

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**MS DENISE TURNER- STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION AND LEARNING****DATE: 12 JULY 2021****LEAD OFFICER: RACHELL WARDELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING****SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF ST ANDREWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

ORGANISATION Growing A Sustainable Economy So Everyone Can Benefit/ Tackling Health
STRATEGY Inequality/Enabling A Greener Future/Empowering Communities
PRIORITY AREA:

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

Surrey County Council in co-operation with the Governing Body of St Andrew's Catholic School and the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, is proposing that St Andrew's Catholic School will enlarge to 1,200 places in national curriculum years 7 to 11 from September 2022. The current sixth form of Years 12 and 13 has a capacity of 300 places bringing the size of the enlarged school to 1,500 places.

The school will admit 240 pupils into Year 7 from September 2022 and in subsequent years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning determines the statutory notice published thereby bringing into effect the formal commencement of the proposal.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Learning may:

1. reject a proposal
2. approve a proposal without modification
3. approve a proposal with modifications, having consulted the LA and/or Governing Body (as appropriate)
4. approve a proposal, with or without modification – subject to certain conditions (such as the granting of planning permission) being met.

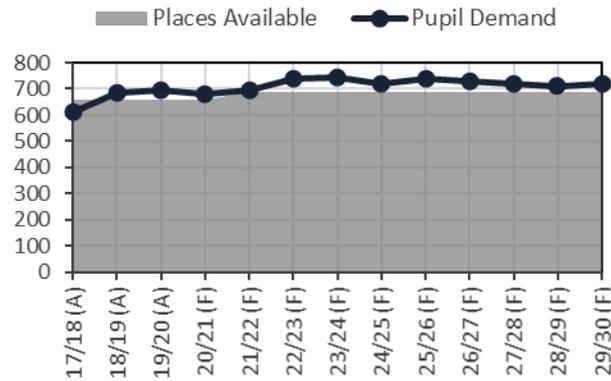
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports and delivers the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet demand. The proposal responds to the increased demand for Catholic secondary places in the Leatherhead secondary planning area. St Andrew's Catholic School serves a large Catholic deanery and admits pupils from

a wide area in accordance with its faith-based admissions criteria. The proposal also responds to the previous one-form entry expansion of St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Leatherhead in 2014 with the first cohort of additional pupils expected to feed into St Andrew's Catholic School from September 2021.

DETAILS:

1. St Andrew's Catholic School currently has a capacity of approximately 1,200 places from national curriculum years 7 to 13. The published admission number (PAN) for the normal year of admission is 210. In addition, the school has a sixth form of 300 places.
2. The proposal would increase the school to an eight-form entry school offering a capacity of 1,200 places across Years 7 to 11 making a total of 1,500 places with the sixth form. This is reflective of the actual number of pupils on roll at the school of 1,452.
3. St Andrew's Catholic School is a voluntary aided school and are their own admissions authority. In 2017, through the appropriate admissions consultation rounds, the school increased its PAN from 150 to 210 to reflect the increase in Catholic demand for places. The school has admitted above PAN in every year from 2013 to 2019 to accommodate this demand and the total number of pupils on roll has increased from 934 in 2013 to 1,457 in 2020.
4. The school was unable to continue to offer additional places in 2020 to meet Catholic demand due to the physical limitations of its current accommodation.
5. Surrey County Council expanded St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Leatherhead in 2014 by one form of entry, providing 210 additional places to meet the increased demand for Catholic primary places in Mole Valley. As a direct feeder school, the first cohort of pupils from this expansion will feed into St Andrew's from September 2021. The majority of these pupils will live locally to St Andrew's and receive priority over other Catholic children in the deanery who live further away, and therefore without expansion, the school would be unable to meet the future demand for Catholic secondary places in the deanery.
6. For the purposes of Surrey County Council's place planning, St Andrew's Catholic School is in the Leatherhead place planning area with Therfield School and Howard of Effingham School. Leatherhead is a cross border planning area, as Howard of Effingham is located in the borough of Guildford but is geographically situated closer to schools in Mole Valley than schools in the rest of Guildford borough. Pupil forecasts for the Leatherhead secondary planning area suggest that there will be a sustained demand of over 700 pupils in the long term, as we are seeing increased cohorts from the primary sector start to transition into the secondary age group.



7. However, the majority of this demand stems from pupils residing outside of the Mole Valley district as projections for the local Leatherhead wards themselves show a fairly static population trend, with any increases generated from new housing only. The pupil population attending other schools in the area, namely Therfield School which is undersubscribed, also remains fairly static with St Andrew's Catholic School cohorts having negligible effect on these local numbers.
8. St Andrew's Catholic School serves a Catholic deanery with boundaries extending some distance beyond the district border and include Epsom, Ashted, Banstead, Dorking, Effingham and Fetcham, Ewell, Leatherhead, Tadworth and more recently Cobham. The school therefore admits pupils from a wide area in accordance with its faith-based admissions criteria.

