

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**MS DENISE TURNER- STEWART, CABINET MEMBER FOR
EDUCATION AND LEARNING****DATE: 12 OCTOBER 2021****LEAD OFFICER: RACHELL WARDELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN,
FAMILIES AND LIFELONG LEARNING****SUBJECT: EXPANSION OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH OF ENGLAND
(CE) INFANT SCHOOL****SURREY**

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 Peter and St Paul CE Infant School and the Diocese of Southwark, is proposing that St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School is expanded from a one form entry (1FE) infant school for pupils aged 4 to 7 years to become a one form entry (1FE) primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years. The proposal would come into effect from September 2022.

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.

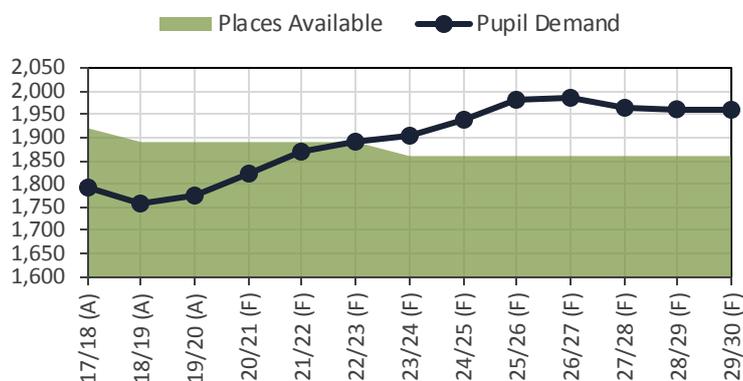
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports and delivers the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places to meet demand. The proposal is part of a re-organisation of primary places in an area of Caterham which will benefit the local community and provide opportunities for siblings in the same family to attend the same school whilst also creating future headroom for placing additional pupils as the demand for places increases.

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| DETAILS: |
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1. St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School is a voluntary aided school in the village of Chaldon in Caterham and part of the Diocese of Southwark.
2. St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School is currently a one form entry (1FE) infant school for pupils aged 4 to 7 years with a capacity of 90 places across Reception to national curriculum year 2. The published admission number (PAN) for the normal year of admission is 30.
3. In recent years St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School has seen numbers on roll fall. In the academic year 2018/19 occupancy was at 76%, and whilst occupancy improved slightly in 2019/20 to 84% this figure needs to be over 90% for the school to remain financially sustainable. Although St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School annually admits 30 pupils into Reception, the school loses pupils throughout Year 2 as parents make different decisions to secure all-through and Junior provision. St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School does not feed into a natural partner junior school. St John's CE Primary School in Caterham is a notional partner.
4. The proposal would increase St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School to a one form entry (1FE) primary school for pupils aged 4 to 11 years and offer a capacity of 210 places across Reception to national curriculum year 6.
5. The proposed expansion allows St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School to offer junior places and in turn supports another local school, St John's CE Primary School, to remove their Year 3 intake. St John's CE Primary School is a two-form entry primary school for pupils aged 4-11 years with a published admission number (PAN) of 60 places from Reception to Year 2. St John's Primary also has a published admission number (PAN) of 30 places at Year 3 (Key Stage 2), therefore providing a total of 90 places from Year 3 to Year 6. Subject to an agreement on this proposal by the Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning, the Governing Body of St John's CE Primary School will apply to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) for an in-year variation to remove their Year 3 intake or PAN of 30 places from September 2022 and offer a PAN of 60 places from Reception to Year 6. Both schools are under financial pressure due to their school roll being below overall capacity, mainly due to the organisation of places.
6. For the purposes of education place planning, Surrey County Council produce pupil projections based on planning areas. Planning areas do not have geographical boundaries but are groups of schools which reflect the local geography, reasonable travel distances and existing pupil movement patterns. Current forecasts for the Caterham primary planning area as shown in **Table 1** below (November 2020) indicate an ongoing demand for primary places with a deficit of places across the area.

Table 1 – Primary Forecasts Caterham Planning Area



7. The proposal to remove the Year 3 PAN at St John’s CE Primary School would provide some additional classroom space for placing additional pupils as the demand for places increases.
8. Subject to the decision on this proposal and planning permission, further building work will be required to the existing site at St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School to make it suitable for an additional 120 permanent pupils. This will involve adaptations and refurbishment to the interior of the existing accommodation and a new classroom block to increase classroom and resource space.
9. St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School would propose to start to provide Key Stage 2 places (Year 3) from September 2022. The Year 2 class for 2021/22 would transfer into the newly established Year 3 class in September 2022/23. The school would operate at full capacity as a 1FE primary school from September 2027/28.

