

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 28 MAY 2013

REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

MR TONY SAMUELS, CABINET MEMBER FOR ASSETS AND REGENERATION PROGRAMMES

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

SUBJECT: SCHOOL EXPANSION AT ST MARTIN'S INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS



SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

There is significant demand for new schools places within Surrey and for improvement of existing accommodation, which Surrey County Council's five year 2013-18 Medium Term Financial Plan significantly addresses.

St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools in, Epsom have been identified as requiring expansion.

Approval is sought for the business case for expansion and creation of additional places and facilities at the school to meet the demand.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the expansion and adaptation of St Martin's Infant and Junior School, as detailed in this report, be agreed in principle subject to the consideration and approval of the detailed financial information as set out in Part 2 of this agenda (item 11).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The scheme delivers a value for money expansion and improvements to the school and its infrastructure, which supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide additional school places and appropriate facilities for local children in Surrey. The project and building works are in accordance with the planned timetable required for delivery of the new accommodation at the school.

<u>DETAILS:</u>

1. Surrey is on the London fringe and is a popular place to live with a good commercial infrastructure and employer base, commuter rail links to the City. Surrey Schools are good schools and the attainments of students in Surrey schools is generally of a good standard.

The population in Surrey has increased steadily since 1981 and projections from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) suggest that this growth will continue in the foreseeable future with a population rising to 1,230,780 in 2023.

Surrey's projections indicating future needs for schools places were exceeded in 2012 and in a number of urban areas across the county officers have signalled this trend will continue and further places will be needed.

Factors attributable to the unforeseen demand include:

- Applications for places are increasing at a higher rate than the increase in births.
- Increasing inward migration – not captured by ONS.
- Housing development (in particular in-fill development) coming forward earlier than district and borough forecasts had indicated.
- External economic factors (e.g. affordability of housing compared with London).

The County has responded to this increased demand for Schools Basic Need with a substantial expansion programme that plans to deliver some 16,000 additional school places over the next 10 years. Capital investment over the period 2012/18 amounts to £289m.

2. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning has considered and approved the educational rationale for the expansion and improvement of the school set out in this report. Approval of the business case for the expansion is now required in order to progress the delivery of the accommodation at the school.
3. The business case for the school is attached under item 11 in Part 2 of this agenda. Aspects of the financial details for the proposal are considered commercially sensitive, in that releasing the information at this stage may impact on the Council's ability to gain best value from companies who might potentially bid for the contract to deliver the project.
4. It is therefore in the public interest that this detailed financial information be discussed in private at this time. The Cabinet is therefore asked to consider the expansion proposal in principle before approving the business case for the school in Part 2 of the meeting.

<u>St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools</u>

5. The Cabinet Member for Children and Learning was consulted on 13 March 2013 and recommended the expansion of St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools to provide a total of 210 additional places.

6. St Martin's Infant and Junior Schools are co-located on one campus situated on Worple Road, Epsom. The infant school currently provides 180 places in 3 year groups, but the school has taken 30 additional pupils over the last year giving a total number on roll of 210. The proposal is to expand the infant schools capacity by 90 permanent places to 270 (3 year groups of 90 pupils) ie a net increase of 60 places over the current pupils on roll.
7. St Martin's Junior School has a capacity of 240 places but currently has a total of 254 pupils on roll in 4 year groups. The school will need to increase its capacity and Planned Admission Number (PAN) in order to align with the infant school. The proposal is to expand the junior school capacity to 360 places a net increase of 120 permanent places providing additional accommodation of 106 places over the current number on roll.
8. The main school buildings will have the capacity to provide for a total of 630 an increase of 210 places aged 4 to 11 across the two schools. The requirement to achieve the expansion is an additional seven classes. This will be achieved through a two storey extension and some internal remodelling of the schools.
9. The project is included in the County Council's school basic need capital programme as part of the 2013/2018 Medium Term Financial Plan.

CONSULTATION:

10. At Epsom Infant and Junior School, the proposal is a 'prescribed alteration' and a public consultation exercise has been conducted by the two governing bodies.
11. A final report went to the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning on 13 March 2013. Approval was given for the expansion to proceed in order to meet the basic need for places in this area of Epsom.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

12. There are risks associated with the programme at the school and the consultants have produced and are maintaining a risk register updated on a regular basis.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

13. The scheme will be subject to continued robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as the project progresses.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

14. The Section 151 Officer has included comment on the scheme report, in the Part 2 reports (item 11).

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

15. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local education authorities to secure that efficient primary and secondary 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 and Section 14A 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

16. The new facilities at the school will comply with DDA (Disabilities Discrimination Act) regulations and will have facilities for girls / boys and disabled children. Officers did not consider there to be any significant equalities implications and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Climate change/carbon emissions implications

17. 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:

18. Subject to Cabinet approval the project will be progressed in accordance with the project plan. This will deliver new school places and facilities by September 2013.

Contact Officer:

Keith Brown, Schools Programme Manager, 020 8541 8651
Julie Stockdale, Strategic Lead for School Commissioning, 020 8541 8084

Consulted:

Linda Kemeny, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning
Tony Samuels, Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration Programmes
Tina Mountain, Local Member, Epsom Town and Downs
Julie Fisher, Strategic Director for Business Services
Paula Chowdhury, Strategic Finance Manager – Business Services
Schools – Head Teachers and governors in the Epsom area
Parents and pupils

Annexes:

See Part 2 individual business case report

Sources/background papers:

The Education Act 1996
The School Standards Framework Act 1998
The Education Act 2002
The Education and Inspections Act 2006