

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**DATE: 22 JULY 2014**

**REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**  
**MS 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: ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEATHERHEAD**

#### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of St Peter's Catholic Primary School from a 1 Form of Entry primary (210 places) to a 2 Form of Entry primary (420 places) creating 210 additional places in Leatherhead to help meet the basic need requirements in the Leatherhead area.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 17 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 form of entry (210 places) primary places in Leatherhead 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 Leatherhead area.

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **Background**

1. The provision of additional school places within the Leatherhead area is vital in order to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its statutory duty of providing sufficient school places and meet the demands of a significantly rising population. The provision of additional places at St Peter's Catholic School is also vital in providing specific faith based school places to retain and enhance a diversity of provision in the School estate and to meet the specific demands of a rising catholic population as evidenced by increased baptisms.
2. The Governing Body of St Peter's Catholic Primary School, in co-operation with the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and Surrey County Council, has proposed to:

- Enlarge the premises of St Peter's Catholic Primary School to allow for a roll of 420, comprising 180 Key Stage 1 pupils (6 classes of 30 pupils with two in each year group) and 240 Key Stage 2 pupils (8 classes of 30 pupils with two in each year group), by the school admitting up to 60 Reception pupils per year.
- Build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.

The expansion would be effective from 1 September 2015.

3. Numbers of children starting school in the Ashtead and Leatherhead area have been increasing for some years. This has been caused by an increase in births, families moving into existing housing in the borough, and families moving into new housing and the numbers of children needing a school place in the area are projected to continue to increase.
4. The number of pupils requiring a reception places in 2007/8, 230, has risen consistently and for entry in September 2012 was 56 students higher at 286 a rise of 24.3%. The intake in September 2013 was 27 pupils in excess of the combined Published Admission Number (PAN) of the schools within Ashtead and Leatherhead. As a result, the Council has provided additional school places in temporary classrooms. In 2012 two temporary classes were provided, one at The Greville Primary School and one at West Ashtead Primary School. In 2013, one temporary class was provided at The Greville Primary School and a further one is planned for 2014 as part of a permanent expansion at that school. This approach in the long term is unsustainable and it is necessary that Council provide additional places in permanent solutions.
5. Demand for school places as measured by parental preference has also increased during this period. For 2008/9 there were 229 first preference applications made for reception places. For entry in 2013/14 this figure had increased to 269 an increase of 40 applications, a rise of 17.5%.
6. For the purposes of projecting future demand, the County Council groups schools into planning areas. St Peter's Catholic Primary School is within the Ashtead planning area but immediately abuts the Leatherhead Planning area. For the purposes of this forecasting demand these areas have been combined and include the following schools: Barnett Wood Infant School, St Giles Infant School, Leatherhead Trinity Primary School, The Greville Primary School, West Ashtead Primary School and St Peter's Catholic Primary School.
7. Ashtead and Leatherhead births were in 2012 about 19.75% higher than the low point around 2001. This will increase the number of children needing a primary school place 4 years later each year in the future.
8. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a duty on Surrey County Council to expand successful schools and to consider representations from parents about school provision. Furthermore, Surrey County Council has a duty to provide sufficient diversity of places. There is good evidence to suggest that there are currently insufficient Catholic places available in the area to meet demand. Catholic schools in the Epsom deanery currently offer 180 Reception year places while the current average number of baptisms across the deanery is 220.

9. The shortage of Catholic places is particularly acute in the Ashtead/Leatherhead area. This is demonstrated in the number of baptisms, illustrated in the table below, in the parishes St Peter's serves.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Ashtead	16	17	19	25	33	27	32
Leatherhead	15	22	11	21	22	17	29
Effingham & Fetcham	11	20	14	18	7	12	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>70</b>

10. The increase in Catholic baptisms across the parishes served by St Peter's School between 2007 and 2013 was 66.67%. The number of Catholic Baptisms, at 70 in 2013 and consistently above 45, is significantly above the 30 reception places available at St Peters Catholic School, the only Catholic Primary School serving this area.
11. The school has a strong reputation and is oversubscribed for school places. It was judged as being a 'Good' school by Ofsted at its last full inspection in April 2012. For September 2012 the school received 33 first preference, 22 second preference, and 20 third preference applications for 30 planned places. For entry in 2013, these figures were 36, 24 and 14, and for 2014 were 49, 25 and 16. As a result, the school has been unable to offer places to all Catholic applicants.
12. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for the expansion of the school. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 17 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 Leatherhead.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

13. As a Voluntary Aided school the proposal is the responsibility of the School's Governing Body. The Governors supported by Surrey County Council and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton carried out a public consultation between 28 April and 30 May 2014. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all stakeholders and the local member was informed. In addition a public meeting was held at the school on 13 May 2014. Responses to the consultation indicated a good level of support for the expansion programme.
14. The Governing Body of the school has agreed to the issuing of Statutory Notices on their behalf. Statutory Notices will be displayed during July and these will be locally determined in October 2014.
15. On 3 April 2014 the school held an open presentation meeting for stakeholders to view the draft plans for the design of the new school. A number of residents and parents attended the meeting. Some concerns were raised around parking and access elements of the potential expansion. These are being addressed through the planning application.
16. The scope of the works will include the construction of a single storey extension comprising six classrooms, amenities, plant room and additional hard standing and play area.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

17. The planning application is anticipated to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting in September 2014.
18. There are risks associated with the project and a project risk register has been compiled and is 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**

19. 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 17 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**

20. Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is included in the 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan.

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

21. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on a Local Authority (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**

22. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
23. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
24. The school will be for children in the community served by the school. The Admissions arrangements will give the highest priority to Looked After Children and pupils on the Special Educational Needs (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.
25. 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**

26. This proposal would provide increased provision for Catholic places in the area, which would be of benefit to 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**

27. 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:**

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

#### **Contact Officer:**

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Nicholas Smith, School Commissioning Officer – tel: 020 8541 8902

#### **Consulted:**

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes

Chris Townsend, SCC Local Member, Ashted

Tim Hall, SCC Local Member, Leatherhead and Fetcham East

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 17

#### **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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