CONSULTATION:

10. 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.
11. The Surrey County Council published an informal consultation on www.surreysays.co.uk from 17 May 2021 to 5 July 2021. Two online public meetings were held on 25 May and 1 July 2021. 230 people responded to the consultation with 205 (89.13%) respondents agreed with the proposal, 20 (8.7%) disagreed with the proposal and 5 (2.17%) did not know.

12. Of the 230 respondents, 132 left comments. Respondents who agreed with the proposal felt that the expansion would have a positive impact on children and also on the local community. Other respondents who agreed felt the proposed expansion would contribute to easing traffic during school drop off and pick up times. Respondents who did not agree raised concerns around safety in relation to parking and traffic.
13. Statutory notices were published on www.surreysays.co.uk from 15 July to 24 September 2021. There were two statutory notices published as part of a linked proposal. The long notices are attached as **Annex 1A and 1B**. The notices were published in the local paper on 15 July 2021.
14. **Annex 1A** is the statutory notice linked to the proposal by Surrey County Council to expand St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School. There were 168 responses. 98% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 1% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 1% of respondents said they did not know.
15. **Annex 1B** is the statutory notice linked to the proposal by the Governing Body of St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School to change the age range of the school. There were 7 responses. 86% of respondents agreed with the proposal, 14% of respondents disagreed with the proposal and 0% of respondents said they did not know.
16. The full consultation analysis report for both the informal consultation and the two statutory notices is attached as **Annex 2**.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

17. 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:

18. The project will be funded from Surrey County Council's Basic Need Capital Programme (SBN), the budget for this scheme is included in the approved Medium-Term Financial Plan. The approved budget in the programme is for the gross cost so any of the following additional sources of funding will release SBN to be used on alternative projects.
19. An application for Community Infrastructure Funding (CIL) funding for 50% contribution towards the estimated capital cost has been made to Tandridge Borough Council with an outcome expected in December 2021.
20. An additional capital funding contribution is also being sought from the Diocese of Southwark and may become available subject to a sale of assets; more information is anticipated later in 2021.

21. The proposal would provide four new classrooms, supporting future sufficiency within the County, toilets, a library and a dedicated SEN/Wraparound Care Room. In addition, there will be some refurbishment of the existing school and staff car parking and the visitor area will be enlarged.
22. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value for money.

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| Section 151 Officer commentary: |
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23. 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 therefore supports the proposal.

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| Legal implications – Monitoring Officer: |
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24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The governing body and the local authority have carried out consultations on the two proposals 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.
27. The first (Local Authority) proposal was in relation to the expansion of numbers of pupils to increase the capacity of the school. The second (Governing Body of a VA school) proposal was in relation to the change of age range.
28. Such consultation involved those directly affected by the changes together with relevant representative groups. 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:

29. The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposal is attached to this report as **Annex 3**.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children implications:

30. This proposal would provide increased primary provision from Key Stage 2 in Chaldon, 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:

31. 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:

32. 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:

33. Subject to the Cabinet Member determining the statutory notice Surrey County Council and the Governing Body of St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School/Diocese of Southwark will proceed to implement the proposal.

Contact Officer:

Lisa Way, Commissioning Manager.

Consulted:

Governing Body of St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School
Southwark Diocesan Board of Education representatives
Staff of St Peter and St Paul CE Infant School
Parents/carers
Chaldon Village Council
Local residents via Chaldon Village Council
Keith Robbins – Chair of Parish Council, Chaldon Village Council
Reverend Helen Burnett, Chaldon Church
Governing Body of St John's CE Primary School

Surrey County Council (SCC):

Tim Oliver - Cabinet Leader

Liz Mills - Director for Education and Learning

Jane Winterbone - Assistant Director – Education

Julie Iles - former Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning

Denise Turner-Stewart – Cabinet Lead Member for Education and Learning

Jeremy Webster – Surrey County Councillor, Caterham Hill

Jeffrey Gray – Surrey County Councillor, Caterham Valley

Phil Flower – Chaldon District Councillor

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

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