

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**REPORT OF: MARY LEWIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION
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: DE STAFFORD SCHOOL, CATERHAM**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of de Stafford School, an academy in The Glyn Learning Foundation Multi-Academy Trust. The school currently operates as a five Form of Entry (5FE) secondary (750 places) co-educational 11 – 16 school with a published admission number (PAN) of 150.

The proposal is to expand the school by one Form of Entry to a six Form of Entry (6FE) secondary (900 places), thereby creating 150 additional places, to support delivery against the basic need requirements in the Tandridge area from September 2018. (A form of entry is normally 30 students). The school was previously larger but reduced its PAN some years ago when fewer places in Tandridge Borough were required; however it has some latent capacity which we intend to recommission as part of the expansion project.

The most recent Ofsted report on the school, from November 2015, rates the school as 'Good'.

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, that Cabinet approves the business case for the provision of an additional 1 Form of Entry (30 places per year) providing, in total, 150 secondary places at De Stafford School from September 2018.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

DETAILS:

Background

1. Tandridge is experiencing a steady increase in 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.
2. 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).
3. 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

4. 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.
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 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.

6. Refurbishment and remodeling works will be undertaken within the existing buildings, enabling the optimization of internal areas and formation of new teaching spaces to meet the expansion needs.

CONSULTATION:

7. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
8. As an Academy, the increase in admission number was the subject of a school-led consultation process which was held for a four-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. 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. This decision was subsequently ratified by the Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Educational Achievement on 14 February 2017.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

9. There are construction 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

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

Section 151 Officer Commentary

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

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 requisite 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 that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
14. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.

15. 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.
16. 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 SCC school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

17. This proposal would provide increased provision for primary 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

18. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. Any adjustments to the built form of the school will be undertaken in line with 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:

Keith Brown, Schools and Programme Manager – tel: 020 8541 8651
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
Julie Fisher, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services
Chris Botten, Local County Council Member for Caterham Hill
Tandridge District Council
Unions (GMB, Unison, ASCL, NUT, ATL, NAHT, Unite, NASUWT)
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

None but Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 17.

Sources/background papers:

- N/A

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