

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 26 MAY 2015

REPORT OF: MS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES

MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

LEAD JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER

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

SUBJECT: BISHOP DAVID BROWN SECONDARY SCHOOL, WOKING



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Bishop David Brown Secondary School from a 5 Form of Entry Secondary (750 places) to a 6 Form of Entry Secondary (900 places) creating 150 additional places in Woking to help meet the basic need requirements in the Woking area from September 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 21 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional Form of Entry (150 places) secondary places in Woking 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 Woking area.

DETAILS:

Background

1. Secondary demand follows primary demand and Woking has already reached a point where additional secondary school places are required. Demand is forecast to increase in 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. This need equates to a total of 1350 to 1500 additional secondary places, where 'one form of entry' equals 150 secondary places based on 5 year groups (ages 7-11) of 30 pupils. The forecasts indicate that demand for entry of year 7 places will increase from 880 pupils in 2015 to 1150 pupils in 2021. The rise in demand is not simply linear, it is anticipated that

there would be a 1 form entry requirement in 2015, rising to 3 forms in 2017, 6 in 2018 and 9 to 10 by 2021.

2. The Local Authority is of the view that in Woking Borough Bishop David Brown and St John the Baptist both have the capacity for expansion, but that Woking High School and Winston Churchill Secondary School could not be expanded further than they have already, without significantly constraining the quality of educational provision that they can offer. The overarching approach is to provide an additional form of entry at Bishop David Brown School, 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 School. 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 School through further expansion.
3. In June 2014, 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 School and has worked with the proposers 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 with Woking Borough Council and the Education Funding Agency to provide temporary buildings and then a permanent site and building from which this school will operate. The Local Authority, as the responsible body, must ensure that there are sufficient school places in the future should the Hoe Valley Free School proposal be delayed.
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 School by 2016.
5. Bishop David Brown School has a 'Good' Ofsted rating in all areas from its last inspection in April 2014. We are confident in the schools ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers whilst maintaining education standards.

Links with New Vision Homes Proposals in Sheerwater

6. 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 additional 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.
7. 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.

8. Modern sporting facilities will be of great benefit both to Bishop David Brown School 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 schools during school hours and the local community outside of those hours.
9. 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 School in advance of this date to avoid multiple contractors on site and undue disruption to the school.
10. The expansion proposals for Bishop David Brown School consist of the construction of an extension providing two classrooms and associated storage and internal remodeling including general classrooms, science laboratories, ICT suites and associated corridors. External works include the relocation of some drainage, footpaths, ramps, paving and external lighting.
11. The opportunity will be taken to undertake a proposed planned maintenance windows replacement, as part of the scheme, in order to attain greater value and reduce disruption.
12. A planning application was submitted on 15 April 2015 and is expected to go to Surrey County Councils Planning and Regulatory Committee in July 2015.

CONSULTATION:

13. 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. A total of 25 formal written responses were received during the consultation via the Surrey Says website and email. The responses included 11 from parents of children currently attending the school, and a further 6 from parents of children attending other schools or considering sending children to Bishop David Brown in the future.
14. Of the 25 written responses, 8 agreed with the proposal to expand the school, 14 disagreed with the proposal and 3 did not know or offer a position. Responses to this consultation were reported to the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on 17 October 2014 who, following consideration of comments and officer responses agreed to proceed with the publication of a Statutory Notice, which was determined by the Cabinet Member for Schools and Learning on the 15 January 2015.
15. A Statutory Notice was published on 24 October in the local paper and displayed at the school gate. No formal responses were received against this notice.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

16. 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

17. 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 as item 22 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

18. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is included in the 2015/20 Medium Term Financial Plan and that a contribution from capital maintenance will be made towards the scheme for the replacement of the windows at the school.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

19. 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

20. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
21. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
22. 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.
23. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to provide the normal range of before and after school clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

24. This proposal would provide increased provision for secondary 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

25. 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
Mr Ben Carasco, SCC Local Member – Woking North
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

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