

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**DATE: 16 DECEMBER 2014**

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

**MS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES**

**LEAD OFFICER: PETER- JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**

**JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: CONNAUGHT JUNIOR SCHOOL, BAGSHOT**



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

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Connaught Junior School from a 3 form of entry Junior (360 places) to a 4 form of entry Junior (480 places) creating 120 additional Junior places in Bagshot to help meet the basic need requirements in the Surrey Heath area from September 2015.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 form of entry (120 places) Junior places in Bagshot 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 Surrey Heath area.

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **Background**

1. There is a need for more primary places across Surrey. In the context of the Bagshot, Windlesham and Valley End planning area the need is for more junior places. Connaught Academy Junior School serves the Bagshot, Windlesham and Valley End areas of Surrey Heath.
2. Windlesham Village Infant School increased its published admission number (PAN) from 40 to 60 in 2013 having admitted additional pupils in previous years. There are now 240 year 2 places at infant schools in the local community with only 180 year 3 places available. In the past the actual year 2 cohorts in the infant schools have been much lower than 240 and there has been a natural fall out rate to independent provision but this situation has started to change as the Year 2 cohorts have increased.

3. The infant schools are all now filling close to 240 creating a pressure on the local junior schools that is becoming difficult to meet. In 2013 a number of parents were not offered any of their preferences and were centrally offered other schools. This was disproportionately Valley End parents for whom Connaught Junior is a natural feeder school. In order to meet demand in the local community, the Local Authority and Connaught Junior have agreed to open an additional class in 2014 ahead of permanent expansion in 2015.
4. The number of year 2 pupils seeking year 3 provision in the future has generally increased from 2011 resulting in a deficit in junior places that will continue into the foreseeable future. Connaught Junior School has been identified as the most appropriate location in the Bagshot area to be increased to meet the demand for additional pupil places.
5. Connaught Junior School is a 'Good' school and it is entirely appropriate to expand good schools in line with government policy. The provision of places meets the increased demographic pressures in the area including new housing in the area. This will allow the Council to admit those pupils whose parents name the school as their preferred option, meeting the wider statutory duty to offer all children a school place.
6. The proposals comprise a two classroom extension, the provision of additional first floor means of escape via an external escape stair, internal modifications to provide additional classrooms and remodelling of amenity areas to increase numbers and improve distribution of boys and girls facilities equally across floors. Improved fire tender access will also be provided.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

7. Connaught Junior School is an Academy School and as such are both responsible for its own admissions policy and appropriate levels of consultation concerning school expansion.
8. The school has undertaken a consultation with its parents and relevant stakeholders concerning an expansion from 90 to 120 places per year from 2015. This proposal has received a good level of support and the Schools Governing Body has resolved to proceed with the proposal.
9. In addition the school has also consulted on a proposed change to the admission policy from 2015 to reflect the change in the Published Admission Number from 90 to 120. This change has been ratified by the schools Governing Body in accordance with the School Admission Code.
10. The local authority has worked closely with the school in developing this proposal. The Head Teacher and governing body are in full support of the proposal and are confident that teaching and learning standards and the ethos of the school will be maintained with a larger school community.
11. The proposed building design and position has been considered carefully and this has been carried out in consultation with the school and early discussions with the Local Authority's planners. A transport assessment has been undertaken and a revised school travel plan produced to assist in minimising the traffic journeys to and from the school.

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

12. The planning application was considered by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2014 and approved.
13. 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**

14. 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 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**

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

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

16. 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**

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

21. This proposal would provide increased provision for 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**

22. 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  
Mike Goodman, SCC Local Member, Bagshot, Windlesham and Chobham and Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning  
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

#### **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