

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: HILLCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL, CATERHAM



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Hillcroft Primary School from a 1.5 Form of Entry primary (315 places) to a 2 Form of Entry primary (420 places) creating 105 additional places in Caterham to help meet the basic need requirements in that area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 18 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 0.5 form of entry (105 places) primary places in Caterham 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 Caterham area.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The provision of additional school places within the Caterham 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 rising population.
2. To meet the demographic need Surrey County Council has proposed to:
 - Increase the intake of Hillcroft 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.

3. Hillcroft Primary School is situated in North West Tandridge. For school planning purposes the district is divided into planning areas. Hillcroft Primary School is included in the planning area that incorporates Caterham and Chaldon and comprises the following schools:

Audley Primary School, offering 30 places per year
 Marden Lodge Primary School, offering 30 places per year
 St Johns CE VA Primary School, offering 60 places per year
 St Francis' Catholic VA Primary School offering 36 places per year expanding to 60 places per year
 St Peter and St Paul CE VA Infant School offering 30 places per year.

Hillcroft Primary School now offers 60 places per year having previously having a published admission number of 45 up to 2010.

4. Demand for school places in the area has increased over the last four years. This is reflective of an increase in the birth rate and other demographic changes. Births within Tandridge have increased from 862 in 2005 to 966 in 2012, an increase in excess of 12%. Additionally the area has seen inward migration and additional housing further adding to potential demand. We anticipate that we will need to provide for this additional demand over the long term.
5. First preference applications for Hillcroft Primary School have consistently increased from 37 for entry in September 2010 to 62 for entry in September 2014. It was judged as being a 'Good' school by Ofsted at its last full inspection in January 2013. The number of pupils admitted in the reception year within the planning area has increased from 211 for entry in September 2009 to 267 pupils admitted in September 2014. This is an increase equivalent 26.7%.
6. For entry in 2011 Hillcroft Primary School was required to admit 73 children and St Francis Primary School was required to admit 54 children. This ensured that all local Surrey applicants were offered a school place.
7. In 2012 demand continued to rise and it was necessary for Hillcroft Primary School to admit 60 students and St Francis Primary School to admit 48 students, again to provide all local Surrey applicants with an offer of a School place.
8. For entry in 2013 the school again admitted 60 reception pupils. These temporary increases at the school have been enabled through the provision of a demountable classroom at the school site. For the school to continue to admit 60 pupils further permanent accommodation is required.
9. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for the expansion of the school. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 18 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 105 additional primary school places to meet the demand within Caterham.

CONSULTATION:

10. The increase in admission number has been confirmed through School Admissions arrangements consultation. The consultation was conducted from 25 November 2013 to 20 January 2014 and was widely distributed to schools, admissions authorities and the Surrey Schools Admissions forum. The admission number of 60 was confirmed by Cabinet on 25 February 2014 and the full admission arrangements were determined by full Council on 18 March 2014.
11. The scope of the works include a new extension comprising three classrooms, plant room and disabled amenities, refurbishment of other internal spaces and minor external alterations and demolitions.
12. The SCC Local Member has been consulted on the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

13. The planning application will be considered by the Planning Committee at a future meeting.
14. There are risks associated with the project and 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

15. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as it progresses. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated as item 18 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

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

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

17. 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

18. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
19. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
20. 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.

21. 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

22. This proposal would provide increased provision for school 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

23. 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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Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes

John Orrick, SCC Local Member, Caterham Hill

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 18

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