

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS SERVICES AND
RESIDENT EXPERIENCE****DATE: 11 APRIL 2017****REPORT OF:****JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER****LIZ MILLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND
LEARNING****SUBJECT: SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, SUNBURY ON THAMES****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Springfield Primary School by an additional 90 infant places. Springfield is an academy within the GLF Multi-Academy Trust.

This school currently admits 30 pupils into Reception each year but has an additional junior Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 in order to provide places for children leaving Hawkedale Infant School at the end of Key Stage One. As permission as already been granted to make Hawkedale a one Form of Entry (1 FE) primary school, by adding junior places there (30 places per year), it is proposed to make Springfield 2 FE throughout by adding 30 infant places and retaining 60 junior places. This will result in a total roll at Springfield of 420 plus 30 nursery places.

The proposal is part of the Sunbury on Thames primary school re-organisation which will create an additional form of entry, or 210 primary places between two schools, to meet the basic need requirements in the planning area from September 2017 onwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion as set out in agenda item 7 in Part 2 of this agenda, the business case for the provision of an additional 90 R-Year 2 places in the Sunbury primary school planning area 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 in Spelthorne Borough.

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 recorded in 2013 and between 2005 and 2013 births rose by 23%.

2. Although the birth rate in Spelthorne fell slightly in 2014 to 1,260, and in 2016 it remained below the peak (but rose again slightly to 1291), it would be premature to view this as a falling birth trend in the borough.
3. The increase in the Spelthorne housing trajectory includes housing developments around Sunbury on Thames, including the former London Irish Rugby Football site.
4. The Sunbury planning area is served by five primary schools which together provide 6.3 forms of entry. These schools have frequently been oversubscribed and Springfield Primary School currently has four temporary bulge classes that it accepted to help the Council meet local demand. It is necessary to address the shortage of primary school places on a permanent basis.
5. In order to make this change to the school, a modest building project is required that consists entirely of internal modifications. The school has sufficient junior classrooms due to previous bulge classes being accommodated. However, some improvement works are planned for these modular classrooms to enable permanent planning approval to be obtained.
6. In addition the nursery, which is currently privately managed and is in the main school building, is to be relocated to another area in the school and a new Reception classroom will be created from the former nursery space. There are associated improvements planned to provide additional toilets and secure access.

CONSULTATION:

7. The academy carried out its own parental consultation to determine the educational need for the expansion.

Consultation undertaken

8. A consultation letter and response form was produced by GLF. This was distributed to all staff and parents at Springfield School.
9. The consultation period was six weeks from 16 December 2015 to 31 January 2016. The governors of the academy subsequently met and determined to go ahead with the expansion subject to Surrey County Council (SCC) agreeing to fund the capital project from its Basic Need budget.
10. As the proposal is directly linked to the expansion of Hawkedale Infant school, and both schemes are as a result of basic need in Sunbury, a budget for both programmes was included in the Medium term Financial Plan 2016 – 21.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

11. There are minimal risks associated with this project, nevertheless a project risk register has been compiled and will be regularly reviewed throughout the programme. A contingency allowance appropriate to the scheme has been included within the project budget to mitigate potential unidentified 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 as item 7 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

13. The funding for this scheme is included in the 2017-20 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. As the school is an academy and the Trust managed the consultation itself SCC are not aware that an Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken by GLF on this proposal. However, the provision of more school places that are available to all families, including those in minority or protected groups, should not prove to be discriminatory.
16. The proposal does not change the nature of the admissions criteria for the school, other than the removal of the Year 3 PAN with effect from September 2017.
17. This educational provision would be for children in the community served by the school. The increase in provision will be open to all applicants with the highest priority given to Looked after Children (LAC) and pupils on the SEN register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need thus supporting provision for Surrey's most vulnerable children.
18. The school building already complies with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The conversion of classrooms and facilities to meet the needs of a greater number of infant aged pupils will be undertaken and the relocation of the nursery entrance will improve the access and safeguarding across the site.
19. The proposal is for an expansion of provision so three more teaching staff and some additional teaching assistant time will be required at Springfield School. Employment opportunities will increase with a slightly larger school and there will also be greater professional development opportunities for staff.
20. It is intended that the school will promote cohesion between the local communities in the area served by the school through extended services which seek to enhance the well-being and future opportunities of children and families in the Sunbury area.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

21. This proposal would provide increased provision for primary places and facilities 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 may attend the school.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

22. The design philosophy is to create buildings and manage internal modifications of existing facilities that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

23. If approved, to proceed to complete tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

Contact Officers:

Keith Brown, Schools and Programme Manager – tel: 020 8541 8651
Melanie Harris, School Commissioning Officer – tel: 020 8541 9556

Consulted:

Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement
Tony Samuels, Cabinet Associate for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
Ian Beardsmore, Local Member: Sunbury Common and Ashford Common - Spelthorne
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children Schools and Families
Liz Mills, Assistant Director Schools and Learning
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services

Annexes:

None but Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 7.

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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