

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: HAWKEDALE INFANT SCHOOL, SUNBURY ON THAMES

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the business case for the expansion of Hawkedale Infant School from a 1 Form of Entry infant (90 places) to a 1 Form of Entry primary (210 places) to meet the demand for 120 junior places in the Sunbury on Thames area.

The proposal is part of the Sunbury on Thames primary school re-organisation that will create an additional 210 primary places between Hawkedale Infant and Springfield Primary Schools to help meet the basic need requirement in the Sunbury on Thames area for September 2017. A permanent expansion of Springfield Primary School is proposed and will be subject to a separate report to Cabinet.

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 Hawkedale Infant School, providing an additional 120 junior places.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

DETAILS:

Background

1. Primary school rolls have risen gradually over the last decade across Spelthorne Borough as a result of higher birth rates and new housing. The highest number of births (1,327) was in 2013; between 2005 and 2013 births rose by 23%. Although the birth rate fell slightly in 2014 to 1,260, it would be premature to view these as a falling trend in the borough.
2. The increase in the Spelthorne housing trajectory includes several housing developments around Sunbury on Thames.

3. The Sunbury planning area is served by five schools which together provide 6.3 Forms of Entry. These schools have been frequently oversubscribed, and Springfield Primary School currently has two temporary bulge classes to meet local need. It is necessary to address the shortage of places on a permanent basis.
4. At the school's last Ofsted inspection in 2012, Hawkedale Infant School received a Good judgement with Outstanding features. Officers are confident in the school's ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
5. The project will create extensions to the existing building to provide four new classrooms and associated spaces together with a new main entrance and staff offices. Additional hard play area will be provided to meet the recommended space sizes for a primary school. The car park will also be reconfigured to provide four additional car parking spaces and accessible access to the new entrance. A new pedestrian access will be created across adjoining land.
6. A planning application was submitted in June 2016 with a planning decision expected by October 2016.

CONSULTATION:

7. The education consultation period was from 1 June 2015 to 3 July 2015. A public meeting was held at the school on 17 June 2015.
8. A consultation document and survey were published on the Surrey County Council website Surrey Says from 1 June to 3 July 2015.
9. Consultation packs detailing the proposal were distributed to all staff and parents at Hawkedale Infant School and school staff explained the proposal to families needing additional support to help them understand the proposal.
10. Consultation packs were also emailed to local Members for both Spelthorne Borough Council and Surrey County Council, local head teachers and local early years settings.
11. The public meeting held on 17 June 2015 was attended by approximately 40 people, representing parents, resident, staff and governors from Hawkedale and Springfield schools. This was a high attendance given the small size of the school (86 pupils). 19 questions were raised and these and the responses were published on the website Surrey Says.
12. Questions were based on the following themes: how the first cohort of children moving into Key Stage 2 at Hawkedale would be supported; plans for school infrastructure (e.g. new build, what infrastructure would remain); facilities for sports and PE; flexibility for pupils to move schools if requested; whether quality of education would be sustained in Key Stage 2. Residents were concerned about traffic and parking.
13. A total of 55 formal written responses was received during the consultation period. The responses included 34 from local residents, five of which are also parents and 19 from other parents.

14. Of the 55 responses, 30 agreed with the proposal, 19 disagreed and 6 did not know or offer apposition. Therefore, over half of all responses (55%) agreed with the proposal.
15. Responses were also received from parents of children that may attend Hawkedale School in the future, parents of children attending other schools, school staff and governors, parents of former pupils and one former pupil. 17 parents of children currently attending the school agreed with the proposal; one disagreed (raising concern about the small size of the school site and sports facilities) and one did not know (based on increased traffic and road user safety).
16. Although 17 residents disagreed, 12 agreed with the proposal and 5 did not know. All governors and staff of the school agreed with the proposal (9 responses).
17. There was consensus through the consultation responses and the public meetings that additional school places are required within the local area, and that Hawkedale is a good school. Many families would benefit from it expanding to an all through primary school. However, concern was raised about the increase in traffic and parking.
18. In response to the issues raised in the consultation, additional car park spaces will be provided on site and a new pedestrian access is to be provided across adjacent land. It is anticipated that these measures will help to address the traffic and car parking issues. The school has the benefit of using an adjacent sports pitch as part of the playing field provision.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

19. Hawkedale School is on a compact site on a busy residential road with difficult access on a narrow approach. However, an extensive consultation took place between the Design Team, the Transport Consultant and Highway officers to reach a better solution for both the temporary construction and permanent access arrangements. A temporary construction access together with a permanent pedestrian access gate has been agreed with the neighbouring landowner and a formal licence is being prepared. This approach will ensure full separation between the school in operation and the contractor access route and compound. The new school access is from a Public Right of Way that ensures an ongoing benefit to the school. The delivery team will work closely with the school and contractor teams to manage construction risks and ensure the site is safe for pupils, staff and visitors.
20. 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

21. 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

22. This scheme at Hawkedale Infant School is included in the 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

23. 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

24. 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.
25. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
26. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

27. 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

28. 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
Tim Evans, Local Member: Lower Sunbury and Halliford, Spelthorne

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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