

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2017



**REPORT OF: MRS MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION
MR TIM OLIVER, CABINET MEMBER FOR PROPERTY AND
BUSINESS SERVICES**

**LEAD OFFICERS: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
LIZ MILLS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND
LEARNING**

SUBJECT: THOMAS KNYVETT COLLEGE, ASHFORD

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Thomas Knyvett College, an academy in The Howard Learning Partnership Multi-Academy Trust. The school currently operates as a five form entry (5 FE) co-educational 11-16 school. Its Published Admission Number (PAN) is 150 although its current Number on Roll (NOR) is only 635. It was rated as 'Good' by OFSTED at its last inspection (December 2013).

The proposal is to expand the school by 2 FE to 7 FE per year. (A form of entry is normally 30 students). The school was previously larger but reduced its PAN some years ago when fewer places in Spelthorne Borough were required; however it has some latent capacity which we intend to recommission as part of the expansion project.

The school would admit an additional form of entry in 2018 as a 'bulge' class (offering up to 180 places in Year 7) within existing accommodation. It would then formally increase its PAN to 210 at the earliest opportunity, which would be September 2019. Thomas Knyvett College would then expand incrementally over a five year period to a maximum Number on Roll of 1050. These additional classes would add another 300 places (across all year groups 7-11) into the area.

The expansion will contribute to Surrey County Council's (SCC) place planning strategy to enable the Local Authority to meet the forecast demand for secondary school places in Spelthorne borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the agreement of the detailed financial information for the expansion, as set out in Part 2 of this agenda, the Cabinet approves the business case for the provision of accommodation sufficient to enable two additional forms of entry (300 places) at Thomas Knyvett College.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide necessary school places to meet the needs of the population in Spelthorne Borough by providing Year 7 places when and where they are needed.

DETAILS:

The County Council has a statutory responsibility to provide a sufficient number of school places to meet the needs of its residents. The Council monitors future demand and decides on appropriate changes to school organisation, where necessary, in order to meet this statutory responsibility. Although SCC plans secondary places on a borough wide basis the Council tries to ensure that additional capacity is spread across the borough's schools to facilitate local availability.

The current position in Spelthorne Borough and in the Ashford area

1. Births in Spelthorne peaked in 2012/13, but marginally fell back in 2014. This pattern of fluctuation within a rising trend has been evident since the early 2000s and is reflected in the demand for primary school places in the borough. There have been a number of temporary primary 'bulge' classes provided since 2013 to meet demand. One of these was the expansion of Ashford Park Primary School, another was at Spelthorne Primary and there is a planned future expansion of Town Farm Primary; all of these schools are feeders of Thomas Knyvett.
2. These larger primary cohorts are now entering the secondary sector and, although there has formerly been surplus capacity in the six secondary Spelthorne academies that is gradually being utilised year on year. By 2018 the forecast numbers for Year 7 admissions are expected to exceed the current combined area Planned Admission Number (1156) and we have therefore made plans accordingly to meet the forecast deficit.
3. This demand continues to rise in 2019 and beyond and one other school in the borough intends to expand by 1 FE. SCC are therefore looking to provide an initial 3 FE in the most cost effective way (2 FE at Thomas Knyvett and 1 FE at Sunbury Manor) without creating too many surplus places. The fluctuating pattern of demand continues between 2020 and 2026 and the Council therefore needs to respond to this strategically nearer the time.
4. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below table:

Year	Y7 PAN	Y7 Projection	Surplus/Deficit places
2017/18	1156	1123	+33
2018/19	1216	1221	-5
2019/20	1216	1178	+38
2020/21	1246	1290	-44 (2FE)
2021/22	1246	1273	-27 (1FE)
2022/23	1246	1338	-92 (3FE)
2023/24	1246	1337	-91 (3FE)
2024/25	1246	1413	-167 (5.5FE)
2025/26	1246	1359	-113 (4FE)

5. From these projections it is evident that SCC will need to make even more provision across Spelthorne by 2022. Some of this could be in temporary expansions (e.g. a bulge class in 2020 and 2021 if the numbers warrant it) but it may also be prudent to plan for more permanent places. This future strategy has yet to be agreed with all the Spelthorne academies which are their own admissions authorities.
6. Thomas Knyvett College is an increasingly popular school which delivers high quality education. This can be evidenced from the increasing numbers of first preferences in the past three years. It was rated as 'Good' by OFSTED at its last inspection (December 2013) and admitted 144 pupils against its PAN of 150 in September 2016. It has been under-subscribed in the past, along with most other secondary schools in the borough, hence its spare capacity in the higher year groups; but it is now a school of first choice with many parents.

CONSULTATION:

7. As an academy Thomas Knyvett College is not required to consult on expansion as long as it has the existing capacity to supply the additional places. However, the local governing body will write to parents announcing the intention to expand and seeking their views in relation to increased admissions in 2018 and 2019. The governing body has already given its permission for Thomas Knyvett to expand subject to SCC funding a scheme that is agreed by both parties.
8. The proposed construction programme will be managed by SCC Property Team operating under a Development Agreement on the academy's site. There is no requirement for a statutory planning consultation as the scope of works is limited to internal modifications.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

9. There are construction risks associated with the project and a project risk register has been compiled and is regularly updated. A contingency allowance appropriate to the scheme has been included within the project budget to mitigate for potential risks.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

10. 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 agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity in the interests of securing best value.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

11. The funding for this scheme is included in the 2017-20 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

12. 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

13. The expansion of the school will not create any issues which would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
14. The new classrooms will comply with Disabilities Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations. The expanded school will provide employment opportunities in the area.
15. The school will be for children in the community served by the school. The admissions arrangements will give the highest priority to Looked After Children and pupils on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register and/or those who would benefit from a statement of educational need thus supporting provision for the County's most vulnerable children. Children with siblings will receive the next priority followed by those children living closest to the school. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria which is fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

16. 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 may attend the school.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications

17. The Council has a duty to promote and improve educational outcomes for all children, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged. Thomas Knyvett College is an inclusive school and has robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

18. The design philosophy is to create classrooms that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The school will be refurbished in line with this policy and any new building will be to the standards in the local planning authority's adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

If approved, to proceed to detailed design to allow procurement of tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Mr Robert Evans, Local Member: Stanwell and Stanwell Moor - Spelthorne
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services

Annexes:

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

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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