

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET****DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2015****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: SAYES COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL, ADDLESTONE****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Sayes Court Primary School from a 1 Form of Entry Primary (210 places) to a 2 Form of Entry Primary (420 places) creating 210 additional places in Addlestone to help meet the basic need requirements in the Addlestone 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 agenda item 17 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 form of entry (210 places) primary places in Addlestone 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 Addlestone area.

**DETAILS:****Background**

1. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the Sayes Court Academy (converted to an Academy with the Bourne Education Trust (BET) a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) in June 2014), is proposing that the school expands from a 1 Form of Entry (FE) primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 (total capacity of 210 pupils), to a 2 Form of Entry primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 (total capacity of 420 pupils). This proposal will become effective from September 2015. Additional accommodation will be provided at the school to cater for the additional pupils joining the school.
2. Demand for school places has increased significantly in Runnymede in recent years. Increases in demand are not uniform across the Borough with some areas experiencing more pressure than others. Addlestone is an area where

the pressure has increased over the last three to four years. There are eight primary schools in Addlestone with a collective PAN of 270 (the number of places those schools admit at Reception). A further 30 places at Reception in the area will help meet the additional demand and provide a small number of spare places to enable some degree of parental choice.

3. Surrey County Council believes that local schools should serve their local communities. Sayes Court is in good proximity to the main pupil population in Addlestone. In 2013, there were 96 reception age pupils living within half a mile of the school against an available 30 places, with a similar number in 2014.
4. Sayes Court was formerly a 2FE junior school so there is some spare capacity in existing buildings which will be important when planning the project. The site is more than large enough for a 2FE primary school with no significant planning policy constraints identified at this stage. Surrey County Council will be able to phase the project avoiding the need for temporary accommodation. Given the nature of the sites that other primary schools occupy, there are few alternatives to expanding Sayes Court that are deemed acceptable from a cost and planning point of view. The proposals comprise a single storey teaching block providing 6 classrooms, group room and associated storage and toilets. There is some internal remodelling of the existing building to provide a larger staff room. Two additional car parking spaces are also to be provided.
5. While it is the local Authority's aim as far as possible, in line with Government policy, to expand schools judged by Ofsted to be 'Good', Sayes Court has made good progress within the BET since its 'Inadequate' judgement in June 2013. Its latest Ofsted monitoring visit last year reported that the school has exceptionally strong leadership in the Head teacher, well supported by the BET and the Local Authority. With limited alternative solutions, it is therefore felt appropriate to propose the expansion of Sayes Court at this time.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

6. Public consultation was undertaken on this proposal in January 2014. A consultation document was published to all statutory stakeholders including parents and local residents. The document was published on 14 January 2014 with consultation responses required by 14 February 2014. Taking into account the responses to the consultation, the Cabinet Member approved to publish notices on the proposal on 12 March 2014.
7. Following this decision and the completion of a feasibility study, public notices were published at the school on 15 May 2014 indicating the Local Authority's intention to implement the proposal and inviting any further representations from the local community before a final decision is made. There were no representations made during this period.

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

8. The current strategy is to create additional classroom accommodation to the rear of the site which is well screened from existing residential properties. There are no significant planning risks at this stage. The delivery team will work closely with the schools management and contractor to manage construction risks and ensure the site is safe for pupil, staff and visitors.

9. The planning application will be considered by the Planning and Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2015.
10. 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 unidentified risks.

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

11. 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**

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

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

13. 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**

14. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
15. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
16. 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.
17. 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**

18. This proposal would provide increased provision for primary 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**

19. 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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#### **Consulted:**

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for Assets and Regeneration Programmes  
John Furey, Local Member for Addlestone in Runnymede and Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Flooding  
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 17.

#### **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