

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****DATE: 8 DECEMBER 2016****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE WARWICK SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council (SCC), has consulted on a proposal to expand The Warwick School by one form of entry from September 2017. The Education Consultation was conducted between 26 September 2016 and 24 October 2016.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the education rationale for the project and summary of the consultation process/feedback provided within this report and associated annexes and, on that basis, decide whether to determine the associated Statutory Notice.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement determines the Statutory Notice, thereby bringing into effect the formal expansion of The Warwick School by 1 Form of Entry (1 FE) for September 2017.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is an increasing demand for primary school places in the Reigate & Redhill area which reflects a rise in the primary-age population over recent years that is beginning to transition into the secondary sector. In order to meet this demand, SCC is overseeing an ongoing school expansion programme, designed to increase the capacity of the school estate. The proposal to expand the capacity of The Warwick School by 1FE is a core element of SCC's strategy to deliver additional places in this area. In line with this, SCC has undertaken the requisite statutory consultation to inform the decision making process and a note of support for the proposal was received as part of this. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member determines the Statutory Notice (appended to this report as Annex 1), so as to bring the expansion of the school formally into effect.

DETAILS:**The Proposal**

1. On 26 September 2016, SCC published a proposal to:
 - enlarge The Warwick School from six forms of entry (6FE) at Year 7 to seven forms of entry (7FE) at Year 7, to allow for a roll of 1,050, comprising seven classes of 30 pupils in each year group; and
 - build additional permanent classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.

2. It was proposed that the above enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2017 and that the school would grow incrementally, year-on-year, as the higher intake works its way progressively through the age range. As such, the school would effectively reach its new capacity of 900 places in September 2021.

Reasons for the Proposal

3. Reigate & Banstead is experiencing a significant increase in the demand for school places reflecting both a rise in birth rate and increased house building and migration within the area. Births in the Borough in 2014 were 27.7% higher than births in 2002. The increased pupil cohort is now starting to make the transition into the secondary sector. As such, there is now the need to accommodate increased demand via the expansion of local secondary provision.
4. Within the Reigate & Redhill Planning Area, there is presently provision for 813 places per year in Year 7, composed of the following:
 - Reigate School (offering 250 Year 7 places per annum);
 - Royal Alexandra and Albert School (offering 113 Year 7 places per annum);
 - St. Bede’s School (offering 270 Year 7 places per annum); and
 - The Warwick School (offering 180 Year 7 places per annum).
5. Demand for secondary school places in Reigate & Redhill is projected to rise over the coming years in line with the general increase across the whole of the Reigate & Banstead Borough. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below table:

Year	Y7 PAN	Y7 Projection	Deficit
2017/18	813	895	82
2018/19	813	1,003	190
2019/20	813	1,042	229
2020/21	813	1,065	252
2021/22	813	1,117	304
2022/23	813	1,159	346
2023/24	813	1,245	432
2024/25	813	1,186	373
2025/26	813	1,201	388
2026/27	813	1,161	348

6. As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional secondary places in the area. Whilst SCC has managed the immediate pressure for September 2016 in this and the wider area, via (amongst other things) the delivery of a “bulge” year expansion at St. Bede’s School, the need for permanent expansions will remain. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of The Warwick by one Form of Entry, which (if approved) would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places. Plans for meeting the remainder of the projected deficit are being formulated alongside this proposal and will inform the subject of future reports.

7. Where possible, SCC's strategy is to expand high quality provision that meets parental demand whilst also ensuring that there is a diverse pattern of provision so as to provide families with some element of choice. The most recent Ofsted report on the school, from March 2013, rates the school as 'Good'. In particular, this report noted that "The leadership of the headteacher is outstanding. He has a clear vision for the school and is respected by his senior team and staff. As a result, the overall effectiveness of the school has risen to good and there is a shared belief that the school will achieve excellence". The evident quality of education provision at The Warwick was a key reason underpinning the move to expand this school and thereby increase the provision of high-quality school places to the local community.

School Building Requirements

8. The school site has sufficient capacity to enable expansion in its existing location. Naturally, though, a building programme will be required to provide the permanent facilities to allow for the increase in pupil intake. To this end, SCC has allowed for an appropriate capital sum for this project within the Basic Need Capital Programme element of its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
9. Should the decision be taken to proceed with the expansion, design workshops will be undertaken in partnership with the school to develop the building proposal on the basis of which a planning application will be submitted and consulted upon separately.

