

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & LEARNING****DATE: 14 DECEMBER 2015****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Governing Body of St Peter's Catholic School (Voluntary Aided), in partnership with Surrey County Council (SCC) and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton have consulted on a proposal to expand the school by one form of entry from September 2017.

Following a public consultation, the Governing Body of the school voted on 2 December 2015 to proceed with the proposal.

As this is a prescribed alternation to the school, the final decision on whether to proceed with the expansion rests with the Local Authority. Therefore, the Cabinet Member is asked to review the education rationale for the project and the summary of the consultation responses provided within this report, to determine whether to proceed with implementing the proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

- St Peter's Catholic School expands by one form of entry from September 2017.
- A programme of capital works is provided to facilitate the change.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Demand for secondary school places is increasing in Guildford Town. It is recommended that St Peter's expands due the prior expansion of one of its feeder schools, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, which expanded by one form of entry in 2010. These additional children will feed into St Peter's from 2017. Without expansion, St Peter's will no longer be able to provide places for children in all its feeder schools and will be unable to meet future demand for Catholic secondary places in the area.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. St Peter's Catholic School is a Voluntary Aided Catholic secondary school, established by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. The school

currently provides 180 places per year from year 7, through to Year 11, aged 11 to 16. In addition, up to 175 places are available for each year in the sixth form (years 12 and 13).

The proposal

2. On 12 October 2015, the Governing Body of St Peter's Catholic School, in partnership with the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and SCC, published the following proposal:
 - St Peter's Catholic School expands from a six form entry secondary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 180, to a seven form entry secondary school with a PAN of 210 from September 2017.
 - The school will ultimately provide 1,050 places for ages 11 to 16, plus sixth form. It currently provides 900 places for ages 11 to 16, plus sixth form.
 - The school would grow incrementally from Year 7, with each new intake every academic year admitting 210 pupils.
3. The proposal will require the provision of some additional accommodation to enable the school to facilitate the expansion.

Reasons for the proposal

4. **Demand for secondary school places:** There is significant demand for new school places within Surrey resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into the county. Demand for secondary places has increased in Guildford Town with additional school places required from 2017. A number of primary expansions in Guildford Town have taken place in recent years and now plans need to be put in place in order to ensure secondary places are provided to meet the increased need.
5. **Demand for secondary Catholic places:** Recent primary expansions in Guildford include St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, which expanded by one form of entry in 2010. This provided 210 additional places, 30 places per year over seven years. St Joseph's is a direct feeder school to St Peter's Catholic School. This extra form of entry per year will feed into St Peter's from 2017 onwards. Without expansion, St Peter's would be unable to meet future demand for Catholic secondary places in the area. The table below shows the number of places in feeder schools and how the expansion at St Joseph's directly increases the demand for places at St Peter's:

Feeder School	Previous PAN	Current PAN
St Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary, Cranleigh	30	30
St Edmund's Catholic Primary, Godalming	30	30
St Joseph's Catholic Primary, Guildford	60	90
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary, Guildford	60	60
Total	180	210

6. **Parental preferences:** The Local Authority has a duty to respond to parental preferences and, where possible, SCC seeks to expand popular and successful schools to meet additional demand as well as provide sufficient school places for families that would choose particular faith provision. St Peter's is consistently oversubscribed on first preferences and, with the recent expansion at St Joseph's, pressure for places at the school will be increased further in the future.
7. **Expanding good schools:** It is the ambition of SCC that all Surrey schools will be judged to be at least 'Good' by 2017. At its last OFSTED inspection in 2013, St Peter's Catholic School received an Outstanding (Grade 1) judgement. This proposal therefore meets the Government's guidance to local authorities that successful, popular schools are expanded where more places are needed.

Implementation

8. The table below shows the current number of places at the school, in line with its current Published Admissions Number (PAN):

Year Group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Number of Places	180	180	180	180	180	175	175	1,250

9. The table below shows proposed number of places at the school if these proposals are implemented:

Year Group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Total
Places in 2017/18	210	180	180	180	180	175	175	1,280
Places in 2018/19	210	210	180	180	180	175	175	1,310
Places in 2019/20	210	210	210	180	180	175	175	1,340
Places in 2020/21	210	210	210	210	180	175	175	1,370
Places in 2021/22	210	210	210	210	210	175	175	1,400

The first expanded year will join the sixth form in the 2022/23 academic year and will increase the size of the sixth form proportionally. The Local Authority is currently reviewing all forthcoming proposed secondary school expansions and the correlating sixth form provision.

