

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION****DATE:** 13 JUNE 2016**LEAD OFFICER:** JULIE FISHER, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**SUBJECT:** PROPOSED EXPANSION OF OAKWOOD SCHOOL**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council (SCC), has consulted on a proposal to expand Oakwood School by one form of entry from September 2018 and a further one form of entry in September 2019 (making a two form entry expansion, in total). The Education Consultation was conducted between 24 April 2017 and 22 May 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Education 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 Educations determines the Statutory Notice, thereby bringing into effect the formal expansion of Oakwood School by one Form of Entry (1 FE) for September 2018 and a further 1FE for September 2019 onwards.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

There is an increasing demand for primary school places in the Horley 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 Oakwood School by 1FE represents 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, to which there were 90 responses. 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 24 April 2017, SCC published a proposal to:
 - enlarge Oakwood School from eight forms of entry (8FE) at Year 7 to nine forms of entry at Year 7 (9FE) from 1 September 2018;
 - further enlarge Oakwood School from nine forms of entry (9FE) at Year 7 to ten forms of entry at Year 7 (10FE) from 1 September 2019, to allow for an

- eventual roll of 1,500, comprising ten classes of 30 pupils in each year group; and
- build additional classrooms and ancillary space to facilitate this.
2. It is proposed 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 1,500 places in September 2023. The incremental expansion in capacity is shown in the table below:

Year	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Total
2018/19	270	240	240	240	240	1,230
2019/20	300	270	240	240	240	1,290
2020/21	300	300	270	240	240	1,350
2021/22	300	300	300	270	240	1,410
2022/23	300	300	300	300	270	1,470
2023/24	300	300	300	300	300	1,500

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 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. Oakwood School is the only school in the Horley Planning Area and presently provides 240 places per year in Year 7.
5. Demand for secondary school places in Horley 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	240	224	- 16
2018/19	240	269	29
2019/20	240	270	30
2020/21	240	270	30
2021/22	240	296	56
2022/23	240	307	67
2023/24	240	294	54
2024/25	240	292	52
2025/26	240	299	59
2026/27	240	285	45

6. As can be seen from the above, there is a sustained need for additional secondary places in the area. The strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of Oakwood by two Forms of Entry which (if approved) would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 60 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 2013, rates the school as 'Good'. In particular, this report noted that "School leaders, working closely with the governing body, have succeeded in accelerating the improvement in students' achievement and behaviour and in the quality of teaching". The evident quality of education provision at Oakwood 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.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

10. As a Community School the increase in admission number was the subject of a Council-led consultation process which was held for a four week period, between 24 April and 22 May 2017. This process was publicised in the local press and engaged a range of interested stakeholders, including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and Surrey School Admissions. Stakeholders were invited to respond to the consultation, via letter, email and an online consultation portal.
11. The response to the consultation was mixed, with agreement and opposition to the proposal being broadly evenly divided. A full summary of the feedback from the formal stage of the consultation process is appended to this report as Annex 2. The feedback raised multiple issues. In particular, three core themes emerged and have been/are being addressed as follows:
 - **School Building Condition / Capacity** – a number of respondents felt that the school's facilities were in need of upgrade/refurbishment, especially if the decision were taken to expand the school. Allied to this, some responses also indicated a concern regarding the capacity of the existing buildings to accommodate the proposed increase in pupil number. The Council is actively engaging with the school, with a view to formulating a proposal for the precise package of works that will be taken forward in this respect. It should be noted that the grant funding received by the Council to meet the needs of the rising pupil population across the county is only designed to meet the costs of expansion, rather than that of retroactive maintenance. This fact notwithstanding, the Council will ensure that the best possible solution is delivered within the available funding envelope, agreed and delivered in partnership with the school. Building Bulletin 103 guidance for school buildings will be used to inform design and scaling matters in this respect.

- **New School** – a number of respondents felt that a new secondary school should be built in Horley, rather than simply expanding Oakwood. It was felt that the large extent of current and proposed house building in the area meant that the 300-place expansion of Oakwood would be insufficient to meet overall demand and that parental choice would also be better served through the creation of a new school. The Council's current forecasts for secondary demand (as included in the consultation document) indicate that a 2FE expansion will be sufficient to meet demand. On these forecasts, to provide a new school would result in a significant oversupply of places in the area, which would have a detrimental impact on the associated educational institutions. The Council continually monitors the accuracy of its forecasts, as well as updating them on a regular basis. If actual applications/intakes do significantly outstrip those forecast, the Council will review options in relation to meeting demand in Horley.
- **Sixth Form** – A significant number of respondents questioned whether sixth form provision at Oakwood would be considered as part of this. The Council's current position is that additional sixth form provision is not required, as existing provision within this area of the County is sufficient to meet demand. The Council will keep this situation under review, particularly in the period closely preceding the transition of this augmented cohort into the post-16 sector.

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 the 2017-22 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 school basic need programme of works and has a funding allocation in the 2017-22 MTFP.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

Consultation

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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.
19. This report sets out how the Authority will meet its duties in response to increasing demand for school places in Horley, in line with the general increase across the whole of the Reigate and Banstead Borough area.
20. 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

21. 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.
22. The school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
23. As a Community School, admissions to Oakwood 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

24. 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

25. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The expansion will be undertaken in line with 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:

26. Subject to Cabinet Member approval of the recommendation of 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:

Oakwood School Governing Body
Parents of pupils attending the school
Local residents
Local Headteachers
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Graham Knight, Local County Council Member for Horley East
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Oakwood School Statutory Notice (Full)
Annex 2 – Summary of Consultation Feedback

Sources/background papers:

- Oakwood School Consultation Document



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