CONSULTATION:

10. As a Community school the increase in admission number was the subject of a Council-led consultation process which was held for a 4-week period, between 26 September and 24 October 2016. This process engaged a range of interested stakeholders including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and the Surrey School Admissions Forum. On 3 October 2016, a consultation evening was held at the school to which all interested parties were invited. In all only one response was made to the consultation.
11. No concerns were raised in relation to the proposal as part of the consultation process.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. As the education consultation has been completed and the associated decision made, in compliance with the relevant legislation governing such decisions, there is no outstanding risk in this respect.
13. There are naturally risks associated with the building project required to facilitate this expansion. Ultimately these are in large part related to cost and programme, i.e. the capacity to deliver the requisite project within the defined financial parameters in line with the timeline for increased demand. A Risk Register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis by the Project Manager of the scheme and this should serve to both mitigate risk (in part) and to provide early foresight of any issues as they materialise. 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

14. The building project associated with this proposal is included in SCC's Basic Need Capital Programme element of its 2016-21 MTFP. A scheme of works will be developed and agreed by Property Services and this will subsequently go to Cabinet for approval. All schemes are expected to remain within the funding that has been allocated to them in the MTFP.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

15. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the basic need expansion scheme for this school is included in the 2016-21 MTFP.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Pre-consultation

16. There is a clear expectation in public law that the Council should carry out a consultation process whenever it is considering making significant changes to service provision particularly including the closure of any of its resources. There is a statutory requirement for consultation in this context as set out in the School Organisation Maintained Schools Guidance for Proposers and Decision Makers dated April 2016 and the School Admissions Code 2014.

Post-consultation

17. In considering this Report, the Cabinet Member must give due regard to the results of the consultation as set out above and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making its final decision.

Best Value Duty

18. The best value duty is contained in s3 of the Local Government Act 1999 as a result of which the Council is under a duty to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The relevant guidance states that Councils should consider overall value, including economic, environmental and social value when reviewing service provision.

School Expansion

19. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the Council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education is available to meet the needs of the population in its area. In doing so, the Council is required to contribute to the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the Council to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available in its area. There is a legal duty on the Council therefore to secure the availability of efficient education in its area and sufficient schools to enable this.

20. This report sets out how the Authority will meet its duties in response to increasing demand for school places in Reigate & Redhill, in line with the general increase across the whole of Reigate and Banstead Borough.
21. As the school's capacity and published admission number will be increased, a consultation and publication of notices was required. Responses to the consultation were considered carefully and the School Organisation Guidance and Admissions Code 2014 were duly followed.

Equalities and Diversity

22. 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.
23. The school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
24. As a Community School, admissions to The Warwick are governed by SCC's Determined Admissions Arrangements. These admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Looked After Children (LAC) and children with exceptional medical or social needs thus supporting provision for the county's most vulnerable children. The next order of priority employs the "sibling rule", following which priority is given to children for whom the school is the nearest to their home address. Remaining applicants are then sorted on the basis of distance from home to school. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

25. 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 would therefore also be of benefit to any Looked After Children who have the opportunity of attending the school with this grouping of children receiving the highest priority ranking within the school's admission arrangements.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

26. 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. In addition, the provision of additional school places to meet local demand is likely to have a positive impact on reducing journey times (and therefore carbon emissions), relative to the scenario of not so doing.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

27. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of the recommendation within this report, the next steps are:
 - To take a Business Case for the associated capital works scheme to SCC's Cabinet at a future date.
 - If approval to the above referenced Business Case is granted the project will move to delivery with a view to having the expanded school facilities

ready to accommodate the new cohort in line with the timeline for increased demand.

Contact Officer:

Oliver Gill, School Commissioning Officer, Tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

The Warwick School Governing Body

Parents of pupils attending the school

Local residents

Local Headteachers

Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning

Barbara Thomson, Local County Council Member for Earlswood & Reigate South

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Unions (NUT, NASUWT, Unison)

School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

Annex 1 – The Warwick School Statutory Notice (Full)

Sources/background papers:

- The Warwick School Consultation Document
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