

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 25 NOVEMBER 2014

REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

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:

RYDENS ENTERPRISE SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, HERSHAM, PROPOSED EXPANSION FROM AN 8 FORM OF ENTRY SECONDARY SCHOOL (1200 PLACES AND 200 PLACE SIXTH FORM) TO A 9 FORM OF ENTRY SECONDARY SCHOOL (1350 PLACES AND 200 SIXTH FORM) CREATING AN ADDITIONAL 150 PLACES



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Rydens Enterprise School and Six Form College from an 8 form of entry secondary school (1200 places and 200 place sixth form) to a 9 form of entry (1350 Places and 200 place sixth form) creating 150 additional 11-16 places in Hershams to help meet basic need requirements in the Elmbridge area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the school as set out in agenda item 18 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 form of entry (150 places in Years 7 to 11, excluding any sixth form expansion) 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 Elmbridge borough.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The demand for school places has been rising in Elmbridge borough for a number of years and several primary schools have been expanded to meet this basic need. In the Walton and Hershams area four of the six primary schools have increased in size and it may be necessary to expand a fifth school in 2015 to meet the forecast demand for Reception places.

2. This demographic trend is set to affect the secondary sector from September 2014 and there are plans in place to expand three of the four secondary schools between 2015 and 2016. In addition a new three form entry secondary department has opened at The Cobham Free School in 2014 which has added to the overall capacity in the borough
3. Rydens is the only secondary school that currently has some spare places within its net capacity of eight forms of entry. However, based on the current forecast data and the existing available accommodation in the five secondary schools, by 2017 there will be insufficient Year 7 places. The local demand within the Moleseys and the wider Hersham and Walton areas suggests that we expand Rydens by one form of entry.
4. The Rydens Academy Trust plans to build a new school to replace the current 8 forms of entry school and Sixth Form College. The school land and buildings are in the ownership of the Trust, which has reached agreement with a developer for the sale of surplus land, which will be used to fund the rebuilding of the school.
5. The Rydens Academy Trust has agreed to the Local Authority's request to expand the school by a further form of entry to meet the local need. This expansion will be incorporated into the new build and will be funded through a contribution by the Local Authority from its Schools Basic Need programme. Completion of the project will be in the summer of 2016, with the additional places being offered as and when they are required.
6. In the event that the Rydens Academy Trust is unsuccessful in its planning application to rebuild the school, the Trust has agreed with the Local Authority to undertake an alternative scheme to extend the existing school accommodation and provide the additional capacity required to meet the local need.
7. The Rydens Academy Trust has further agreed that in the event that it is necessary to proceed with the alternative scheme, this would be delivered within the same funding envelope agreed with the Local Authority from its Schools Basic Need programme as a contribution towards the increased places that will be required in the area.
8. Surrey County Council has allocated capital for the provision of the new secondary school places as part of the Schools Basic Need programme. Developers of housing will also be required to pay S106 contributions towards education infrastructure in Hersham. Secondary education S106 contributions will go towards offsetting some of the Local Authority's cost of expansion at the school.
9. As an Academy, the Rydens Academy Trust will be responsible for building the new school and required accommodation. Surrey County Council is represented on the project board.
10. The accommodation, whether it is in the new build school or the alternative scheme, will comprise of general class teaching, technology, and ancillary rooms. There will be suitable amenities including break out spaces for one to one learning, laboratories, practical subject rooms, hall space with dining facilities, kitchen, staff room and office accommodation.

11. The recommended amount of informal hard and soft play areas will be provided; together with 2 new all weather sports pitch facilities.
12. The Cabinet is asked to approve the business case for the provision of the additional school places. Financial details have been circulated as agenda item 18 in Part 2 of the agenda. Subject to approval, the project will be progressed with delivery of the new accommodation by summer 2016 to provide the additional school places to meet the demand within Hersham.

CONSULTATION:

13. The School and the Rydens Trust have undertaken local public consultation relating to the proposed expansion and there has been broad consultation undertaken through the planning process with the public, adjoining local authorities, public bodies and interest groups.
14. The SCC Local Member has been consulted on the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

15. Planning permission is due to be considered by the Elmbridge Borough Council Planning and Regulatory Committee at their full planning committee on 18 November 2014.
16. There are risks associated with the project and project risk registers have been compiled and are 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

17. The scheme 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

18. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the funding for this scheme is in the current Medium Term Financial Plan 2014 -19.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

19. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on Local Authorities (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
20. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. The proposed increase in provision would be open to all applicants with the highest priority being given to Looked After Children, pupils on the Special Educational Needs register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for the most vulnerable young people.

21. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
22. The school will be for children in the community served by the school. If there is sufficient provision available, this will be beneficial for all children, including vulnerable children.
23. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to continue to provide the normal range of before and after schools clubs as it does at present.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

24. This proposal would provide increased provision in the area, which would be of benefit to all in the community served by the school. This means it would therefore also be of benefit to any Looked After children who may attend the school.
25. Rydens Enterprise 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.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

26. 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 authority's adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

If approved, a Property representative will continue with their place on the Rydens Academy Project Board and drive to attain optimum value for money through to project completion and delivery of the proposed expansion.

Contact Officer:

Keith Brown, Schools and Programme Manager – Tel: 020 8541 8651
Melanie Harris, School Commissioning Officer – Tel: 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
Margaret Hicks, Local Member, Hersham
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
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