

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 20 SEPTEMBER 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
LIZ MILLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****SUBJECT: ST PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, GUILDFORD****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the business case for the expansion of St Peter's Catholic School. The school will expand from 180 Published Admission Number per year, 6 forms of entry (900 places) to 210 Published Admission Number per year, 7 forms of entry (1,050 places) to help meet the demand for 150 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 St Peter's Catholic School, providing an additional 150 places.

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. A number of primary expansions in Guildford Town have taken place in recent years. 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. 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 7 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

3. 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).
4. The Local Authority has a duty to respond to parental preferences and where possible, the County Council 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.
5. At the school's last Ofsted inspection in 2013, St Peter's Catholic School received an Outstanding (Grade 1) judgement. Officers are confident in the school's ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
6. This proposal would provide an additional 30 secondary places per year, a total of 150 additional places within Guildford that will help to meet the increasing need for school places.
7. The project will create a new two storey block providing eight general teaching rooms and a new art room, with associated spaces, storage and toilets. Some refurbishment of existing teaching spaces will take place to reconfigure subject areas including two existing art rooms and maximise use of space. Some additional onsite parking spaces are proposed to mitigate the impact of additional vehicles on local roads. A new hard surface play area will be provided to replace the playground space lost from the new build. This area will also be used by school buses to drop off and collect pupils, which will provide a safer route for the buses that currently come into the middle of the school grounds.
8. It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in August 2016, with a planning decision expected by November 2016 to enable commencement of building works on site in January 2017.

CONSULTATION:

9. The Headteacher and Governing Body of the school have worked closely with officers to undertake consultation on the expansion proposals.
10. A public consultation was run over a five-week period from 12 October to 13 November 2015. The consultation document was circulated to parents, carers, local residents, local borough and county councillors, other stakeholders and interested parties, who were invited to respond in writing, by email and through the Surrey Says website. A public meeting was held at the school on 2 November 2015. Statutory Notices were issued in line with the consultation.
11. There were 69 responses to the consultation. 45 agreed with the proposal to expand the school, 21 disagreed and 3 neither agreed nor disagreed.
12. Of the 21 negative responses, comments given included the school becoming too large, loss of green space and playground, disruption during the building programme, additional traffic and parking problems and more pressure on facilities and staff. These concerns are being addressed through replacement hard play area and additional car parking spaces on the site.
13. Having reviewed the responses to the consultation, the Governing Body of St Peter's Catholic School voted on 2 December 2015 to proceed with the proposal. As the expansion is a prescribed alteration to the school, the final decision rested with the Local Authority. Therefore, the Cabinet Member considered the proposal on 14 December 2015 and determined to proceed with implementing the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. 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

15. 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 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

16. This scheme at St Peter's Catholic School is included in the 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

17. 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

18. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality 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.
19. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
20. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

21. 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

22. 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
Graham Ellwood, Local Member: Guildford East
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

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 30 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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