

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**DATE: 22 MARCH 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 OFFICERS: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER  
JULIE STOCKDALE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS  
AND LEARNING (INTERIM)**

**SUBJECT: GUILDFORD COUNTY SCHOOL**

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

To approve the business case for the expansion of Guildford County School. The school will expand from a 160 place per year 5 Form of Entry secondary (800 places) to a 180 place per year 6 Form of Entry secondary (900 places) to meet the demand for 100 additional secondary places in Guildford from September 2017.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion set out in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case is approved for the expansion of Guildford County School, providing an additional 20 places per year (100 places in total).

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

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

#### **DETAILS:**

##### **Background**

1. 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 onwards. A number of primary expansions in Guildford Town have taken place in recent years, which impact on Guildford County, including Queen Eleanor's Church of England Junior School, Worplesdon Primary School (from 2016) and bulge classes at Queen Eleanor's and Northmead Junior School. Plans now need to be put in place to ensure secondary places are provided for the increased pupil cohorts transitioning into the secondary phase.

2. Over 86% of pupils at Queen Eleanor's Cof E Junior School typically transition to secondary education at Guildford County School. The table below summarises the recent expansion and bulge classes at Queen Eleanor's and when those will impact on the secondary sector:

Year of change in year 3 at Queen Eleanor's	Change implemented	Year due to transition to secondary education	Number of additional primary pupils requiring secondary places
Sept 2013	Bulge class	Sept 2017	30
Sept 2014	1FE expansion	Sept 2018	30
Sept 2015	Bulge class (in addition to expansion in previous year)	Sept 2019	60
Sept 2016 onwards	Expanded numbers continue	Sept 2020 onwards	30

3. This proposal would provide an additional 20 secondary places per year, a total of 100 additional places within Guildford that will help to meet the increasing need for school places. Due to the size of the school site, it is recognised that Guildford County School is unable to expand further than that proposed, and therefore there will be overspill of some of these additional pupils into other secondary schools in Guildford.
4. Guildford County School is a secondary academy situated in Guildford town centre. The school currently provides 160 places per year from Year 7, through to Year 11. In addition the sixth form comprises up to 210 places in Year 12, and 180 in Year 13. Increasing the PAN to 180 will enable the school to run more effectively with six forms of entry in each year group and 30 pupils in each class.
5. At the schools last OFSTED inspection in 2013, Guildford County School received a Good (Grade 2) judgement. Officers are confident in the school's ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
6. The project will create a 3 storey extension providing 5 general teaching rooms, new science laboratory and associated spaces. Conversion of an attic space to provide a new staff areas. Refurbishment of existing staff spaces to create 2 general teaching rooms and expansion of the dining facilities. Sports provision and outdoor social/recreation space are already well below the recommended area for a school of this size. Lack of sports facilities on site means that students have to be bussed to other facilities. Limited recreation space is further constrained during the winter months when the school field is too muddy to be used at break times. To mitigate these issues being further exacerbated by the proposed expansion, the project includes provision of a multi use games area (MUGA) to provide some all year round sports and recreation space. Some additional onsite parking spaces are also proposed to mitigate the impact of additional vehicles on local roads.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

7. The Headteacher and governing body of the academy have worked closely with officers to undertake consultation on the expansion proposals.

8. A public consultation was run over a five week period from 19 October to 20 November 2015. Members of the public were able to contribute via a paper copy of the response form (dropped in at the school), email and via the "Surrey Says" website. The consultation was circulated to all staff and parents at Guildford County School, parents at local primary schools, head teachers of all Surrey schools, residents of nearby roads, and other stakeholders. A public meeting was held at Guildford County School on 11 November 2015, and two information sessions were held for staff members at the school.
9. 103 responses to the consultation were received. 95 agreed with the proposal to expand the school, 5 disagreed and 3 stated they 'did not know'.
10. Of the 5 negative responses, comments were given regarding lack of space and lack of all weather outdoor space. Positive responses to the proposal commented that it is a positive step to expand a good school, appreciating the additional places will help meet the rise in primary pupils. There were also comments that the additional investments and facilities would benefit the school community. The consultation evidenced that there is strong support to provide additional school places at Guildford County School.
11. As an academy the Governing Body of Guildford County School reviewed the consultation responses, and on 7 December 2015 agreed unanimously with the following motion: following extensive consultation with all stakeholders, the governing body agrees a PAN increase from 160 to 180 in 2017, subject to approval of the business case for expansion.

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

12. 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**

13. 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 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**

14. This scheme at Guildford County School is included in the 2016-21 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 that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
17. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
18. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.

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

19. This proposal would provide increased provision for secondary 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:**

21. The next steps are:
  - If the business case for the associated capital works is approved by Surrey County Council's Cabinet, the project will move to implementation with the aim of the additional accommodation being in place by September 2017 to provide for the additional pupils.
  - Proceed to complete tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

#### **Contact Officer:**

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 Melanie Harding, School Commissioning Officer – tel: 020 8541 7376

#### **Consulted:**

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for the Built Environment  
 David Goodwin, Local Member: Guildford South West - Guildford  
 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 Education Act 2002; the Education Act 2005; the Education and Inspections Act 2006.
  - Consultation document regarding the proposal to expand Guildford County School by 20 places per year.
  - Report to Cabinet: Schools Capital Budget Allocations Service update based on latest or most appropriate report year and version.
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