CONSULTATION:

9. The statutory process for making significant changes ('Prescribed Alterations') requires an informal period of consultation followed by the publication of statutory notices for 4 weeks during term time. The following people have been made aware of the proposals: parents/carers of children attending the school; employees and Governors of the school; relevant 7 unions; local residents; other users of the school building; other local schools; local borough and county councillors; and the School Admissions Forum.
10. The Surrey County Council published an informal consultation on www.surreysays.co.uk from 1st March 2021 to 26th April 2021. An online public meeting was held on 18 March at 6pm. 1,166 people responded to the consultation with 1144 (98.11%) respondents agreed with the proposal, 15 (1.29%) disagreed with the proposal and 7 (0.66%) did not know.
11. Of the 1,166 respondents, 694 left comments. Respondents who agreed with the proposal felt that the expansion would make a positive impact on the community and on children and young people and also improve facilities at the school. Other respondents who agreed felt the proposal would help meet the demand for places and praised the school. Respondents who did not agree raised concerns around increasing traffic and issues with parking.

12. Statutory notices were published on www.surreysays.co.uk from 28 May to 2 July 2021. The long notice is attached as **Annex 1**. The notice was published in the local paper on 28 May 2021. The responses collated were as of close of business on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 5pm. There were 596 responses to the consultation. 96.8% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 2.9% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 0.3% of respondents said they didn't know. The consultation closes on 2 July 2021 and final figures will be provided in a separate document once the consultation ends.
13. The full consultation analysis report is attached as **Annex 2**.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. There are design, planning and building 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:

15. The project will be funded from Surrey County Council's Basic Need Capital Programme (SBN), budget for this scheme is included in the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan. The proposal is for a stand-alone teaching block on repurposed land, extension of the existing school and by internal modifications to the school building.
16. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value for money.
17. On an ongoing basis, the school will receive additional funding for any places taken up above the current levels via the funding formula. From 2022-26, if September 2021 admissions resulted in additional pupil growth the Council would be required to provide some additional growth funding through the schools DSG block based on the new PAN of 240 exceeding the pupils leaving that year group. If these pupils were attending schools with vacant places this additional funding would not be required in this financial year from the DSG.

Section 151 Officer commentary:

18. Although significant progress has been made over the last twelve months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook beyond 2021/22 remains uncertain. The public health crisis has resulted in increased costs which may not be fully funded. With uncertainty about the ongoing impact of this and no clarity on the extent to which both central and local funding sources might be affected in the medium term, our working assumption is that financial resources will continue to be constrained, as they

have been for the majority of the past decade. This places an onus on the Council to continue to consider issues of financial sustainability as a priority in order to ensure stable provision of services in the medium term. Appropriate capacity within the Surrey maintained estate is a key element of ensuring sufficiency of school places in the right areas of the County. The Section 151 Officer supports the proposal.

Legal implications – Monitoring Officer:

19. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a general duty on the Council to secure that efficient primary and secondary education 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.
20. 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.
21. The governing body in conjunction with the local authority has carried out a consultation on the proposal which is in accordance with statutory requirements set out in the *Education and Inspection Act 2006* and *The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013*. Such consultation involved those directly affected by the changes together with relevant representative groups.
22. In considering this Report, the Cabinet Member must give due regard to the results of the consultation as set out in the reports attached and the response of the Service to the consultation comments and conscientiously take these matters into account when making its final decision.

Equalities and diversity:

23. The Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) for the proposals is attached to this report as **Annex 3**.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications:

24. This proposal would provide increased provision for secondary places in the area, which would be of benefit to the community served by the school. This means the proposal would also be of benefit to any looked after children who have the opportunity of attending the school.

Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications:

25. Safeguarding vulnerable children is a high priority in all Surrey schools. Schools have considerable expertise in safeguarding vulnerable children and adhere to robust procedures. The school will continue to apply good practise in the area of safeguarding as they do currently. In addition, safeguarding is a key area for monitoring when Ofsted carries out inspections.

Environmental sustainability implications:

26. The design philosophy is to create buildings that will support low energy consumption, reduce solar gain and promote natural ventilation. The school will be refurbished in line with this policy and any new building will be to the standards in the local planning authority's adopted core planning strategy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

27. Subject to the Cabinet Member determining the statutory notice Surrey County Council and the Governing Body of St Andrew's Catholic School/Diocese of Arundel and Brighton will proceed to implement the proposal.

Contact Officer:

Lisa Way, Commissioning Manager.

Consulted:

Governing Body
Diocesan representatives
Staff
Parents/carers
Local residents
Surrey County Council (SCC):
Tim Oliver - Cabinet Leader
Liz Mills - Director for Education and Learning
Jane Edwards - Assistant Director – Education
Julie Iles - former Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning
Denise Turner-Stewart – Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning
Schools Forum
Governor Services
Local schools
Family Voice
Local and County Councillors
Other Diocese
Unions
Surrey Bulletin
Department for Education

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Statutory Notice
Annex 2 – Consultation Analysis
Annex 3 – Equality Impact Assessment