10. This proposal would not change the admissions criteria of the school, only the PAN, and therefore the number of places provided at the school.
11. **Impact on other schools:** There has been some concern whether this expansion will have an impact on other schools in Guildford. School Commissioning anticipate that the impact of this proposal on other schools would be very minimal due to the Catholic admissions criteria of St Peter's which will remain the same, and is set out below:
1. Baptised Catholic LAC & PLAC
 2. Baptised Catholic children with a sibling at St Peter's at the time of admission.
 3. Baptised Catholic children currently attending one of the four named feeder schools (St Cuthbert Mayne, St Edmund's, St Joseph's and St Thomas').
 4. Other baptised Catholic children.
 5. Other LAC & PLAC.
 6. Other children with a sibling at St Peter's at the time of admission.
 7. Other children currently attending one of the four named feeder schools.
 8. Children of other Christian denominations.
 9. Children who are members of other faiths.
 10. Any other children.

St Peter's is consistently full up to its admissions criteria 6, children falling into criteria 7-10 rarely secure a place at the school. As such, St Peter's would admit a Catholic child from outside Guildford, before admitting a non-Catholic child from Guildford Town. Therefore, the likelihood of St Peter's affecting other schools in Guildford Town is very low.

The school and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton expressed the wish to expand by two forms of entry. Local Authority officers were concerned that higher level of expansion may be over and above demographic need and may impact local schools, and, therefore, recommended expansion of one form of entry to provide for the primary expansion at the feeder school St Joseph's, whilst continuing to provide sufficient places for children in the other three feeder schools.

12. **Provision of additional accommodation:** As a voluntary aided school, the project will be overseen by the Governing Body of the school and will be project managed by consultants appointed by SCC. Work is underway on a feasibility study to identify the accommodation required to facilitate the expansion. This is likely to be provided through a mixture of new build and remodelling of existing spaces.
13. **Traffic and parking:** It is recognised that the school is accessed from a residential road and that traffic and parking issues may be an area of concern. As part of the expansion, the Governing Body is intending to create additional parking spaces within the school site to meet the needs of additional staff and mitigate the impact on local residential roads. The school's travel plan will also be reviewed and updated as part of the future planning application.

CONSULTATION:

14. A consultation was undertaken by SCC. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all parents, carers, local residents, local borough and county councillors, other stakeholders and interested parties. A public meeting was held

at the school on 2 November. Statutory Notices were issued in line with the consultation.

Consultation responses

15. The public meeting was attended by nine parents, residents and other interested parties. 69 formal written responses were received during the consultation via the Surrey Says website, post and email.
16. Overall, 45 responses agreed with the proposal (approximately 65%), 21 responses disagreed (approximately 30%) and three responses neither agreed nor disagreed (approximately 4%).
17. The responses included 37 from parents whose children may attend the school in the future and 33 from parents of children currently attending the school. Ten responses were received from local residents. Some respondents have more than one relationship with the school.
18. Responses from parents whose children may attend the school in the future agreed most strongly with the proposal: 25 of the 37 (approximately 68%) responses agreed with the proposal; 12 of the 37 (approximately 32%) responses disagreed.
19. Responses from parents whose children currently attend the school also agreed strongly: 19 of the 33 (approximately 58%) responses agreed with the proposal; 13 of the 33 (approximately 40%) responses disagreed.
20. Ten parents with children currently attending the school and with children that may attend in the future agreed with the proposal and their comments for supporting the proposal included: more places for Catholic children and more places for siblings. Concerns raised included: the impact of the proposal on teaching, pastoral care and travel to school and how children from feeder schools are increasingly less likely to obtain a place at St Peter's.
21. Ten parents with children currently attending the school and with children that may attend in the future disagreed with the proposal. Concerns raised by these parents included the school becoming too large; loss of green space and playground; disruption during the building programme; additional traffic and parking problems; more pressure on facilities and staff; existing overcrowding and struggles providing school lunches being exacerbated.
22. Responses were received from ten local residents. Eight responses from residents disagreed with the proposal, and raised concerns regarding traffic on Horseshoe Lane (which is narrow and twisty and unsuitable for the level of traffic the school generates), the safety of children walking to school, parking and inconvenience for local residents, additional smoking, cigarette ends and general litter and loss of green space and sports facilities. One response recommended that the school should 'stop taking children from the London area'. Two responses from residents agreed with the proposal; their comments confirmed that they agreed in principle with the expansion of the school, but had concerns about the additional traffic and whether more parking would be provided.
23. The majority of comments raised in responses concerned traffic and access (18 in total), including more traffic causing wear and tear on road surfaces, local residents being inconvenienced by school traffic turning in their driveways, road

safety for children travelling to school and the need for more on-site parking facilities for sixth form students.

