

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: HURST PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST MOLESEY.



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SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case to build a brand new 2 Form of Entry (420 places) primary school with a 26 place nursery on a new site, to replace the existing Hurst Park school and to enable the expansion of the school from its current 1 Form of Entry primary (210 places) and nursery to a 2 Form of Entry primary (420 places) creating 210 additional places in West Molesey, to help meet the basic need requirements in the Elmbridge area.

The provision of a new school requires additional direct funding and investment by the Council, in order to meet the higher costs associated with the provision of a completely new school.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 19 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of a new 420 place school and 26 place nursery on a new site providing an additional 1 Form of Entry (210 places) primary places in West Molesey 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 Elmbridge area.

DETAILS:

Background

1. School rolls have been rising steadily across Elmbridge Borough since 2002 and there is an immediate requirement for additional places in the Moleseys Primary Planning area. To ensure sufficient provision of primary school places in West

Molesey, Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of Hurst Park Primary School to two Forms of Entry (2FE) with effect from 1 September 2015.

2. This proposal also recommends that we rebuild the school on a new site, given the limited capacity of the current school site both to expand further to meet forecast needs for school places and with its associated highways and access issues.
3. Based on the most recent forecast of pupil numbers, which projects the requirement for school places up to 2020 and beyond, two additional forms of entry in this planning area would meet the basic need. Expansion of existing schools is the logical and most financially prudent response to this issue.
4. Hurst Park Primary School is a popular and successful school which delivers a high quality education. It was judged as being a 'Good' school by Ofsted at its last full inspection (May 2013). The provision of additional places at Hurst Park Primary therefore meets the Government's policy position to expand successful and popular schools in order to provide quality places and meet parental preferences.
5. There is a clear need for additional primary school places in The Moleseys planning area. This area is served by five schools: Chandlers Field Primary, St Alban's Catholic Primary School (which has also recently secured agreement to expand by 1 FE in order to meet the needs of catholic residents in the wider deanery); Orchard Infant, St Lawrence Junior (due to be rebuilt under the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme) and Hurst Park.
6. Hurst Park Primary School has previously expanded temporarily by taking additional reception 'bulge' classes in 2012, 2013 and will do so again in 2014 to help relieve the pressure for places in the area. Therefore by September 2014, it will already have 90 pupils in the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes.
7. Hurst Park Primary School is willing to permanently expand in the longer term and is keen to do so with the expectation of new accommodation which is designed to enhance the quality of the educational opportunities on offer. The staff and governors have been working closely with Surrey County Council to agree a design for the new school on the former John Nightingale school site. The governing body is also keen to improve the access to the school for pedestrians and vehicles in response to parents' and residents' concerns about the volume of traffic and safety on Hurst Road. The property, schools and highways officers are working together to develop traffic mitigation measures and advice has been taken from Surrey County Council's Highways Department in this regard and a full traffic survey has been undertaken and measures incorporated into the new scheme.
8. A number of residents living adjacent to the proposed new school site have raised concerns about the location of the new school's main entrance and the impact this will have on residents due to parental parking at key times. Advice on traffic calming measures and parking arrangements have been incorporated into the planning application.
9. The local authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and it is not currently possible to expand one of the other local schools in the immediate planning area or to increase the size of Hurst Park on its present site. Building a new school on land already owned by the council seems to be the best option

and affords the best educational opportunity, since the new school will benefit from the existing leadership and expertise of a Head teacher and staff with a proven track record for success.

10. Based on the most recent pupil projections, the County Council is forecasting a need for two additional forms of entry in The Moleseys in the immediate future. This proposal therefore forms one part of a wider area strategy with a further form of entry planned for St Alban's.
11. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for the expansion of the school on a new site. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 19 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 Molesey.

