

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS, SKILLS AND EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT****DATE: 20 FEBRUARY 2017****LEAD OFFICER: JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****SUBJECT: PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DE STAFFORD SCHOOL****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

The Governing Body of de Stafford School, in partnership with Surrey County Council (SCC), has consulted on a proposal to expand the school by one form of entry (1FE) from September 2018. The Education Consultation was conducted between 7 November 2016 and 5 December 2016.

On the basis of the education rationale for the expansion and in view of the comments received during the consultation period, the Governing Body of the school voted to proceed with the expansion project. The Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement is asked to review the summary of the consultation process provided within this report and, on that basis, determine whether to ratify the decision made by the school from Surrey County Council's perspective.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the formal decision of the Governing Body of de Stafford School to expand by 1 Form of Entry (1FE) be ratified by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

There is an increasing demand for primary school places in the Tandridge 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 de Stafford School by 1FE is a core element of SCC's strategy to deliver additional places in this area. In line with this, the Governing Body of the school have undertaken the requisite statutory consultation process and, on this basis, have made the formal education decision to expand the school. For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement formally ratify the decision of the school in this respect, so as to provide the necessary platform on which to proceed with the project.

**DETAILS:****The Proposal**

1. On 7 November 2016, the Governing Body of de Stafford School, in cooperation SCC, published a proposal to:

- enlarge de Stafford School from five forms of entry (5FE) at Year 7 to six forms of entry (6FE) at Year 7, to allow for a roll of 900, comprising six 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 2018 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 2022.

### Reasons for the Proposal

3. Tandridge is experiencing a steady 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 2015 were 11.8% higher than births in 2005. 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 Tandridge there is presently provision for 725 places per year in Year 7 composed of the following:
- De Stafford School (offering 150 Year 7 places per annum);
  - Oxted School (offering 335 Year 7 places per annum); and
  - Warlingham School (offering 240 Year 7 places per annum).
5. Demand for secondary school places in Tandridge is projected to rise over the coming years. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below table:

Year	Y7 PAN	Y7 Projection	Deficit
2017/18	725	732	7
2018/19	725	780	55
2019/20	725	767	42
2020/21	725	779	54
2021/22	725	786	61
2022/23	725	809	84
2023/24	725	820	95
2024/25	725	831	106
2025/26	725	809	84
2026/27	725	809	84

6. As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional secondary places in the area. Whilst SCC is managing the immediate pressure for September 2017, the need for permanent expansions will remain. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of de Stafford by one Form of Entry, which, if approved, would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places.
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 November 2015, rates the school as 'Good'. In particular, this report noted that "The headteacher has shown strong and determined leadership and has achieved substantial improvements in the quality of teaching and students' outcomes since the last inspection". The evident quality of education provision at de Stafford 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 an Academy, the increase in admission number was the subject of a school-led consultation process which was held for a 4-week period between 7 November and 5 December 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 21 November 2016 the Governing Body held a consultation evening at the school to which all interested parties were invited. No responses were received to the consultation reflecting the fact that the expansion proposal is accepted by the school and wider community.
11. The statutory decision in respect of the expansion proposal rests with the school's Governing Body. On the basis of the education rationale for the expansion, the Governing Body of the school voted to proceed with the expansion project and this decision was published on the school's website on 20 January 2017. In line with the *Making Significant Changes to an Open Academy* guidance (March 2016), as this proposal would constitute a 'physical expansion of premises', this would also require the approval of the Regional School Commissioner. This would be done under the Fast Track Application Process upon the granting of planning permission for the associated build project.

### **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 and in line with the timeline for increased

demand. Upon initiation of the design process, a Risk Register will be formulated 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 will be 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 Medium Term Financial Plan (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 basic need expansion scheme for this school is included in the 2016-21 MTFP.

#### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

16. As this is an Academy the decision on the expansion is determined by the Governing Body in association with the Regional School Commissioner. As such, there is no legal decision to be made by the Cabinet Member and, consequently, no legal implications.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

17. 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.
18. The school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
19. The 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. Priority is then given to siblings of pupils already attending the school and 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 School Admissions Code.

#### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

20. 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**

21. 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:**

22. 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; and
  - 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.

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### **Contact Officer:**

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

### **Consulted:**

De Stafford School Governing Body  
Parents of pupils attending the school  
Local residents  
Local Headteachers  
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning  
Sally Marks, Local County Council Member for Caterham Valley  
Tandridge District Council  
Unions (GMB, Unison, ASCL, NUT, ATL, NAHT, Unite, NASUWT)  
School Admissions Forum

### **Annexes:**

N/A

### **Sources/background papers:**

- de Stafford School Statutory Notice
  - de Stafford School Consultation Document
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