

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 15 JANUARY 2013****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: TO DETERMINE A PROPOSAL TO EXPAND AND REBUILD CRANMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

School rolls have been rising steadily across Elmbridge since 2006. To ensure sufficient provision of infant school places in the area Surrey County Council is proposing the expansion of Cranmere Primary School with effect from 1 September 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The school is enlarged by 2 forms of entry (from 1 FE to 3 FE) plus the addition of a new 26 place nursery.
2. The school will be rebuilt on an adjacent site on land owned by Surrey County Council.
3. This expansion would be effective from 1 September 2015.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cranmere Primary is a popular and successful school which delivers a high quality education. It was rated by OFSTED, at its last inspection (Nov 2011), as good with some outstanding features. The provision of additional places at Cranmere meets the Government's policy position to expand successful schools in order to meet parental preferences.

DETAILS:**Business Case**

1. There is a need for additional places in the Dittons and Weston Green planning area. Cranmere Primary School has already been expanded on a temporary basis; it has accommodated two Reception classes each year since 2009 with the addition of temporary accommodation in the form of demountable classrooms. It is no longer possible to expand further on the present site without compromising play space. Also, the other accommodation is insufficient to support the size of the school, i.e. the school was built to accommodate 7 classes and it now has 11 classes; the hall is too

small. as is the staff room and there are insufficient toilet facilities for the number of pupils.

2. The school is willing to expand and is keen to do so with the promise of new, purpose-built accommodation which is designed to enhance the quality of the educational opportunities on offer and provide nursery education on site. The staff and governors have been working closely with Surrey County Council and the Hampshire County Council Cluster Programme Office to design a new building fit for twenty-first century primary education. The design is now at a stage ready to be submitted to the Planning Authority.
3. The present school site and the new land are both situated within the Green Belt and therefore the Planning Application addresses this issue. It is proposed that once the new school is built the current school building will be demolished and this land will be returned to the Green Belt.
4. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and it is not currently possible to expand other local schools in the immediate planning area. Based on the most recent pupil projections, the County Council is forecasting a need for one additional form of entry in the Dittons and Weston Green in the short to medium term. This proposal forms one part of an area strategy for Elmbridge which will require at least 7 additional forms overall by 2020. The area strategy includes a number of other expansions of schools; some of these are agreed with the schools in question and others are still at the proposal stage, but all are accounted for within the Capital Strategy and the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

5. A public consultation was carried out between 5 and 30 November 2012. A consultation document was produced and circulated to all parents and other stakeholders and interested parties. In addition a meeting was held at the school on 21 November. This was attended by approximately 26 parents and residents. The consultation document was also published on the Surrey County Council website and the local Borough and County councillors were sent copies of this document.
6. The Council has received 15 written consultation responses. An analysis of these is given in the table below:

Respondent	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know
Parent of a child attending the school	0	1	0
Potential Future parent/child in an Early Years setting	8	1	1
Parent of child at another school	0	0	0
Employee of the school	3	0	0
School governor	0	0	0
Other stakeholder	0	1	0

7. Eleven responses are in agreement with the proposal. One respondent stated that they do not know whether or not they are in favour; three respondents are against the proposal.
8. The main concern raised by respondents was the need to retain the 'family ethos' of the school; the perception being that this was much easier if a school is small in size. To some extent this concern was addressed by the Headteacher at the public meeting where she explained in some detail how she would manage a larger organisation and also manage the transition to the new site.
9. Residents on Arran Way and some parents raised the issue of access to the proposed new building stating that the expansion may cause further traffic problems, especially if there is no vehicular access to the site enabling parents to drive in, drop off or pick up and drive out of the school. Traffic management issues have been addressed in the planning stages with pupil safety considerations being of paramount importance. The council's policies on safeguarding, site security and environmental issues have been factored into the final design for the new school. Those in support of the proposal recognised the need for more places and welcomed the opportunity to provide some of these at Cranmere in order to benefit the local community. A number of people were enthusiastic about the proposed new provision.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

10. The key risk to this proposal is the dependency on a successful planning application to develop the site. This scheme has been discussed informally with planners throughout the design and development process and a planning application is ready for submission.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

11. The cost of the proposed project will be funded through the Schools Basic Need Capital Programme and was approved as part of the Medium Term Financial Planning process.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

12. The *School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007* contain the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations. The DCSF has published two pieces of Guidance relating to prescribed alterations: *Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form* and *Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School (Other than Expansion)*. These contain both statutory guidance (i.e. guidance to which proposers and decision makers have a statutory duty to have regard) and non-statutory guidance on the process for making changes to school provision.

Equalities and Diversity

13. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. However the increase in provision will be open to all applicants with the highest priority given to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for our most vulnerable children.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

14. The school has a robust Safeguarding Policy which is monitored by the designated Child Protection Lead Officer, is regularly reviewed by the governing body and is subject to OFSTED inspection. Site access and security, both during the proposed building programme and afterwards, have been considered and addressed in the planning and design of this building project.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

15. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. A safe walking route to the school has been identified for use by residents and facilities will be provided at the new campus for children cycling or using scooters to come to school.
16. The additional school provision is centred close to the demographic demand and as a result will enable parents and children to attend a local school and thus reduce the need for lengthy school journeys.

Section 151 Commentary

17. The section 151 officer confirms that the high level financial implications have been considered as part of this report and confirms that funding is available for this scheme. The detailed financial and business implications will be considered as part of the next stage.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval, Statutory Notices stating the Council's intent to expand the school will be published. The Cabinet Member would then receive a report to determine the proposed expansion within two months of the expiration of the Statutory Notices.
- The outcome of this consultation will be published on the Surrey County Council website and parents of pupils at the school will be notified by letter from the Governing Body.

Contact Officer:

Melanie Harris

School Commissioning Officer NE Surrey tel. 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Parents of pupils and prospective pupils of Cranmere Primary School
Local Councillors
Local residents via the consultation document published on the SCC website

Annexes: Copy of Planning Application Consultation analysis

Sources/background papers:

School Organisation Consultation Proposal
15 Consultation responses

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