

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL****CABINET MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS AND LEARNING****DATE: 11 SEPTEMBER 2013****LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES****SUBJECT: LANGSHOTT INFANT SCHOOL, HORLEY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Surrey County Council, in cooperation with the Governing Body of Langshott Infant School, has consulted on a proposal to alter the upper age range of Langshott Infant School so that the School becomes a Primary School from September 2014. This proposal would provide an additional 240 additional junior school places within Horley.

The Cabinet Member is asked to review the comments received during the consultation and to decide whether to proceed to the publication of statutory notices.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the publication of Statutory Notices indicating the Council's intent to alter the upper age limit of Langshott Infant School so that it becomes a Primary School.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This proposal is reflective both of an increasing demand for school places in the Horley area, resulting from an increase in birth rate and significant house building, and an opportunity to provide primary school structure throughout the town.

The provision of additional Junior places both meets the increased demographic pressures in the area and will allow the Council to admit those people who name the school as their preferred option thus, meeting the wider statutory duty to offer all applicants a school place.

It will enable a diversity of provision to be maintained within the Horley area and be part of a strategy that enables Horley residents to access to a local Primary School.

A programme of building works at the school will improve the general fabric of the school buildings and enhance the learning experience for pupils, parents and staff.

**DETAILS:****The Proposal**

1. Currently Langshott Infant School has permanent accommodation for 180 pupils from Reception to Year 2. The school has a published admission number of 60 thus admitting 60 pupils each year in two classes.

2. Surrey County Council, in partnership with the governing body of Langshott School, Smallfield Road, is now proposing to;
  - enlarge the school from a 180 place Infant School, 60 places from reception to Year 2, to a 420 place primary school, 60 places from reception to year 6.
  - retain the Published Admission Number (PAN) at 60, with pupils already at the school transferring from Year 2 to Year 3 and continuing their education at the school until the end of Year 6
  - allow the school to grow incrementally year by year so that it would reach capacity in September 2017
  - provide the additional classrooms and ancillary space required through a building project
  - that the enlargement would be effective from 1 September 2014

### Reasons for the proposal

3. Pupil numbers have been steadily rising across Reigate and Banstead Borough since 2006. Much of the increase is as a result of the rise in the local birth rate; a significant amount is also due to housing development and inward migration. This is specifically the case in Horley which has been identified for large-scale housing developments to the North East and North West of the Town. The North East sector development is being built with new houses being occupied. The Council needs to take account of these trends and provide more school places in the area where they are needed.
4. Historic birth rates for Reigate and Banstead and Surrey are included below.

Borough	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	% Change 2002-2010
Reigate & Banstead	1446	1572	1523	1491	1711	1754	1768	1775	1880	1,871	29.4
<b>Surrey Total</b>	<b>11626</b>	<b>12304</b>	<b>12283</b>	<b>12303</b>	<b>13085</b>	<b>13628</b>	<b>13710</b>	<b>13626</b>	<b>14237</b>	<b>14,097</b>	<b>21.3</b>

5. Langshott Infant and Nursery school is located in the Horley planning area which is served by six schools: Meath Green Infant and Junior, Horley Infant, Yattendon Junior, Manorfield Primary, and Langshott Infant.
6. The Council's pupil projections for the Horley planning area are shown in the table over leaf. The 'PAN' is the planned admission number for Reception Year. The 'spare' columns show the projected shortfall in Reception places and in Year 3 when children transfer into junior provision (Key Stage 2).

