

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

SUBJECT: ST. MARY'S C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL, OXTED

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of St, Mary's Junior School from three Forms of Entry (360 places) to four Forms of Entry (480 places), thereby creating 120 additional places, to support delivery against the basic need requirements in the Oxted & Limpsfield area from September 2018.

The school's most recent Ofsted (January 2016) rated the school as 'Outstanding'.

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 one Form of Entry worth of junior places in Oxted & Limpsfield be approved.

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 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 2016 were 10.9% higher than births in 2005. Additional primary school places have been provided reflecting this demand and further growth is anticipated in the short- to medium-term which needs to be accommodated via further expansions of school provision.
2. Within Oxted & Limpsfield, there is presently provision for 150 places per year in Year 3, composed of the following:

- Holland Junior School (offering 60 Year 3 places per annum); and
- St. Mary's C of E Junior School (offering 90 Year 3 places per annum).

3. Projections of future demand for school places are presented in the below table:

Year	Jun. PAN	Jun. Projection	Surplus
2017/18	150	141	9
2018/19	150	161	- 11
2019/20	150	171	- 21
2020/21	150	163	- 13
2021/22	150	170	- 20
2022/23	150	159	- 9
2023/24	150	157	- 7
2024/25	150	160	- 10
2025/26	150	162	- 12

4. As can be seen from the above there is a sustained need for additional junior places in the area. This is also a relatively popular area for admissions applications and, even in years where a projected surplus has existed, placing all children with a preference in the area has proved difficult. The proposed expansion of the new school by a Form of Entry at Year 3 would reduce all of the above projected deficits by 30 places and add surplus in other years, thereby augmenting the scope for parental preference.
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 January 2016, rates the school as 'Outstanding'. In particular, this report noted that "Teachers throughout the school are highly skilled at motivating pupils to learn exceptionally well. Their excellent subject knowledge and the school's rich curriculum enable pupils to make very good progress". The evident quality of education provision at St. Mary'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. In addition, it is worth noting that it is proposed that St. Mary's C of E Junior be amalgamated with Downs Way School from September 2018. The intention is to create an all through primary school, with an intake of 60 in Year R and (with this expansion of provision) a further intake of 60 in Year 3. The fact that the expansion of Infant provision in the area was undertaken at Downs Way (from September 2015) makes St. Mary's the natural choice for achieving the corresponding expansion of junior provision.
7. In order to provide the requisite facilities for this expansion, a new block will be provided onsite, consisting of four classrooms, two group rooms and a small hall or studio.

8. A planning application will be submitted in Autumn 2017 and a decision is expected in late 2017.

CONSULTATION:

9. The Headteacher, school governors and Southwark Diocese Board of Education have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
10. The increase in admission number will be the subject of an extensive public consultation process, allied with the aforementioned amalgamation proposal. This will comprise a six-week informal consultation stage, followed by a four-week representation period. The informal consultation stage commenced on 24 July 2017. 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 Leader of the Council.
11. 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:

12. 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

13. 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

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

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

15. 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

16. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.

17. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
18. Under the proposed amalgamation admission to Year 3 would continue to be based on the current admission arrangements for St. Mary's C of E Junior School. Admission to Year R would be amended to reflect the St. Mary's Admissions Policy with the additional stipulation that faith-based admission criteria will only apply to those pupils *for whom the new school is the nearest Church of England school*, as measured from their place of residence. This will ensure that local pupils from non-church-going families will not be excluded from obtaining a place at the school. The admissions arrangements give the highest priority to Looked After Children thus supporting provision for the county's most vulnerable children. Priority is then given (in order) to those who regularly attend an Anglican church and live within a specified parish; those who regularly attend another Christian church and live within a specified parish; those who live within a specified parish and are siblings of current pupils; those who live within a specified parish; those who are siblings of current pupils and children of members of teaching staff. Remaining applicants are then sorted on the basis of distance from home to school. These admissions criteria are fully compliant with the Schools Admissions Code.
19. 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

20. 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

21. 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:

St. Mary's C of E Junior School Governing Body
Downs Way School Governing Body
Diocese of Southwark
Parents of pupils attending the school

Local residents
Local Headteachers
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Cameron McIntosh, Local County Council Member for Oxted
Tandridge District Council
Unions (GMB, NUT, ATL, NASUWT)
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

None but Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 18.

Sources/background papers:

- N/A
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