

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

DATE: 15 JANUARY 2015

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

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF STATUTORY NOTICES RELATING TO THE EXPANSION OF BISHOP DAVID BROWN SCHOOL



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Demand for secondary school places has increased in Woking and has reached a point where additional school places are required. Demand is likely to increase slowly in 2015 and 2016 but more significantly from 2017 and 2018.

Bishop David Brown (BDB) is a comprehensive community Secondary School in Woking. The school is rated Good with outstanding features by Ofsted and currently has a PAN of 150. Consultation has recently been undertaken on a proposal to expand BDB to create sufficient capacity for the school to admit 180 pupils at Year 7 (an additional 150 places in total) in the future and for this work to be carried out by 2016. The Cabinet Member gave consideration to the public consultation and agreed to the publication of statutory notices indicating the Local Authority's intention to expand the school.

Notices were published on 24 October 2014 and the representation period was for 4 weeks. No further comments or responses were received pertaining to the notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member considers the responses to the statutory notice indicating the Local Authority's intention to proceed with the proposal to expand the premises of the school and determine the notice so that the expansion can take place.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposed expansion of Bishop David Brown School is part of a suite of proposals that increase the number of secondary school places available within the Borough and contribute to the Council meeting its statutory duty of providing sufficient school places.

DETAILS:

Need for Secondary School Places

1. Secondary demand follows primary demand and Woking has already reached a point where additional secondary school places are required. As table 1 below shows, demand is likely to increase from 2015 and to increase significantly from 2017 and 2018. In the longer term, the Local Authority is planning to need between 9 and 10 additional forms of entry in Woking by

2021 - a total of 1350-1500 additional secondary places where 'one form of entry' equals 150 secondary places based on 5 year groups (ages 7-11) of 30 pupils.

Table 1 – Secondary demand profile in Woking

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Projected requirement for Year 7 places in Woking	823	867	882	919	952	1054	1105	1084	1150
Current places at Year 7 in Woking	840	870	870	870	870	870	870	870	870
Projected shortfall at Year 7 in Woking	+14	+3	-12	-49	-82	-184	-235	-214	-280
Shortfall in 'forms of entry'	-	-	1	2	3	6	8	7-8	9-10

2. The Local Authority is of the view that Bishop David Brown and St John the Baptist both have the capacity for expansion but that Woking High and Winston Churchill could not be expanded further than they have already without significantly constraining the the quality of educational provision that they can offer. The overarching approach is to provide an additional form of entry at Bishop David Brown, to assume that there will be at least 4 forms of entry at the Hoe Valley Free School and a further 2 forms of entry at an expanded St John the Baptist. It is anticipated that any further capacity in the future would be provided at the Hoe Valley Free School, or if required, at Bishop David Brown through further expansion.
3. This approach relies on the Hoe Valley Free School. In June this year, the Government approved the proposed Hoe Valley Free School which is due to open at 4 forms of entry (120 year 7 places) in the South Woking area from 2015. Given the scale of demand indicated above, the Local Authority is generally supportive of the Hoe Valley proposals and has worked quite closely with the group as their plans have progressed. Following the Government announcement, Hoe Valley are now in the 'pre-opening phase' which means that further work is taking place on finding a suitable temporary and permanent site for this school to operate from. The Local Authority, as the responsible body must ensure that there are sufficient school places in the future should the Hoe Valley Free School proposals fail or delay.
4. Given the lead in times for construction projects, the relative uncertainties of the current place planning environment and the likelihood that the places will be needed in the future (whether in the shorter or longer term), it is recommended that the Local Authority proceed with providing additional capacity at Bishop David Brown by 2016.

Links with New Vision Homes Proposals in Sheerwater

5. This proposal is independent from the Sheerwater regeneration proposals currently being considered by Woking Borough Council. This is because the future pressure on secondary school places in Woking exists irrespective of how the regeneration proposals in Sheerwater develop. Now that Woking Borough Council have given approval to New Vision Homes to continue with the master planning process and with a planning application expected towards the end of the year, the Local Authority is mindful of the additional pupil yield that will be generated from the circa 350-500 additional dwellings planned in the area (not taken into account in the above profile). The proposed expansion of Bishop David Brown will help meet any additional demand for secondary school places generated by the development in the future.
6. As part of the master planning process, the Project Team at New Vision Homes has been working in partnership with Woking Borough Council, Surrey County Council (SCC), Broadmere Community Primary School and Bishop David Brown Secondary School to develop an outline proposal for enhanced recreational facilities including a Leisure Centre that it is intended will be shared between the two schools and the wider community. This would be funded by the developer.
7. Modern sporting facilities will be of great benefit both to Bishop David Brown and to Broadmere primary school. On this basis, SCC and Governors of Bishop David Brown have agreed 'in principle' to the location of these facilities on the existing school site (in-between both schools) on the basis that the facilities (including a four court sports hall) will be available to the school(s) during school hours and the local community outside of those hours.
8. If approved works on the recreational facilities could start on the site as early as 2016 so for this reason it would be better to have completed any enlargement of premises at Bishop David Brown in advance of this date to avoid multiple contractors on site and undue disruption to the school.

CONSULTATION:

9. The Local Authority published a consultation document to all statutory stakeholders on 10 September 2014 and held a public meeting at the school on 23 September 2014 to hear the views of parents, residents and other interested parties. The deadline for all responses to the consultation was 3 October 2014. Responses to this consultation were considered by the Cabinet Member on 17 October 2014 and a summary has been included as annex 1
10. Relevant Statutory Notices were published 24 October in the local paper and displayed at the school gate. No formal responses have been received against this notice.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

11. There is a risk that this proposal will create surplus capacity in the shorter term should the Hoe Valley Free School deliver, but this is considered to be acceptable on the grounds that the places will be needed in the longer term and more choice of secondary school places in Woking would benefit the local community. Pending the outcome of the Hoe Valley Free School proposal, Bishop David Brown could delay the formal increase of their Published Admission Number until a later date.
12. There are risks associated with the capital works on site. In general, the scheme is relatively modest (two classroom extension, with internal remodelling) and the site sits in the urban area with no significant planning policy constraints. A risk register will be maintained and updated on a regular basis as the project progresses. A phasing plan is being developed to manage the construction work and to ensure that there is minimal disruption to the school as possible.
13. There is a risk to the Local Authority that the regeneration project does not proceed and that the school is left without the sports hall planned as part of this provision. The school is currently underserved in this regard, a position that could be made worse if it expands.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

14. The full financial implications will be evaluated in the business case and presented to Investment Panel.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

15. 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.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

16. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 5 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places a duty to promote high standards. Therefore, there is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.

Equalities and Diversity

17. The additional classroom spaces will comply with DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations. It will be for children in the community served by the school as well as providing opportunities for extended community use. Officers did not consider there to be any significant equalities implications and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

18. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The buildings designs are energy efficient and the new buildings will comply or exceed Building Regulations. The contractor will be required to provide a Site Waste Management Plan.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

19. If approved a detailed planning application and tender package will be prepared for the project with works likely to start on site summer term 2015

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Local MP, Local Councillors, parents and pupils at Bishop David Brown, NW Secondary Schools, Woking Primary Schools, Dicoese.

Annexes:

Pre- consultation summary

Sources/background papers: None

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