Year	PAN	1pref	InfPI	Spare	%	YR	Y1	Y2	JunP	JSpa	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	J	Total	Cap	Surplus	%
2010	240	241	240	5	2.1	235	229	241	240	16	224	191	203	198	816	1521	1590	69	4.3
2011	240	296	300	15	6.3	285	233	229	210	-1	211	216	194	207	828	1575	1590	15	0.9
2012	250	280	280	13	5.2	267	293	231	210	2	208	208	214	195	825	1616	1590	-26	-1.6
2013	250	261	250	-11	-4.4	261	250	269	210	13	197	188	190	196	771	1551	1590	39	2.5
2014	250		250	-14	-5.6	264	246	232	210	-21	231	180	174	176	761	1503	1590	87	5.5
2015	250		250	-24	-9.6	274	250	230	210	8	202	211	168	162	743	1497	1590	93	5.8
2016	250		250	-34	-13.6	284	260	235	210	9	201	186	197	158	742	1521	1590	69	4.3
2017	250		250	-45	-18.0	295	270	244	210	4	206	185	175	184	750	1559	1590	31	1.9
2018	250		250	-54	-21.6	304	279	252	210	-2	212	189	173	164	738	1573	1590	17	1.1
2019	250		250	-57	-22.8	307	287	260	210	-8	218	194	176	161	749	1603	1590	-13	-0.8
2020	250		250	-55	-22.0	305	288	265	210	-12	222	197	179	162	760	1618	1590	-28	-1.8
2021	250		250	-48	-19.2	298	285	264	210	-14	224	199	179	164	766	1613	1590	-23	-1.4

7. As evidenced above, there is a demand for additional school places in the local area. This proposal, by providing 240 additional junior places within Horley, will enable the authority to meet the rising demand as part of a suite of school organisation changes in the area. This also includes supporting the establishment of a new one form entry primary school in the area from September 2014.
8. In addition this proposal will enable the benefits of primary education to be experienced in Horley and provide for an easier Infant and Junior transfer within the Town for all parents.
9. The proposal also supports the Council's preference for primary organisation. Whilst not denying the good points of separate Infant and Junior Schools, this proposal supports the specific advantages of primary organisation including:
  - a seamless transition from Key Stage 1 (Infants) to Key Stage 2 (Juniors)
  - greater opportunities for curriculum development
  - greater opportunities for staff development
  - greater flexibility with a larger budget to deploy staff and curriculum resources effectively
  - greater opportunities for staff recruitment and retention
10. Expanding the school will also allow the Governors and the Council to admit children whose parents who would like the school as their preferred option at Junior level. It will also enable more children to attend a local primary school and more closely match parental preference within the town.
11. A programme of building works will improve the general fabric of the school buildings and enhance the learning experience for pupils and the working environment for staff.
12. The school is a vital part of the Council's education offer in the local area. Retaining and expanding provision of the number of spaces within Horley is essential in ensuring that the County Council performs its statutory duty of educating all pupils who request a school place.

## **Planning and capital considerations**

13. The school has capacity to expand in its existing location. A building programme will be required to provide the permanent facilities to allow for this increase. Appropriate capital has been approved to achieve this through the primary capital programme. Detailed work has been undertaken with the Governing Body, Surrey County Council Property Service and Consultants to develop a scheme of works to provide the additional accommodation needed in an appropriate manner and a separate planning application is being submitted pursuant to this.
14. The planning application will deal with the implications for school buildings and the management of traffic that result from this proposed expansion. This site adjoins Oakwood Secondary School, as part of the development improvements are being made to pedestrian access at both sites.
15. The programme of works is subject to business case approval from the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration.

### **CONSULTATION:**

16. A detailed consultation has been undertaken with relevant stakeholders that has included the issuing of a public consultation documentation and two public meetings, that were well attended.
17. School Governors, the local school community (through the Horley Local Partnership) and the local member have been regularly consulted both during the consultation process and throughout the development of proposals.

### **Comments Received**

18. There has been a high level of support for the proposal from consultees. 14 formal written responses were received of which 12 (86%) agreed with the proposal one disagreed and one did not know. All respondents had children of school or pre-school age. Those supporting the school expansion referenced its existing positive outcomes and ethos. Acknowledgement was given to how this proposal will ease transfer within the town and prevent children having to change schools during their primary education.
19. Some themes and concerns were evident in the consultation process both in formal responses received and comments made at the public meetings. The issue raised by the highest proportion (29%) of respondents was whether appropriate consideration was being given to transport and access to the site as part of the programme of expansion. Respondents reported existing congestion at entrance and exit routes that should be addressed in the development.
20. Respondents expressed a desire that appropriate consideration is given to the development of the future Key Stage Two curriculum within the school and whether there was capacity with the existing Leadership and Governance structures to enable the change to progress effectively.
21. Respondents referenced the need to ensure that the programme of works included the necessary facilities to aid junior education. This included the provision of appropriate outdoor play space and specific Key Stage Two classroom space.

