

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**DATE: 29 JULY 2015**



**REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS,  
SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT  
MS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS  
SERVICES**

**LEAD OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER  
PETER- JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR  
SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**

**SUBJECT: ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, REDHILL**

#### **SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School from a 2 Form of Entry Primary (420 places) to a 3 Form of Entry Primary (630 places) creating 210 additional places in Redhill, to help meet the basic need requirements in the Redhill area from September 2016.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in agenda item 15 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 Form of Entry (210 places) primary places in Redhill be approved.

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places, relative to demand.

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **Background**

1. Reigate and Banstead is experiencing a significant increase in the demand for school places, reflecting both a significant rise in birth rate and increased house building and migration within the area. Births in the Borough in 2012 were 29.5% higher than births in 2002. In particular, this has resulted in there being a projected, sustained shortfall between the demand for primary places and the supply of the same in the Reigate and Redhill area. There is a need to expand the existing school estate to meet this demand, in order that the Local Authority is able to deliver against its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
2. The provision of additional capacity at St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School is also essential in providing specific faith-based school places, to retain and

enhance a diversity of provision in the School estate, so as to provide families with some element of choice.

3. St. Joseph's is located in the Redhill Deanery, which consists of three Catholic parishes. The school principally serves the Redhill, Reigate and Merstham area (Parish of the Nativity of the Lord).
4. There is a demonstrable need for an increase in school places for families with a Catholic background. The number of baptisms across the Deanery has typically exceeded the number of places available. Augmented by rising birth rates there is sufficient local Catholic demand within the area that St. Joseph's principally caters for (Redhill/Reigate/Merstham) to create a 1 Form of Entry expansion of this school.
5. The most recent Ofsted report on the school, from March 2012, rates the school as 'Good'. In particular, this report noted that "school leaders and governors are ambitious and they have high expectations for staff and pupils. Teamwork is strong and staff morale is high. Procedures for monitoring the quality of teachers' work are systematic and are used well to improve the quality of teaching. This has resulted in teaching which is good and improving". The evident quality of education provision at St. Joseph's was a key reason underpinning the move to expand this school and thereby increase the provision of high-quality school places to the local community.
6. A new extension will be provided consisting of six classrooms with associated WC provision and circulation as well as a library and a staff room. In addition to this, there will be some internal adaptations to the existing building to provide an appropriate Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) area and improvements will be made to the external EYFS play space to allow free flow to meet curriculum needs. The existing main entrance will be modified to provide a safe pedestrian route into the school and further external works will take place to provide replacement on-site parking. The existing kitchen space will receive some internal refurbishments, including an upgrade to the canopy and gas extraction, and an extension will be added to enlarge the overall space. There is also significant highways works to improve the safety on the approaches to the school.
7. A planning application was submitted in April 2015 and a decision is expected at the Planning and Regulatory Committee on 30 July 2015.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

8. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
9. As a Voluntary Aided school, the increase in admission number was the subject of a school-led consultation process, which is being held for a 4-week period between 1 June and 29 June 2015. This process engaged a range of interested stakeholders, including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and the Surrey School Admissions Forum. The outcome of this consultation has been the subject of a statutory approval process, which was determined by the school on 29 June 2015. The Governing Body meeting on this date decided to approve the principle of expansion and this decision is to be ratified by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievements on 28 July 2015.

10. As part of the pre-planning application process, an open public consultation event was held at the school on 16 April 2015. The event was attended by approximately 50-80 people, consisting of parents/guardians and local residents. A team consisting of SCC officers, the design consultants, the transportation consultant and school staff and governors were present to respond to any questions or concerns. The general feedback was positive and most attendees were enthusiastic and supportive of the expansion proposal. Some concerns were raised over parking and congestion which is being addresss through the planning process.

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

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 identified 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 as item 15 in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity, in the interest of securing best value.

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

13. The scheme is included in the 2015-20 Medium Term Financial Plan.

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

14. 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**

15. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
16. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
17. The Admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Baptised Looked After Children (LAC) and Baptised children with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN), thus supporting provision for the County's most vulnerable children. Baptised Catholic children receive the next priority, followed non-Catholic LAC and children with SEN. Priority is then given (in order) to children of other faiths; siblings; and distance from home to school. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
18. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and to provide the normal range of before- and after-schools clubs provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

19. 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 have the opportunity of attending the school.

### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

20. 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  
Natalie Bramhall, Local Member: Redhill West and Meadvale  
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 15

#### **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