

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 13 DECEMBER 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
LIZ MILLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND
LEARNING**

SUBJECT: SALESIAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL, CHERTSEY

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Salesian Catholic Secondary School from 220 admissions per year (1100 places) to 270 admissions per year (1,350 places) creating 250 additional places in Runnymede and the Elmbridge Catholic Deanery to help meet the basic need requirements in the Runnymede and Elmbridge area from September 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of 250 additional Catholic secondary places be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population. Additionally this proposal expands an outstanding secondary school and adds to the diversity of provision within Surrey.

DETAILS:

Background

1. The provision of additional secondary school places within the Runnymede and Elmbridge area is vital in order to ensure that the Local Authority fulfils its statutory duty of providing sufficient school places and meet the demands of a rising population. The provision of additional places at Salesian Catholic School is also essential in providing specific faith based school places to retain and enhance a diversity of provision in the school estate and to meet the specific demands of a rising catholic population.
2. As with other areas of the County, there is increasing pressure for secondary school places in Runnymede and Elmbridge. In addition to the demand generated by an increasing birth rate, there is a need to provide more school

places in the area as a result of additional housing and net inward migration. Providing faith spaces maintains and enhances a diversity of provision. In addition as faith schools recruit from a wider geographic area, in this instance Salesian school recruits widely from within the Borough of Elmbridge, this enables the Authority to meet basic need demands across two areas where there are demonstrable needs for additional school places.

3. Salesian School falls within the Weybridge Deanery. The Deanery is the umbrella group for Catholic Parishes in North West Surrey. It includes the parishes of Addlestone, Chertsey, Englefield Green, Esher, Hersham, Molesey, Sunningdale, Thames Ditton, Walton on Thames and Weybridge. Within the Deanery there is only one Catholic secondary school providing places for Catholic children. There is a demonstrable need for an increase in school places for families with a Catholic background. The school is consistently oversubscribed receiving in excess of 270 first preference applications for 220 places. Furthermore the Council has expanded St Alban's Catholic Primary, in Elmbridge Borough and within the Deanery that is accommodated by Salesian School, by 30 places. There are now a total 330 places in Catholic primary schools within the relevant Deanery area for Salesian School. The Council would not be able to provide sufficient catholic secondary school places without a consequent expansion at an appropriate secondary school.
4. The Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton have fully supported the proposed expansion of the Salesian School and have apportioned part of their Locally Controlled Voluntary Aided capital budget to the scheme reducing the overall capital cost to Surrey County Council.
5. The school is currently judged by Ofsted as 'Outstanding'. Officers have a high level of confidence that the school will be able to manage the additional number of pupils without detriment to current educational outcomes.
6. The proposal consists of both new build and refurbishment works. The new build will be a 2 storey 12 classroom modular block with associated group rooms, toilet, cleaning and storage facilities. Refurbishment works will take place in the current English block, turning current general teaching classrooms and office space into 2 science classrooms on the ground floor.
7. A planning application will be submitted by end of November 2016 with a planning decision expected by April 2017.

CONSULTATION:

8. The Headteacher and School Governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
9. A pre-planning public consultation was held at the school on 11 July 2016. All relevant information and comments were compiled in order to add to and revise the planning application that is anticipated to be submitted in November 2016. The planning application will be subject to approval from the Planning and Regulatory Committee.
10. The school has recently become an Academy school and has changed status from previously being a Catholic Voluntary Aided School. As an Academy it retains its ability to set its own admissions arrangements and acts as its own admission authority. The Governing Body of the Multi-Academy Trust will be undertaking the appropriate consultation and the Council will ensure that effective consultation takes place.
11. The increase in the admission numbers will be confirmed by the school through their School Admissions arrangements consultation. The consultation is conducted by the school from November 2016 to January 2017 and will be distributed to local admissions authorities and the Surrey Schools Admissions forum. The admission will be confirmed by the School Governors in February and the full coordinated admissions arrangements for Surrey County Council will be determined by full Council in March.

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 in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity in the interests of securing best value.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

14. The County Council is facing a very serious financial situation, whereby it is forecasting a significant revenue budget overspending in this year, and does not have a balanced nor sustainable budget plan for future years. Although this planned expenditure has been included within the current Medium Term Financial Plan, agreeing to this recommendation will reduce the Council's options to create a balanced and sustainable budget in the future.

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. The Council also has a duty, as an admissions authority, to have due regard to a parent's religious beliefs in allocating school places.

16. This report concerns one project that would assist in meeting those duties. Given the Council's current financial position, Members will wish to be satisfied that it will be effective in doing so and provide value for money.

Equalities and Diversity

17. The expansion of the school will not create any issues, which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
18. The new school building will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
19. The Admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Baptised Looked after Children (LAC) and Baptised children with identified Special Educational Needs (SEN), thus supporting provision for the County's most vulnerable children. Baptised Catholic children receive the next priority, followed by non-Catholic LAC and children with SEN. Priority is then given (in order) to children of other faiths; siblings; and distance from home to school. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.
20. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to provide the normal range of before and after schools clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

21. This proposal would provide increased provision for primary Catholic 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 will attend 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 authorities 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
Chris Norman, Local Member, Chertsey, Runnymede
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.

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

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