22. Specific concern was also raised by parents within the first cohort of children to go through the change that it would be appropriately managed with children receiving the necessary support.

### **Responses to comments**

23. The development of the programme of building works has been undertaken in consultation with the planning Authority and Highways Department. The planning application will draw out specific responses to the access issues and proposed enhancements across the Langshott and Oakwood School sites. Appropriate provision within the programme has also been made to make reasonable adjustments to the existing school fabric and provide new permanent accommodation to meet the increased demands of the additional pupils and the Key Stage Two curriculum.
24. The existing school governors and Acting Head Teacher have been making use of the Surrey School Support Service to develop appropriate curriculum models. In addition the school has also been consulting with other junior providers to ensure that an effective curriculum, leadership and governance structure is in place to enable the expansion to take place effectively. The school will also use the expertise within the Horley Learning Partnership to ensure that plans are tested and refined.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

25. A project to deliver the new school buildings for September 2014 is required and as such there are risks associated with this proposal. There is a risk that the project will not complete within the timescales outlined above and there may be site abnormalities not identified as part of the initial feasibility exercise. A risk register is being maintained and updated on a regular basis by the school's consultants.
26. Should the approval of additional school places not be granted there is the risk that Surrey would fail to meet its statutory duty in providing sufficient school places, without mitigation at another site.

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

27. The building project resultant from this proposal is included in the County Council's school basic need capital programme as part of the 2013/2018 Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). A scheme of works is being developed by Property Services that is within the funding envelope for this project. When this scheme reaches its contract tendering phase then a more detailed business case will be compiled and the Cabinet Member for Assets and Regeneration will approve its progress towards contract award.

### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

28. The Section 151 Officer confirms that this scheme is listed in the approved 2013/18 MTFP capital programme. The full revenue and capital cost implications will be considered as part of the more detailed business case prior to contract tendering.

### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

29. 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. There is a duty to provide efficient education and sufficient schools to do so.
30. The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 contains the regulations that apply to prescribed alterations. The former DCSF, now DfE published two pieces of Guidance relating to prescribed alterations: Expanding a Maintained Mainstream School or Adding a Sixth Form and Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School (Other than Expansion). These contain both statutory guidance (i.e. guidance to which proposers and decision makers have a statutory duty to have regard) and non-statutory guidance on the process for making changes to school provision.

### **Equalities and Diversity**

31. The proposal would enhance educational provision and be open to all children in the community served by the school. No group with any protected characteristics under Equalities legislation will be affected by this proposal as increased provision for all children is proposed to be made. As a result no EIA has been produced. However, with the increase in provision being 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, this proposal will support our most vulnerable children.

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

32. The proposal is key to ensuring that the appropriate numbers of school places are provided to meet the demand of our residents. All places provided have the highest priority given to children in the care of the local authority.

### **Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults implications**

33. The Council has a duty to promote and improve educational outcomes for all children, particularly for vulnerable and disadvantaged children. The provision of school places is essential in meeting this duty.

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

34. The County Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate change. The provision of Junior Provision on the site will reduce the number of journeys required by parents and children who would otherwise need to travel to a different site for junior education.

<b>WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:</b>
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35. The next steps are:

- Subject to Cabinet Member approval Statutory Notices outlining the change will be published and displayed publically for a period of four weeks.
- Any responses to the Statutory Notices will be collated and reported to the Cabinet Member.
- A further report will be submitted to the Cabinet Member so that the Statutory Notices can be determined.
- Should the Cabinet Member determine the Statutory Notices positively the proposal will be confirmed and the Langshott Infant School upper age limit would be raised as per the proposal from September 2014.

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**Contact Officer:**

Nicholas Smith, School Commissioning Officer 020 8541 8902

**Consulted:**

Nick Wilson, Strategic Director for Children Schools and Families  
Dorothy Ross-Tomlin, County Councillor for Horley East  
Horley Learning Partnership  
Public and Parents

**Sources/background papers:**

- Langshott Consultation Document.
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