24. The adequacy of facilities, the size of the site and the impact of additional children was also raised in 16 responses and noted concern about loss of playground and open space, loss of green space, the impact on sports facilities, how the existing (already cramped corridors) would cope with more children and existing problems providing school lunches.
25. Concerns were raised regarding the size of the school and some responses were reluctant for the school to become a bigger 'sausage factory', to lose its community feel and to be daunting for younger, quieter and more shy children who benefit from attending a smaller school. Five responses felt the school was already 'big enough' or 'the right size'.
26. Responses that agreed with the proposal felt that it would provide more places to meet local demand, places for more Catholics, places for more children of Christian faith and would help ensure siblings could attend the same school. Other comments included that a 7 form entry secondary wasn't too large and that the proposal would provide opportunities for better funding and investment in what is currently inadequate and 'tatty' equipment.
27. Some responses suggested other options, that included providing a new school, and one suggested encouraging children to attend King's College Guildford rather than using public funds to expand another school. One comment felt that St Peter's, as a Catholic school, should not be expanded due to its admissions preference for Catholic children which results in places being provided for non local children. Another response queried what the plan would be once the increased capacity had filled up.
28. Some comments raised concern about feeder schools and in particular how children from St Cuthbert Mayne are disadvantaged by the distance to St Peter's and how children now attending the expanded St Joseph's take priority over schools further away. Some responses considered that a new school should be provided in the Godalming/Cranleigh area to accommodate children from St Cuthbert Mayne and St Edmund's.
29. Three of the responses received did not express agreement or disagreement with the proposal. Some of these expressed uncertainty about whether suitable teaching space would be provided, the impact of building works on the existing students and lack of information regarding the staff and resources that would manage the expansion.
30. Five members of staff provided responses; four of these were in agreement with the proposal and noted that the school provides a good standard of education and the proposal would enable more young people to benefit, that the expansion would provide better career opportunities for staff and that the school should expand if adequate reinvestment was made in the facilities. One staff response neither agreed nor disagreed with the proposal but expressed a concern regarding operating a timetable for seven classes, whether suitable teaching space would be provided and the impact on space and teaching and pastoral care.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

31. The education consultation has been completed in compliance with the relevant legislation governing such decisions. Therefore, there is no outstanding risk associated with this.
32. A programme of works to provide additional accommodation by September 2017 is required and, as such, there are risks associated with this proposal. There is a risk that the project will not be completed within the timescales outlined above and there may be site abnormalities not identified as part of the initial feasibility exercise. A risk register will be maintained and updated on a regular basis.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

33. The scheme is included in the 2015-20 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The scheme will be implemented by the Governing Body of the school and in partnership with SCC and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton. All schemes are expected to remain within the funding which has been allocated to them in the MTFP.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

34. The S151 officer confirms that the basic need expansion scheme for this school is included in the 2015-20 MTFP.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, the council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the council to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in its area. There is a legal duty on the council, therefore, to secure the availability of efficient education in its area and sufficient schools to enable this.

This report sets out how the Authority will meet its duties in response to the increasing demand for school places in Guildford.

The expansion has been proposed in accordance with the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 because a physical enlargement to the premises is required.

There is a statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in the above Regulations. Such consultation will need to involve those directly affected by such changes together with relevant representative groups. It will be important that the material presented to consultees provides sufficient information to allow for intelligent consideration and response in relation to the proposals. This information will need to be presented in a way that consultees will understand. The responses to the consultation will need to be conscientiously taken into account when the Cabinet makes any decision.

The consultation for this proposal has been completed, a summary of which is included in paragraphs 14 to 30 of this paper.

Equalities and Diversity

35. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA), as no group with protected characteristics will be adversely affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise. Children of non-catholic faith will not be adversely affected as a consequence of extra places being available as there is no reduction in school places.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

36. This proposal would be of benefit to Looked After Children who have the opportunity of attending this school. Baptised Catholic Looked After Children are the highest priority criterion within the school's admission arrangements and other Looked After Children are admitted under criteria 5.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

37. Safeguarding vulnerable children is a high priority in Surrey schools. Schools have considerable expertise in safeguarding vulnerable children and adhere to robust procedures. The school would continue to apply good practice in the area of safeguarding. Safeguarding is monitored when Ofsted carries out inspections of schools.
38. Site access and security, both during the proposed building programme and afterwards, will be considered and addressed in the planning and design of this building project.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

39. The additional accommodation would be built to the local planning authority's adopted core planning strategy, the design philosophy of which is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The provision of additional school places is likely to have a limited impact on carbon emissions due to the intention to continue the school's current bus services for its pupils and thus reduce the number of car journeys that could otherwise be made.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

40. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of this proposal, the next steps are:
- To put forward a business case for the associated capital works to Surrey County Council's Cabinet. If approval is granted, and subject to planning permission, the project will move to implementation, with the aim of additional accommodation being in place by September 2017 to provide for the additional pupils.

Contact Officer: Melanie Harding, School Commissioning Officer (South West),
07966 636 780

Consulted:

St Peter's Catholic School Governing Body
Parents of pupils attending the school
Local residents
Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
Diocese of Guildford
Local Head Teachers
Graham Ellwood, Local County Councillor
Borough Councillors
Anne Milton, MP
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive
Peter-John Wilkinson, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Unions

Sources/background papers:

- The Education Act 1996; the Education Act 2002; the Education Act 2005; the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
 - Consultation document regarding the proposal to expand St Peter's Catholic school by one form of entry.
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