

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: THE HYTHE PRIMARY SCHOOL, EGHAM



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of The Hythe 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 Egham to help meet the basic need requirements in the Egham and Hythe area in two phases. Phase 1 to be completed by September 2015, and Phase 2 to be completed by August 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion 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 (210 places) primary places in Egham 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 Egham and Hythe area.

DETAILS:

Background

1. As with other areas of the County, there is increasing pressure for primary school places in the Egham and Hythe area of Runnymede. In addition to the demand generated by an increasing birth rate, there is a need to provide more school places in the Borough of Runnymede as a result of additional housing and net inward migration. The Local Authority has recently consulted and published statutory notices on the proposed expansion of The Hythe Primary School in partnership with the Governing Body of the school.
2. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the school is proposing that it expands from a one Form of Entry (FE) primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 (total capacity of 210 pupils), to a two Form of

Entry primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 (total capacity of 420 pupils). It is envisaged that Phase 1 of the expansion will be completed by September 2015, to allow for this increase in PAN.

3. Over the last two years the number of applications for a place in a reception class at primary schools in Runnymede has increased by over 140. The project at the Hythe will provide an additional form of entry to help meet this demand.
4. The Local Authority has a duty to secure diversity in the provision of schools and to increase opportunities for parental choice when planning the provision of schools. The Hythe Primary School is a popular school being oversubscribed in both 2012 and 2013, and was judged 'Good' at its last Ofsted inspection. This proposal therefore meets parental preferences.
5. The proposal is to deliver this project in two phases. Phase 1 will provide two classrooms in an extension to the existing main teaching block. This will allow the school to admit additional pupils in September 2015. Phase 2 will provide a separate teaching block with six classrooms, new staffroom and associated accommodation to be completed by August 2016. The entire school site is in Flood Zone 3 (high risk of flooding) and is subject to new flood prevention requirements introduced by the Environment Agency, following the severe flooding in the winter of 2013/14. This new building requires a complex design solution to raise the building above existing site levels. This will allow any future flood water to flow under the building and minimize the impact on the flood zone. The design is in accordance with the requirements of the Environment Agency for development in the flood zone.
6. The main school entrance from Thorpe Road is very narrow and becomes particularly congested, notwithstanding the substantial road calming measures that are already in place. Accordingly for safety reasons and to alleviate congestion in the Thorpe Road, the project includes the provision of a temporary haul road along the edge of the playing fields from a secondary access to the rear of the site from Wendover Road for construction traffic.
7. To address the increase in pupil numbers and help mitigate additional congestion on Thorpe Road arising from the school expansion it is proposed that at the end of the project, the temporary haul road along the edge of the playing fields be converted to a permanent pedestrian footpath from Wendover Road. This will allow parents and pupils from the north and North West of the school to walk to school and enter the school site from the North West rather than the main entrance at Thorpe Road.

CONSULTATION:

8. Public consultation was undertaken on this proposal at the start of the 2013 -14 academic year. A consultation document was published to all statutory stakeholders including parents and local residents were informed. The document was published on 5 September with consultation responses required by 11 October 2013. In addition to this, two public meetings were held at the school on 12 September 2013. Following this consultation the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning agreed to the publication of Statutory Notices stating the intent of the Council to pursue the expansion. No representations or responses were received against the Statutory Notice that was determined by the Cabinet Member on 15 January 2014.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

9. The Hythe Primary School is on a tight site with difficult access arrangements. The preferred option is to extend the existing building in order to coherently suite classrooms into year groups separated by a central corridor. This is a more complicated delivery method than constructing a new standalone building. The delivery team will work closely with the school's management and contractor to manage construction risks and ensure the site is safe for pupils, staff and visitors.
10. The planning application will be considered by the Local Authority's Planning and Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 25 February 2015.
11. 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

12. 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.
13. This scheme is part funded from the Targeted Basic Need Grant and the balance from the local authority's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

14. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is included in the 2014/19 Medium Term Financial Plan and that the scheme will receive funding through Targeted Basic Need Grant.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

15. 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

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

19. 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

20. 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

21. 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, 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
Yvonna Lay, SCC Local Member – Egham – Runnymede
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