

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 23 FEBRUARY 2016

**REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS,
SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT**

**MS DENISE LE GAL, CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS
SERVICES AND RESIDENT EXPERIENCE**

**LEAD OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
JULIE STOCKDALE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS
AND LEARNING (INTERIM)**

SUBJECT: SYTHWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOKING



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the phase 2 expansion of Sythwood Primary School from a 2 Form of Entry primary (420 places) to a 3 Form of Entry primary (630 places) creating 210 additional primary places. Phase 1 delivered 90 primary places and was completed in August 2015. Phase 2 will deliver the balance of 120 primary places to 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 set out in agenda item 15 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the phase 2 expansion programme at Sythwood Primary School, the provision of an additional 120 primary places in Woking, be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places in the County and Woking is an area where school demand has increased significantly. This proposal, as part of a suite of expansions in school places, ensures that the Council is able to provide an appropriate pattern of provision in the Woking area to meet the needs of this rising population.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The number of primary school places required in Woking is increasing. There are insufficient primary school places to meet this demand and an increase in primary provision is needed. Sythwood Primary School is one of the schools best placed to expand to meet this demand and has already assisted the Council through the provision of additional places through bulge class provision in a number of year groups. The council has supported the school through the provision of additional space via the demountable programme. The school now

requires additional permanent accommodation to augment that already provided to allow the school to permanently admit 90 reception aged children in every year.

2. The requirement for school places has increased significantly in Woking. By September 2015, through the school expansion programme, the Council has provided 1260 additional primary school places at a range of schools within the borough. This action has been taken to address the additional demand that has arisen as a result of an increased birth rate, which peaked in the Borough in 2012 at 37% above 2002 levels, migration and local building. This proposal is part of a strategic response to this increase in demand.
3. Sythwood Primary School is a two form entry (420 places) Primary Academy School. The School is part of the Borne Academy Trust, a Surrey based Multi-Academy Trust headed by Epsom and Ewell High School. The School was last inspected in October 2013 and received a 'Good' judgement in all categories. Officers are confident in the schools ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
4. The proposal is to provide a standalone two storey modular building providing six general classrooms and associated spaces. As a result of the pre-planning consultation with planning and highways, additional staff car parking will be provided on the site.
5. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted for decision by the Planning and Regulatory Committee in March 2016.

CONSULTATION:

6. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
7. Between 2 June 2014 and 9 July 2014 the Governing Body of Sythwood Primary School, in partnership with Surrey County Council has consulted on a proposal to expand the school from a 2 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 60 (total of 420 pupils), to a 3 form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number of 90 (total of 630 pupils). A consultation paper was circulated to all parents/pupils and local residents. There has also been extensive consultation with other primary schools in the Woking area on this proposal. A public meeting was held on 18 June 2014, which provided an opportunity for parents, residents and the public, to ask questions about the proposal.
8. Only 4 formal responses to the consultation were received, 1 disagreed with the proposal to expand the school, 3 agreed with the need to provide additional spaces in the Woking area, but stated that they 'did not know' whether these places should be provided at Sythwood Primary School.
9. Based on those that responded to the consultation, the data above demonstrates that there is general support for the need to provide additional primary school places in Woking. Further analysis has been undertaken on the commentary received from consultees on the proposals

10. As an Academy School the Governing Body of Sythwood Academy Primary School determined the consultation in July 2014, and resolved the expansion should proceed subject to Cabinet approval of the Business Case.

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 school basic need scheme at Sythwood 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 Academy sets its own Admissions arrangements. Its published criteria for 2016 give the highest priority to Looked After Children and those in exceptional circumstances. The third priority is siblings and the fourth is based on home to school distance. The fifth priority includes any other children making an application. The admissions criteria 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 the Built Environment
Colin Kemp, Local Member: Goldsworth East and Horsell Village - Woking
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
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