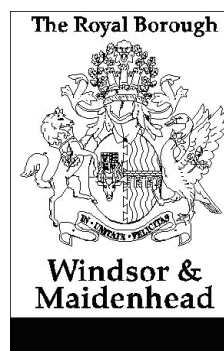


Report for: ACTION



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b> | Part I except for <b>Appendix C contains exempt information Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.</b> |
| <b>Title</b>                                       | <b>New Primary School Places in Ascot</b>  |
| <b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>                      | Alison Alexander, Managing Director and Strategic Director Children's Services   |
| <b>Contact officer, job title and phone number</b> | Kevin McDaniel, Head of Schools and Educational Services, 01628 683592   |
| <b>Member reporting</b>                            | Cllr Phillip Bicknell Lead Member for Education  |
| <b>For Consideration By</b>                        | Cabinet  |
| <b>Date to be Considered</b>                       | 28 April 2016  |
| <b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>        | 1 June 2016  |
| <b>Affected Wards</b>                              | Ascot and Cheapside, Sunningdale, Sunninghill and South Ascot  |

### REPORT SUMMARY

1. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is considering options for the provision of additional primary school places in Ascot. These new school places will enable us to meet the demand arising from families moving into the area and from new housing expected to be built locally. It will also contribute to the borough's aspiration for a school place surplus of 10%, to provide local choice.
2. Consultation on options to expand one or more of the existing primary schools (Cheapside CE Primary School, Holy Trinity CE Primary School Sunningdale, South Ascot Village School) or to explore opening a new primary school is recommended for June 2016.

### If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit?

| Benefits to residents and reasons why they will benefit  | Dates by which residents can expect to notice a difference |
|--|--|
| 1. Residents will have access to local, diverse, high quality school places, maximising parental choice and improving attainment of children and young people. | September 2017   |

## 1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet:

- i. Approves public consultation, in June 2016, on options for providing additional primary school places in Ascot in the suggested priority order as follows:
  - Expanding Cheapside CE Primary School from 16 to 30 places per year group.
  - Expanding South Ascot Village School from 30 to 60 places per year group.
  - Expanding Holy Trinity CE Primary School from 30 to 60 places per year group.
  - Opening of a free school on a new, unidentified site.
- ii. Requests a report on the outcome of the consultation on the primary school places to August 2016 Cabinet, with further feasibility and design works proceeding alongside the consultation to allow quick implementation of any approved scheme(s).

## 2. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is considering options for the provision of additional primary school places in Ascot. These new school places will enable us to meet the demand arising from families moving into the area and from new housing expected to be built locally. It will also contribute to the borough's aspiration for a surplus of 10%, to provide local choice. Further information about the need for new primary school places in Ascot is contained in Appendix A.
- 2.2 Public consultation on these options is now recommended, with a suggested priority order. It is likely that more than one of these options will need to be implemented over the next decade, and the priority order may need to be revisited as required. Consultation on these proposals will help the Royal Borough to develop a phased, long term plan of action for Ascot primary school places. An early expansion of one school is recommended, so that we can provide enough places for families moving into the area.

| Option  | Comments  |
|---|---|
| To carry out public consultation on options for providing new primary school places in Ascot.<br><b>This is the recommended option.</b> | This will allow the borough to consider the views of local residents on the proposed options for providing new primary school places. |
| To not carry out public consultation.<br><b>This is not recommended.</b>  | Full and fair public consultation on these proposals is required by government legislation and guidance.                              |

### 3. KEY IMPLICATIONS

| Defined Outcomes   | Unmet | Met    | Exceeded | Significantly Exceeded | Date they should be delivered by |
|--|-------|--------|----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A consultation response rate (as a proportion of the consultees) of: | <3%   | 3-3.9% | 4-5%     | >5%                    | 31 July 2016                     |

### 4. FINANCIAL DETAILS

#### Financial impact on the budget

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendations of this report. Costs associated with the consultation have already been budgeted for in the 2016/17 financial year and will be contained within the existing budget.
- 4.2 The initial estimated costs of the options for providing new primary school places in Ascot range from £700k to £1.8m.
- 4.3 Funding for new school places in the borough is provided through the government's 'Basic Need' grant and S106 funding (and, in future, the Community Infrastructure Levy). There is currently a shortfall on the Basic Need grant to fund the secondary school expansion programme, and a primary school expansion in Ascot would add to this. There is currently £201k of S106 available to spend on a primary school scheme in Ascot, which could include expansion.
- 4.4 The capital programme contains a budget for feasibility and design of the projects, but the main capital outlay is not yet budgeted for.

### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local authorities are under a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in their area. This is set out in the Education Act 1996, Section 14, subsections 1 and 2. This responsibility is set to be retained under the government's March 2016 white paper *Excellent Education Everywhere*.
- 5.2 Government guidance sets out the steps that need to be taken in relation to opening a new school and making changes to existing schools, whether local authority maintained or academy.

