

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****DATE: 27 OCTOBER 2020****REPORT OF: MRS JULIE ILES, CABINET MEMBER FOR ALL-AGE LEARNING****LEAD OFFICER: PATRICIA BARRY, DIRECTOR OF LAND AND PROPERTY****SUBJECT: BROADWATER SECONDARY SCHOOL, GODALMING, SURREY****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

To approve the business case for the expansion of Broadwater School. The school will expand from 4 forms of entry and 120 Published Admission Number per year (600 places overall) to 5 forms of entry and 150 Published Admission Number per year (750 places overall) to help meet the demand for 150 additional secondary places in Waverley from September 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that, subject to the approval of the detailed financial information as set out in the Part 2 report, Cabinet approves the business case for the expansion of Broadwater School, creating an additional 150 school places.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The proposal supports the Authority's statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places relative to demand.

DETAILS:**Background**

1. There is significant demand for new school places within Surrey resulting from increases in the birth rate and inward migration into the County. Demand for secondary places has increased in Godalming, with additional school places required from 2021. Plans need to be put in place to ensure secondary places are provided for the increased pupil cohorts transitioning into the secondary phase.
2. Waverley is experiencing a significant increase in the demand for school places, reflecting both a rise in birth rate, and increased house building and migration within the area. Demand for secondary school places in Godalming is projected to rise over the coming years in line with cohorts currently in the primary sector. This proposed expansion will provide additional school places needed in the planning area and wider borough. There is a sustained need for additional school places in the area, with an underlying deficit of 1FE, peaking in some years to 2 or 3 FE. A core component of the strategy devised to meet this need is the proposed expansion of Broadwater School by 1FE, which will reduce the projected deficits by 30 places.
3. Broadwater School is a co-educational, fully comprehensive school for students aged 11 to 16 years old in Godalming, Surrey. The school currently provides 120 places

per year from year 7, through to year 11. The school became part of the Greenshaw Learning Trust on 1st September 2020.

4. The Local Authority has a duty to respond to parental preferences and where possible, the County Council seeks to expand popular and successful schools to meet additional demand. Broadwater School has consistently over offered school places to accommodate local children. Broadwater School has offered above their PAN to 140 places for September 2020 and the two years previous.
 5. At the school's last Ofsted inspection in 2019, Broadwater School received a "Good" judgement. Officers are confident in the school's ability to manage the increase in pupil numbers.
 6. This proposal would provide an additional 30 secondary places per year, a total of 150 additional places within Godalming that will help to meet the increasing need for school places.
 7. The project will comprise the design, procurement and delivery of the following accommodation, to closer align the school with the DfE's Building Bulletin 103: Area Guidelines for Mainstream Schools (BB103) through a combination of standalone, new build, extension, repurposing, internal alterations and refurbishment.
 - a) Provision of a new Dining facility with integral Kitchen and Servery.
 - b) Conversion and extension of an existing General Classroom back to a Science Laboratory
 - c) Reallocation of an existing Drama Studio to a General Classroom
 - d) Conversion of an existing Dining Area to reprovide a larger Drama Studio and Control Room (lighting and audio).
 - e) Conversion of an existing Kitchen to 2 no. General Classrooms, 1 no. SEN (Special Educational Needs) classroom and 2 no. SEN Therapy Rooms
 - f) Creation of corridor/ circulation space through repurposing part of the Main Hall, part of the old Dining space and surplus space to serve the above areas.
 - g) Conversion of existing toilets to unisex format and provision of 4 no. further toilets, to satisfy minimum recommendations in BB103.
 - h) Re-provision of car parking bays displaced by the new Dining facility.
- The above components constitute the minimum recommended accommodation required to enable the school to operate effectively and to meet curriculum need at 5FE.
8. A Planning Application has been submitted in September 2020 and a planning decision is expected by December 2020 that will enable commencement of building works on site early in 2021.

CONSULTATION:

9. The Headteacher of the school has worked closely with officers to undertake consultation on the expansion proposals.

10. A Planning public consultation was run over a two-week period from 22 July to 5 August 2020. The consultation document was circulated to local residents and businesses and borough councillors, who were invited to respond, either by completing a bespoke online survey or by email to SCC's Planning Consultants.
11. There were 44 responses to the consultation. 32 (73%) agreed with the proposal to expand the school, 5 disagreed and 7 neither agreed nor disagreed.
12. Of the 5 negative responses, comments given included the school being significantly undersubscribed and therefore seeking evidence that families would choose Broadwater School over others, whereas records show that the school has admitted numbers above the PAN for the last 3 years; and people liking the small size and family feel of the School, which they consider may be lost with an expansion. Neither of these concerns are planning related.
13. Having reviewed the responses to the consultation, the Governing Body of Broadwater School voted on 26th August 2020 to proceed with the proposal.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. There are risks associated with the project and a project risk register has been compiled and 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 SCC's School Basic Need (SBN) Programme and is contained within the currently agreed revenue budget/ capital programme.
16. The project will be subject to robust cost challenge and scrutiny to drive optimum value as it progresses. Further financial details are set out in the report circulated in Part 2 of the agenda. These details have been circulated separately to ensure commercial sensitivity, in the interest of securing best value.

SECTION 151 OFFICER COMMENTARY

17. Although significant progress has been made over the last 12 months to improve the Council's financial position, the medium-term financial outlook is uncertain. The Public Health crisis has resulted in increased costs which are not fully funded in the current year. 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 from next year onwards, 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. As such, the Section 151 Officer supports the proposal to create an additional 150 places within the County.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – MONITORING OFFICER

18. Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on a Local Authority (with responsibility for education) to ensure sufficient primary and secondary education provision is available to meet the needs of the population in its area.

19. There is a clear expectation in public law that the Council should consider the statutory consultation process whenever it is considering making significant changes to service provision. Such consultation will need to involve those directly affected by such changes together with relevant representative groups. It will be important that the material presented to consultees provides sufficient information to allow for intelligent consideration and response in relation to the proposals. This information will need to be presented in a way that consultees will understand. The responses to the consultation will need to be conscientiously taken into account when the Cabinet Member makes any future decision.
20. In coming to a decision on this issue, the Cabinet Member needs to take account of all relevant matters. The weight to be given to each of the relevant matters is for the Cabinet Member to decide. Relevant matters in this context will include the statutory requirements, the policy considerations, the impacts of the options on service provision, the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the Council's fiduciary duty, any relevant risks, the results of the consultation and the public sector equality duty.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY

21. The expansion of the school will not create any issues that would require the production of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA), as no group with protected characteristics will be adversely affected as a consequence of its approval, or otherwise.
22. The new school building will comply with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations.
23. There is no proposal to amend the admissions criteria, which are fully compliant with the School Admissions Code.

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 it would therefore also be of benefit to any Looked After Children who have the opportunity of attending the school.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

25. 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:

26. If approved, to proceed to complete tenders and subsequent contract award through delegated decision.
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Contact Officers:

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Consulted:

Members: Julie Iles, Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning

Mel Few, Cabinet Member for Finance

Mrs Penny Rivers, Local Member: Godalming North

Officers: Patricia Barry, Director of Land & Property

Liz Mills, Director Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture

Louise Lawson, Deputy Strategic Business Finance Partner, Business

Stakeholders: Head Teacher and Chair of Governors

Annexes:

Part 2 report

Sources/background papers:

The Education Act 1996

The School Standards Framework Act 1998

The Education Act 2002

The Education Act 2005

The Education and Inspections Act 2006.

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