

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 OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
PETER-JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****SUBJECT: ST ANN'S HEATH JUNIOR SCHOOL, VIRGINIA WATER****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of St Ann's Heath Junior School from a two Form of Entry junior (240 places) to a three Form of Entry junior (360 places) creating 120 additional places in Virginia Water to help meet the basic need requirements in the Virginia Water 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 22 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional Form of Entry (120 places) junior places in Virginia Water 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 Virginia Water area.

DETAILS:**Business Case**

1. Numbers of children starting school in The Virginia Water and Englefield Green area have been increasing. There were not enough permanent reception places in September 2012 for those that needed them. Therefore, an additional bulge class was provided at Trumps Green Infant School and the school has now been permanently expanded by 1 Form of Entry. Additional junior places are now needed.
2. St Ann's Heath Junior School has been pursued as the school that should expand to provide the additional junior places that are required and a full statutory

consultation and approval process has been undertaken that approved the expansion on 21 November 2012.

3. The expansion of Trumps Green Infant School from 2013 to offer an additional 30 places per year group feeds directly into this scheme to expand St Ann's Heath Junior School. The established route of education for children attending Trumps Green Infant School has historically been by feeder link to St Ann's Heath Junior for Key Stage 2 provision. It is necessary to be able to maintain the security of this educational route, and also to fully meet the increased junior demand that has been created as a result of this infant expansion. This combination can only be achieved by the expansion of St Ann's Heath Junior School.
4. St Jude's CE (A) Junior School is the only other junior school within the planning area, it was not considered as a favourable option for expansion. The spaces provided at infant level (Trumps Green Infant) are a significant distance from that school, which is situated in Egham (Englefield Green) to provide places at that school would necessitate pupils travelling from a wider area to attend and would not meet the existing pattern of provision. As an aided school St Jude's also has specific admission arrangements to reflect its denomination, these currently give advantage to pupils who worship within the parish of St Jude's, expansion would therefore not provide directly for the increase in demand in the Virginia Water area. Additionally the site at St Jude's Junior schools is significantly smaller at 17,760m² then that of St Ann's Heath, at 30,523m² making options for expansion more difficult at the St Jude's site.
5. St Ann's Heath School was last inspected in 2013 and received a 'Requires Improvement' Judgement. Following that inspection the school has received significant support and intervention from Council improvement programmes. The latest Council monitoring report details, 'improvements in performance' and projected 'significant improvement going forward. Officers are confident in the schools ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
6. The proposal consists of the relocation and refurbishment of a four classroom modular building currently on another Surrey school site. Other works include additional car parking and improvements to the existing car parking. A new entrance into the site from the highway will be provided together with an improved one way access road within the school site to allow a circular in and out arrangement onto the highway.
7. A planning application was submitted in December 2014 and was approved by the Planning & Regulatory Committee on 22 April 2015.

CONSULTATION:

8. Public consultation was undertaken on this proposal in 2012. A consultation document was published and all statutory stakeholders including parents and local residents were informed.
9. There were 66 formal responses received during this consultation. 85% supported the expansion proposal, 3% neither supported nor opposed the proposal, and 12% of respondents opposed the proposal.
10. Following this consultation the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning approved the publication of Statutory Notices. No responses were received against this notice.

11. On 21 November 2012 the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning determined the Statutory Notice confirming the Councils intention to pursue the expansion of the school.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. There are risks associated with the project and 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 they progress. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated as item 23 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. This scheme is included in 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 school clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Other Implications:

20. The potential implications for the following council priorities and policy areas have been considered. Where the impact is potentially significant a summary of the issues is set out in detail below.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

21. This proposal would provide increased provision for infant 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

22. 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:

23. If approved, to proceed to complete tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Mel Few, Local Member for Foxhills, Thorpe and Virginia Water. Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
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