

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 28 FEBRUARY 2017



**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: ST. BEDE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, REDHILL

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of St. Bede's School from a 9 Form of Entry secondary (1,350 places, plus Sixth Form) to an 11 Form of Entry secondary (1,650 places, plus Sixth Form), thereby creating 300 additional places, to help meet the basic need requirements in the Reigate & Redhill area 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 report, the business case for the provision of an additional 300 secondary places be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

DETAILS:

Background

1. 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.
2. 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).
3. 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	899	- 82
2018/19	813	1,001	- 190
2019/20	813	1,042	- 229
2020/21	813	1,059	- 252
2021/22	813	1,087	- 304
2022/23	813	1,122	- 346
2023/24	813	1,170	- 432
2024/25	813	1,154	- 373
2025/26	813	1,144	- 388
2026/27	813	1,161	-348

4. As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional secondary places in the area. Whilst Surrey County Council is managing 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 St. Bede's by two Forms of Entry, which (if approved) would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 60 places.
5. 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 latest published Ofsted report on the school, from October 2012, rates the school as 'Good'. In particular, this report noted that "The quality of teaching and students' learning is typically good with some outstanding teaching in many subjects. Teachers' excellent knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject enable teachers to deliver content-rich lessons that engage students". The evident quality of education provision at St. Bede's 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.
6. The proposal consists of both new build and refurbishment works. The new build consists of an extension to the Art block to provide IT classrooms and an extension to the main teaching block to relocate and provide new science laboratories, English and maths classrooms. Refurbishment and adaptations of existing buildings to create specialist teaching spaces.

7. A planning application is expected to be submitted in February 2017 and a decision is expected in June 2017.

CONSULTATION:

8. The Head teacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
9. As a Voluntary Aided school, the increase in admission number will be the subject of a school-led consultation process which will be held for a 4-week period. This process will engage a range of interested stakeholders, including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and the Surrey School Admissions Forum. The outcome of this consultation will be the subject of a statutory consultation process that will be determined by the Governing Body of the school and report through the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement.
10. Additionally, an open public consultation event will be held at the school as part of the pre-planning application process, to which all interested stakeholders will be invited.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

11. There are risks associated with the project and a project risk register has been compiled, which 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

12. 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 report. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity, in the interest of securing best value.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

13. The funding for this scheme is included within the 2016-21 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

14. 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

15. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
16. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.

17. 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 those who attend an Anglican or Roman Catholic Church, followed by siblings of pupils already attending the school and those living within the school's catchment area. 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.
18. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and to provide the normal range of before- and after-schools clubs provided in a typical Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

19. 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

20. 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 commence the tender process for the project, through to contract award, via delegated decision.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for the Built Environment
Mrs Natalie Bramhall, Local Member, Redhill West & Meadvale – Reigate & Banstead
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services
St. Bede's School Governing Body
Diocese of Southwark
Diocese of Arundel & Brighton
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

None but Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 16.

Sources/background papers:

- N/A
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