school places will be required beyond 2015.

- The Council has taken steps to proactively look at potential property assets that offer opportunities to meet demand in a sustainable manner. Firstly through the provision of further additional junior places, and secondly with a view to look at the pattern of provision more widely to include the admission numbers at the existing schools, with a focus on junior provision.
- As a result of this the Council has purchased a site next door to Barnett Wood Infant School with the view that this could possibly provide school places needed in the future. It would mean that Barnett Wood would have the potential to provide additional junior places should the demand for places continue in the area.

Parking and access

28. Significant concern has been raised about the parking and access at the school. Particular concern is the lack of space to allow parents and pupils to access the site safely in relation to the number of cars on site and the potential impact on local residents.
- The development of the programme of building works has been undertaken in consultation with the Planning Authority and Highways Department. The planning application will draw out specific responses to the access issues and proposed enhancements. A detailed travel survey has been undertaken and has included mitigation measures to be included as part of the planning application. In addition further measures may be required by the Highways Department as a condition on approval of the planning application.
 - It is clear that access to the site is a genuine and widely held concern and will need to be addressed throughout the planning application process.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

29. A project to deliver the new school buildings for September 2015 is required and as such there are risks associated with this proposal. There is a risk that the project will not be completed within the timescales outlined above and there may be site abnormalities not identified as part of the initial feasibility exercise. A risk register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis by the school's consultants. There is the further risk that the scheme will not achieve planning permission. The consultation received a significant response citing planning concerns and these will need to be addressed throughout the planning application.
30. Should the approval of additional school places not be granted there is the risk that Surrey would fail to meet its statutory duty in providing sufficient school places, without mitigation at another site.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

31. The building project resultant from this proposal is included in the County Council's school basic need capital programme as part of the 2014/2019 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). A scheme of works is being developed by Property Services.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

32. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is listed in the approved 2014/19 MTFP capital programme.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

33. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on Local Education Authorities to ensure 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 ensure 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. There is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.
34. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 and (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) Regulations 2013 that came into force on 28 January 2014 provide statutory and non statutory guidance on the process for making prescribed alterations to schools, including the establishment of new provision.

Equalities and Diversity

35. This action will enhance educational provision and be open to all children in the community served by the school. No group with any protected characteristics under Equalities legislation will be affected by this proposal as increased provision for all children will be made. As a result, no EIA has been produced. However, with the increase in provision being open to all applicants, with the highest priority given to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or who would benefit from a statement of special educational need, this proposal will support our most vulnerable children.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

36. This action is key in ensuring that the appropriate numbers of school places are provided to meet the demand of our residents. All places provided have the highest priority given to children in the care of the local authority.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

37. The Council has a duty to promote and improve educational outcomes for all children, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged children. The provision of school places is essential in meeting this duty.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

38. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The provision of additional school places local to demand, required by parents and children who would otherwise need to travel to a different sites for their education will reduce overall journeys within the county.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

39. The next steps are:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval Statutory Notices outlining the change will be published and displayed publically for a period of four weeks.
- Any responses to the Statutory Notices will be collated and reported to the Cabinet Member.
- A further report will be submitted to the Cabinet Member so that the Statutory Notices can be determined.
- Should the Cabinet Member determine the Statutory Notices positively the proposal will be confirmed and The Greville School would be permanently expanded from September 2015.
- A planning application for both phases of the expansion is being pursued and will be determined in accordance with relevant planning legislation.

Contact Officer:

Nicholas Smith, School Commissioning Officer 020 8541 8902

Consulted:

Nick Wilson, Strategic Director for Children Schools and Families
Chris Townsend, Council Member
Public and Parents

Sources/background papers:

- The Greville School Consultation Document
 - All responses to the consultation
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