CONSULTATION:

12. A public consultation was carried out between 2 December 2013 and 6 January 2014. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all parents and other stakeholders and interested parties. In addition, two meetings were held at the school on 3 December 2013; these were attended by approximately sixty parents and residents. On 27 November 2013, the school held an open presentation meeting for stakeholders to view the draft plans for the design of the new school. This was also well attended. The consultation document was also published on the Surrey County Council website and the local borough and county councillors were sent copies.
13. The council had received 33 written responses in total by the close of the consultation; 5 responses arrived soon after the deadline and so have been included in this analysis. A summary of all the consultation response forms is given in the table below. It should be noted that some residents are also parents of pupils on roll at Hurst Park so will be counted in both categories, therefore the numbers in the individual columns will not always total 38:

Respondent	Number of Forms /emails received	Against	For	Don't Know/undecided
Total Responses received	38	5	22	12
Employee of the school	0	0	0	0
HP School governor	1	0	1	0
Parents of children on roll	(5)	0	5	0
Other parents or reps of other schools	0	0	0	0
Residents	37	5	20	12

14. The governing body plus twenty-two respondents are in agreement with the proposal. Twelve people state that they do not know whether or not they are in favour, with a number stating that they want more information about the building development before deciding. Five respondents who sent in forms or emailed comments are against the proposal.

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15. The main concerns raised by respondents is the anticipation of parking problems associated with the entrance to the new school building being located on the design plans on Freeman Road, within the Bishop Fox estate. They would prefer this to be on the main Hurst Road served by reinstating the old slip road that existed when the John Nightingale Special School was on this site.
 16. The residents on the estate point out that the roads are too narrow to accommodate the volume of traffic and pedestrians a school may bring. Some residents also object to the potential noise, litter and intrusions to their properties from pupils at the school.
 17. Unfortunately the postal delivery informing residents of the Bishop Fox estate of these proposals did not arrive until after the public consultation meetings at the school. Although the primary purpose of these two meetings was to inform parents about the educational impact of this proposal, and was not to discuss the design or planning issues, some residents who were not parents of children currently on roll at Hurst Park Primary contacted the local authority expressing their dissatisfaction at not being able to attend a meeting and hear about the proposal first hand. The Governing Body and the School Commissioning Officer therefore convened a further meeting for the residents on 20 March 2014. Verbal comments were noted and residents were informed that they could still submit a representation to the Surrey County Council Planning Officer prior to the application being considered by the committee.
 18. A number of residents supported the proposal to rebuild on the John Nightingale site but many shared the concerns about traffic and road safety issues on Hurst Road.
 19. Those people in support of the proposal recognised the need for more places and welcomed the opportunity to provide these at a purpose built primary school with more space for pupils to play. However, even some of these people expressed reservations about the pedestrian entrance being on Freeman Drive. Some people qualified their support for expansion on the understanding that traffic management measures would be assured.
 20. Statutory notices were published, and a four week consultation concluded on Monday 24 March 2014 at 12 noon. No further responses were received
 21. The new school consists of a building with single and two story's elevations. There are 14 classrooms, a design technology room, learning resource centre, hall and production kitchen. In addition, there is a 26 place pre-school nursery.

Externally the new school will have two dedicated pedestrian access points, separate car park and service entrances. New Multi-Purpose Games Area (MUGA), separate hard play areas and a playing field. Additionally all the boundaries will be landscaped providing ecology areas for the school.
 22. During the iterative planning and highways consultation process a number of suggested improvements have been received to mitigate the impact of the expected increase in local traffic. These are being reviewed and adjustments made as part of the planning process.
 23. The SCC Local Member has been consulted on the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

24. The planning application is anticipated to be considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 16 July 2014.
25. 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

26. 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 19 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

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

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

28. 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

29. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
30. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
31. 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.
32. 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

33. 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 school.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

34. 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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Melanie Harris, School Commissioning Officer – tel: 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
Ernest Mallett, SCC Local Member, West Molesey
Stuart Selleck, SCC Local Member, East Molesey and Esher
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 19

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