

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 24 MARCH 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 GREVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, ASHTEAD****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of The Greville Primary School. The school currently provides 90 infant places (Key stage 1) and 360 junior places (Key Stage 2) to give a total of 450 primary places. The expansion will increase infant places (Key stage 1) to 180 and increase junior places (key stage 2) to 480 to give a total of 660 primary places. This creates 210 additional primary places in Ashtead to help meet the basic need requirements in the 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 Ashtead be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The school is a vital part of the Council's education offer in the local area. Increasing the number of school spaces within Ashtead is essential to ensure that the County Council performs its statutory duty of educating all resident pupils who request a school place.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. Demand for primary school places has been rising in Ashtead. Much of the rise is as a result of the increase in the birth rate locally but some is due to housing development and a significant amount is a result of inward migration of families moving to existing housing in the area.

2. Births have increased across Mole Valley in excess of 11% since a low point in 2002. In order to provide for all children, the Council has provided additional temporary provision at a number of schools. There is a clear requirement to now provide permanent provision in this area.
3. The Ashtead Planning area includes the following Schools: St Peter's Catholic Primary School currently providing 30 reception places per year and subject to a separate expansion proposal; West Ashtead Primary School providing 30 reception places per year and an additional 30 junior places per year; St Giles CE Infant School providing 40 reception places per year, and Barnett Wood Infant School providing 52 reception places per year. Combined these schools currently provide places for 182 pupils. It is currently forecast that The Greville Primary School and all other Ashtead schools will continue to be full.
4. The school is on an attractive site close to pupil demand. The school, is currently rated by Ofsted as 'Good', and is oversubscribed for entry places. For September 2012, the school received 36 first, 70 second and 51 third preference applications for only 30 planned places. For entry in 2013, these figures were 35, 63 and 53, and for 2014 were 48, 65 and 43 respectively. Additionally, applications have increased in the wider planning area.
5. This proposal, by providing 210 additional primary places within Ashtead, will enable the authority to meet the rising demand as part of school organisation changes in the area. This also includes supporting the expansion of St Peter's Catholic Primary School to cater for an increase in demand of catholic faith based places in the wider area.
6. The work will comprise the installation of a classroom modular block, cloakrooms and storage with areas of hard standing. Removal and temporary relocation of external stores. The reinstatement of the original full size dining hall and relocation of staffroom to a room formerly used as a classroom. There will be a six new classroom modular block including a learning resource centre, cloakrooms and storage. The block will be divided into 2 sections with a canopy between. Externally, there are new areas of hard standing, relocated soft play area, equipment and external storage sheds. The main hall is to be extended in addition to substantial internal adaptations. It is anticipated that there will also be associated off-site Highways works in mitigation of planning conditions; these have been allowed for within the scheme. The head teacher at the school is also working with a stakeholder group to map out effective measures and procedures for responding to the increased travel to the school site.
7. The planning application will be considered by the Planning and Regulatory Committee at its meeting on the 25 March 2015.

CONSULTATION:

8. A pre-notice consultation was undertaken by Surrey County Council with relevant stakeholders including the issuing of consultation documentation and the holding of a public meeting, which was well attended.
9. School Governors and the local Members have been regularly consulted, both during the consultation process and throughout the development of proposals.

10. Responses to this consultation were considered by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on 17 July 2014 and relevant Statutory Notices were published 17 October 2014 in the local paper and displayed at the school gate. No formal responses were received against this notice. One representation was made at the Cabinet Member meeting opposing the increase of the school.
11. The statutory notice was determined and approved by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on 21 November 2014.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. 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

13. 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

14. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the funding for this scheme is included within the 2015/20 Medium Term Financial Plan.

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
Chris Townsend, Local Member for Ashtead
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