

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: CLEVES JUNIOR SCHOOL, WEYBRIDGE**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Cleves Junior School from a 5 Form of Entry junior (600 places) to a 6 Form of Entry junior (720 places) creating 120 additional junior places to help meet the basic need requirements in the Weybridge area for September 2016.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in agenda item 16 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 1 Form of Entry (120 junior places) at Cleves Junior School be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

DETAILS:**Background**

1. Elmbridge Borough has been experiencing a significant increase in the demand for school places over the last seven years, reflecting both a significant rise in birth rate and increased house building and migration within the area. In 2002 births in the borough totalled 1466 and by 2014 this figure was 1785; the peak year for births being 2010 when the number rose to 1883. Overall this represents a 21.76% rise in births over the twelve year period.
2. This projected, sustained shortfall of primary places has been addressed by a number of temporary and permanent school expansions to meet the need in specific areas of the borough. Most of the current and predicted demand is now being met, but there remains a shortage of junior places in Weybridge. As the only junior school, serving two recently expanded infant schools, Cleves now also

needs to expand in order that the Local Authority is able to deliver against its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

3. The most recent Ofsted report on the school, from July 2007, rates the school as 'Outstanding'. Subsequent interim reviews by OFSTED have validated this judgment. The school is due another full inspection this academic year. The evident quality of education provision at Cleves 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.
4. If the Business Case is approved a new building will be provided on the Cleves' campus consisting of six classrooms with associated cloakroom provision and small group rooms. In addition to this, there will be some internal adaptations to the existing building to extend the dining room and to enable the school to arrange year groups of six classes in adjacent classrooms. Improvements will be made to create additional external hard play space to meet the spatial needs of an additional 120 pupils. Significant highway improvement works are included to address the congestion around the school site. The existing main entrance will be retained and an additional gate and pathway will be added on the Oatlands Chase side of the school playing field to create a further safe pedestrian route into the school and take pressure away from the main entrance.
5. A planning application will be submitted in February 2016 and a decision is expected at the Planning and Regulatory Committee in May 2016.

CONSULTATION:

6. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
7. As an academy the increase in the admission numbers was the subject of a school-led consultation process, which was conducted over a 4-week period during the summer term 2015. This process engaged a range of interested stakeholders, including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and Surrey County Council. The outcome of this consultation has been determined by the Cleves Governing Body which decided to approve the principle of expansion. This decision was noted by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievements on 28 July 2015 and has since been ratified by the Regional Schools Commissioner.
8. As part of the pre-planning application process, an open public presentation event was held at the school on 1 July 2015. The event was attended by approximately 10 people, consisting of parents/guardians and local residents. A team consisting of SCC officers, the design professionals and school staff and governors were present to respond to any questions or concerns. Some concerns were raised over parking and congestion outside of the school at drop off and pick up times. The School Travel Plan is being refreshed and the planning application will include mitigating measures as advised necessary by the Highways Development Planning team.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

9. 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

10. 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 16 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

11. The school basic need scheme at Cleves is included in the 2015-20 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

12. 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

13. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
14. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
15. The Admissions arrangements are currently under consultation for 2017. The Governing Body is consulting on whether to name Oatlands Infant and Manby Lodge Infant schools as feeder schools in order to give their pupils priority for places. The outcome of this consultation will be discussed by the Cleves Governing Body which is the school's Admissions Authority and a decision will be reached this month in order for any changes to the Admissions Arrangements to be published on the school's website and on the Surrey County Council Co-ordinated Admissions process website.
16. Irrespective of whether or not Cleves' governors determine named feeder schools the highest admissions priority will be given to Looked After Children and previously Looked After children and to pupils with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN) thus supporting provision for the County's most vulnerable children. The school's admissions criteria will be fully compliant with the Schools' Admissions Code.
17. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and to provide the normal range of before- and after-school club provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

18. 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

19. 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 and Local Member:
Walton South and Oatlands - Elmbridge

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 16

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