

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2014****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: TO DETERMINE PUBLICATION OF STATUTORY NOTICES TO CONSULT ON A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND HINCHLEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

In order to meet increasing demand for primary school places in Elmbridge approval is sought from the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning for the publication of statutory notices and a public consultation to expand Hinchley Wood Primary School in 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

- The school is enlarged by one form of entry (from two to three classes per year group). Adding a net total of 210 places in Years R to 6 by 2020.
- The school undertakes a building programme on its present site which would add teaching accommodation and a new kitchen and dining room
- This expansion would be effective from 1 September 2016 and would be funded by Surrey County Council as part of its Basic Need Capital programme.
- Prior to the permanent expansion Hinchley Wood Primary school would take one more bulge class in September 2015.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There has been an increasing trend in the demand for places in primary schools in Elmbridge. Despite the expansion of a number of local schools in The Dittons and Weston Green areas there will still be a need for one more form of entry by 2016.

Hinchley Wood Primary is a popular and successful school which delivers high quality education. It was rated by OFSTED at its last inspection (May 2012) as a good school and is consistently over-subscribed. The proposed provision of 210 additional places at Hinchley Wood therefore meets the government's policy position to expand successful schools in order to meet parental preferences.

DETAILS:**Business Case**

1. There is currently a need for additional Reception Year (Year R) places across Elmbridge and The Dittons and Weston Green primary planning area is one of the primary place areas most under pressure. The combined Published Admission Number is 330 although Surrey County Council has been able to increase the local capacity by supplying 390 places over recent years. This has largely been achieved through schools taking temporary expansions or 'bulge' classes in Reception.
2. Although the birth rate seems to have now slowed, the forecast data, which includes proposed new housing that has already been granted planning permission, indicates that there will be an ongoing requirement for around 370 places per year up to 2024. Some of this demand will be met by rebuilding Cranmere and increasing its overall capacity to 360 places (in 2016) but there is a clear need for one more permanent form of entry.

	PAN	1pref	InfPI	Spare	YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
2007/08	300	330	300	21	279	293	269	280	282	280	243	1926
2008/09	300	336	300	-1	301	283	294	267	269	273	279	1966
2009/10	300	396	360	21	339	300	276	283	267	268	272	2005
2010/11	300	347	360	32	328	349	295	267	279	259	261	2038
2011/12	300	359	360	1	359	332	344	287	263	285	256	2126
2012/13	330	416	390	3	387	361	330	331	289	261	288	2247
2013/14	330	340	390	37	353	391	358	327	327	287	265	2308
2014/15	330		330	-46	376	355	393	359	330	330	290	2433
2015/16	330		330	-30	360	377	356	391	361	332	332	2509
2016/17	330		330	12	318	363	380	358	394	364	336	2512
2017/18	330		330	-40	370	321	365	379	361	398	368	2562
2018/19	330		330	-39	369	372	323	366	382	364	401	2577
2019/20	330		330	-38	368	370	374	324	368	384	366	2554
2020/21	330		330	-37	367	368	370	371	325	369	386	2556
2021/22	330		330	-34	364	367	368	367	372	326	370	2536
2022/23	330		330	-33	363	365	368	366	369	373	328	2530
2023/24	330		330	-34	364	364	365	365	367	370	374	2568
2024/25	330		330	-34	364	365	364	362	366	368	371	2559

3. Hinchley Wood Primary School has recently taken a number of 'bulge' classes to help meet the rising demand in the area and has taken additional students in 2012, 2013 and 2014. So in three of its seven year groups it is already 3 FE. It now has just over 500 pupils on roll and if it expands it would have 630. Its governors and Head Teacher have indicated a willingness to permanently expand providing that they are given accommodation to meet

their needs. The campus is considered sufficiently large to enable expansion and a viability study has been carried out to ascertain how this might be achieved.

- 4. It is proposed that the school has a new block of junior classrooms plus a kitchen and a small dining room which will operate in addition to the existing school hall. There may also be the opportunity to remodel the entrance and administrative areas to improve access for visitors and working conditions for support staff. However, this will be subject to the overall cost of the scheme which must be within the budget allocated to this project. The proposed plan would entail the removal of the temporary double modular building that was added to the school in 2013. This would be replaced by new build in a different location.
- 5. This project has been identified as 'Basic Need' and as such is to be funded by Surrey County Council. Once a final design with elevations has been agreed this would be submitted to Surrey County Council Planning Committee as part of a full planning application which will include a revised School Travel Plan.
- 6. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places across the borough and it is feasible to achieve this by expanding Hinchley Wood Primary School. The area strategy has been discussed with all the schools in question and is accounted for within the Basic Need Capital Programme and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.
- 7. Permission is therefore requested from the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning to agree to Surrey County Council engaging in a public consultation, over the prescribed statutory period of four weeks in order to seek the public's views on the proposal to expand Hinchley Wood Primary School by one form of entry in 2016.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

- 8. The key risk to this proposal is the dependency on a successful planning application to develop the site. There is also a risk that if permission is not granted for the expansion, the County Council may incur further costs in the provision of sufficient places.
- 9. Hinchley Wood parents, for the most part, expect their children to attend a local school. If Hinchley Wood Primary cannot expand this would mean that the County Council would have to meet the demand elsewhere, ideally within the planning area, although this may not be possible. As only one more form of entry is required in this area it is not financially feasible to build another new school.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

- 10. The cost of the proposed project will be funded through the Schools Basic Need Capital Programme and funding for this scheme is included in the current 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

11. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 sets out the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations of schools. These include school expansions.
12. The Department for Education has published two pieces of guidance relating to prescribed alterations: Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form (revised January 2014) 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. The Statutory and Non – Statutory Guidance will be followed if permission is granted to consult on this proposal.

Equalities and Diversity

13. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. However the increase in provision would be open to all applicants with the highest priority being given to Looked After Children, pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for the most vulnerable young people.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

14. Hinchley Wood Primary School has a robust Safeguarding Policy which is monitored by the designated Child Protection Lead Officer, is regularly reviewed by the governing body and is subject to OFSTED inspection. Site access and security, both during the proposed building programme and afterwards, will be considered and addressed in the planning and design of this building project, were it to go ahead.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

15. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. A safe walking route to the school will be identified for use by residents and facilities will be provided on campus for students and staff who cycle to school.
16. The additional school provision is centred close to an area of demographic demand and therefore will enable young people to attend a local school; thus reducing the need for lengthy school journeys to other schools both in and outside of the borough.

Section 151 Commentary

17. The section 151 officer confirms that funding for this scheme has been included in the 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan and scheme costs are expected to be contained within this funding allocation. More detailed costings will be developed as the scheme progresses to tender.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval, Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to expand the school will be published. The consultation period will be no less than four school weeks and will include at least one public meeting for parents and residents. There will be arrangements for consultation responses to be submitted either in writing or electronically using the Surrey Says website.
- The Cabinet Member would then receive a final report summarising the outcome of the consultation within two months of the expiration of the Statutory Notices to enable her to determine the proposed expansion

Contact Officer:

Melanie Harris, School Commissioning Officer NE Surrey, Tel: 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Parents of pupils and prospective pupils of Hinchley Wood primary School

Staff and Governors of the school

Local Councillors

Local residents and other local schools via the consultation document published on the Surrey Says website

Annexes: None

Sources/background papers: None

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