

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**DATE: 26 MARCH 2013**



**REPORT OF: TONY SAMUELS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS AND REGENERATION PROGRAMMES**  
**LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING**

**LEAD OFFICERS: JOHN STEBBINGS, CHIEF PROPERTY OFFICER**  
**PETER-JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING**

**SUBJECT: WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL, WOKING – EXPANSION BY ONE FORM OF ENTRY FROM SEPTEMBER 2013**

**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the provision of a permanent one form of entry increase at Westfield Primary School to two forms of entry to meet basic need requirements for primary places in the Woking area.

The number of primary school places in Woking is increasing. There are insufficient primary school places to meet this demand and increased primary provision is needed. Westfield Primary School is one of the schools best placed to expand to meet this demand. The demand is such that the expansion of Westfield Primary School is required for September 2013.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that Cabinet agrees the expansion and adaptation of Westfield Primary School, as detailed in this report, in principle subject to the consideration and approval of the detailed financial information set out in Part 2 of this agenda (agenda item 21).

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The proposal delivers and supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet the needs of the population in the Woking area.

## **DETAILS:**

### **Business Case**

1. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning was informally consulted on 8 February 2013 and has given approval to the expansion of Westfield Primary School.
2. Westfield Primary School is located off Bonsey Lane, Woking and the site currently has other users in the form of Adult Education, Surrey Arts, and two private nurseries. The school currently provides 210 places but the school has taken 60 additional pupils over the last two years giving a total number on roll of 270. The proposal is to expand the school by 210 places to 420 places a net increase of 150 places over the current number on roll.
3. The main school buildings will have the capacity to provide for 420 pupils aged 4 to 11 on the basis that Surrey Arts vacate former school accommodation and the site in April 2013. The remaining requirement to achieve the expansion is an additional five classes. This will be achieved through internal remodelling of the school to be vacated by Surrey Arts.
4. The project is included in the County Council's school basic need capital programme as part of the 2013/2018 Medium Term Financial Plan.
5. A report for the relocation of Surrey Arts was presented to Cabinet on 26 February 2013 and was supported.

## **CONSULTATION:**

6. This proposal is not a 'prescribed alteration' because Westfield Primary School has existing capacity in its current buildings for 420 pupils. The Local Authority is not required to undertake formal consultation on this proposal and the need to publish statutory notices does not apply in this circumstance.
7. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning has not received a formal report to consider the publication of notices or to consider representations but endorses this proposal on the grounds that additional primary places are needed in the Woking area.
8. Whilst formal consultation is not required, significant informal consultation has been undertaken by the Local Authority with all primary schools in Woking regarding this proposal for some time and the school governors have consulted parents and pupils through their existing communication channels.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

9. Risks associated with the projects are identified in the individual project business cases and a risk register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis for each.
10. Concerns over the increased traffic generation have been raised. A detailed Transport Assessment is being undertaken. Any significant recommendations for change may result in abnormal costs and these will be contained within the total cost envelope.

### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

11. The current total cost estimate for the two schemes is £2.63m. This will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as the schemes progress.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

12. The Section 151 Officer confirms that funding for this scheme has been included in the 2013/18 Medium Term Financial Plan. The relocation of Surrey Arts, which is now part of the overall scheme will be included in the school basic need capital programme and included in the revised 2013/18 MTFP.

### **Legal Implications - Monitoring Officer**

13. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient primary education is available to meet the needs of the population of their area. Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local education authorities to secure that sufficient schools for providing primary education are available in their area. Section 5 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 places a duty to promote high standards. Therefore, there is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

14. The proposal would enhance educational provision for children in the community served by the school. There are no direct equalities implications arising out of the proposal. However the increase in provision will be open to all applicants, with the highest priority given to Looked After Children and pupils on the SEN register and/or who would benefit from a statement of educational need, thus supporting provision for our most vulnerable children.
15. Facilities will be fully accessible and meet all Disability Discrimination Act requirements.
16. The school will be expected to contribute towards community cohesion and will be expected to provide the normal range of before and after school clubs as are provided in a typical Surrey Country Council school.

### **Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications**

17. This proposal would provide increase provision in the area, which would be of benefit to all in the community served by the school. This means it would, therefore, also be of benefit to any looked after children who will attend the school.

### **Climate change/carbon emissions implications**

18. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. New buildings will comply or exceed Building Regulations. For any new build projects, the contractor will be required to provide a Site Waste Management Plan.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

19. Subject to Cabinet approval, the award of a contract to the contractor to deliver the works to provide additional pupil places.

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#### **Contact Officer:**

Keith Brown, Schools and Programme Manager – 020 8541 8651  
Kieran Holliday, School Commissioning Officer – 020 8541 7383

#### **Consulted:**

Will Forster, Local Member, Woking South  
Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Change and Efficiency  
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Change and Efficiency  
Schools – Head Teachers and governors in the Woking area  
Parents and pupils

#### **Annexes:**

Annex 1

#### **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 2010-2014 – 30 March 2010  
Cabinet Member Report – Surrey Arts Relocation – 26 Feb 2013

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