

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2018



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

**LEAD OFFICER: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER
ROSE DURBAN, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN,
SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**

SUBJECT: OAKWOOD SECONDARY SCHOOL, HORLEY

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

To approve the Business Case for the expansion of Oakwood School from an 8 Form of Entry secondary (1,200 places) to a 10 Form of Entry secondary (1,500 places), thereby creating 300 additional places, to support delivery of the basic need requirements in the Horley area.

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 2 Forms of Entry worth of secondary places in Horley be approved.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

DETAILS:

Background

1. 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 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. Oakwood represents the only secondary provision in Horley and presently provides 240 places per year in Year 7.
3. 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
2018/19	240	276	- 36
2019/20	240	303	- 63
2020/21	240	304	- 64
2021/22	240	335	- 95
2022/23	240	351	- 111
2023/24	240	352	- 112
2024/25	240	352	- 112
2025/26	240	364	- 124
2026/27	240	364	- 124
2027/28	240	350	- 110

4. 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. Further plans for additional provision may be required, if the forecasts in the above table are realised in full.
5. Where possible, SCC's strategy is to expand Ofsted 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools 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' and as such, the expansion of this school aligns with the council's overall strategy in this respect.
6. The project consists of internal refurbishment and adaptation works to science and design technology spaces, increasing sports changing facilities and modest new build to create additional pupil toilets in order to meet minimum requirement standards for the increased number of pupils. The works also include the opportunity to improve internal circulation routes as many are currently through teaching spaces and external routes. Fire safety enhancements to the tower block and additional hard play will also be provided.
7. The proposed internal refurbishment will not require a planning application and those works relating to the new toilets are expected to be dealt with under 'permitted development rights'.

CONSULTATION:

8. The Headteacher and school governors have been fully consulted on the expansion proposals.
9. As a Community school, the increase in admission number was the subject of a Council-led consultation process which was held for a 4-week period, between 24 April and 22 May 2017. This process engaged a range of interested stakeholders, including the school community, local residents, local admissions authorities and the Surrey School Admissions Forum. In all, 90 responses were made to the consultation, which showed a mixed response, with agreement and opposition to the proposal being broadly evenly divided. A number of the concerns expressed in the feedback were addressed in the Council's formal

response to consultation. The Cabinet Member for Education approved the expansion of the school at the Cabinet Member Meeting on 13 June 2017.

10. Additionally, an open public consultation event will be held at the school, to which all interested stakeholders will be invited.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

11. There are 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

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 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

13. The funding for this scheme is included in the 2017-20 Medium Term Financial Plan and in the proposed 2018-22 Medium Term Financial Plan.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

14. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on the council to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision 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.

Equalities and Diversity

15. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment.
16. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
17. As a Community school, admissions to Oakwood are governed by Surrey County Council'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.

18. 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 Surrey County Council school.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications

19. 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

20. 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:

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Oliver Gill, School Commissioning Officer – tel: 020 8541 7383

Consulted:

Mr Graham Knight, Local Member: Horley East – Reigate and Banstead
Oakwood School Governing Body
Parents of pupils attending the school
Local residents
Local Headteachers
Liz Mills, Assistant Director for Schools and Learning
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services
Reigate & Banstead Borough Council
School Admissions Forum

Annexes:

None but Part 2 report with financial details attached to agenda as item 13.

Sources/background papers:

- N/A