### 6. VALUE FOR MONEY

6.1 Government guidance sets out the steps that need to be taken in relation to opening a new school and making changes to existing schools, whether local authority maintained or academy (see section 17).

## 7. SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT APPRAISAL

7.1 There are no sustainability impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT

| Risks   | Uncontrolled Risk | Controls   | Controlled Risk |
|---|-------------------|--|-----------------|
| That an insufficient number of responses are received to the consultation to provide a fair picture of local views. | Medium            | Distribute and market consultation documentation widely, both electronically and in hard copy. | Low             |

## 9. LINKS TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### Residents First

- Support Children and Young People
- Work for safer and stronger communities

### Value for Money

- Invest in the future

## 10. EQUALITIES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY COHESION

10.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out at this stage.

## 11. STAFFING/WORKFORCE AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no staffing/workforce or accommodation implications.

## 12. PROPERTY AND ASSETS

12.1 There are no property and assets implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## 13. ANY OTHER IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no other implications at this stage.

## 14. CONSULTATION

- 14.1 The Royal Borough has had discussions about potential expansion with the five primary schools in Ascot. Officers have also discussed the information about potential new housing in the Ascot area with the Ascot Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group.
- 14.2 This report recommends that public consultation with parents, local residents, governors, staff and other interested parties now takes place on the following options:
- Exploring opening of a free school on a new, unidentified, site.
  - Expanding Cheapside CE Primary School to 30 places per year group.
  - Expanding Holy Trinity CE Primary School to 60 places per year group.
  - Expanding South Ascot Village Primary School to 60 places per year group.
- 14.3 The consultation will not specify dates for implementation of the expansion proposals, but will seek views on the options, one or more of which could then be carried out as required.
- 14.4 To increase the rate of response to the consultation, compared with previous primary school expansion consultations, it is proposed to run a public information evening to promote and launch the consultation.
- 14.5 The outcome of the consultation is recommended to go to Cabinet in August 2016.

## 15. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- 15.1 The timetable for the next steps.

| Date                         | Details  |
|------------------------------|--|
| May 2016                     | Drafting and approval of consultation document   |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2016    | Public consultation starts                       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2016    | Public consultation ends                         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 | Cabinet consideration of outcome of consultation |

## 16. APPENDICES

### Paper

- Appendix A: New primary school places in Ascot  
Appendix B: Options for new primary school places in Ascot  
Appendix C: Letter from Sunninghill Parochial Trust – PART II

## 17. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Government guidance

*School Organisation Maintained Schools*, DfE Guidance, January 2014\*

*The free schools presumption*, DfE Guidance, February 2016

*Area Guidelines for mainstream schools*, DfE Guidance, April 2014

\*This guidance is currently being updated by the Department for Education, and the borough will need to assess it when available.

Previous Cabinet reports

None

**18. CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)**

| <b>Name of consultee</b> | <b>Post held and Department</b>                                   | <b>Date sent</b> | <b>Date received</b> | <b>See comments in paragraph:</b> |
|--------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Internal</b>          |   |                  |                      |                                   |
| Cllr Burbage             | Leader of the Council   | 06/04/16         |                      |                                   |
| Cllr Bicknell            | Lead Member   | 01/04/16         | 01/04/16             |                                   |
| Russell O'Keefe          | Strategic Director Corporate and Community Services               |                  |                      |                                   |
| Alison Alexander         | Managing Director/ Strategic Director Adults, Children and Health | 01/4/16          | 4/4/16               |                                   |
| Simon Fletcher           | Strategic Director Operations and Customer Services               |                  |                      |                                   |
| Edmund Bradley           | Finance Partner   | 01/04/16         | 03/04/16             |                                   |
| Michaela Rizou           | Cabinet Policy Officer  | 01/04/16         | 01/04/16             |                                   |
|                          |   |                  |                      |                                   |
|                          |   |                  |                      |                                   |
|                          |   |                  |                      |                                   |
| <b>External</b>          |   |                  |                      |                                   |
|                          |   |                  |                      |                                   |

**REPORT HISTORY**

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Decision type:</b> | <b>No</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------|

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Non-key decision | No |
|------------------|----|

| Full name of report author | Job title                  | Full contact no: |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Ben Wright                 | Education Planning Officer | 01628 796572     |

## APPENDIX A – DEMAND FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN ASCOT

### 1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Five Royal Borough primary schools serve the Ascot area, providing a total of 136 Reception places each year. The five schools are:

- Cheapside CE Primary School (current Published Admission Number 16).
- Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale (30).
- St Francis Catholic Primary School (30).
- St Michael's CE Primary School (30).
- South Ascot Village Primary School (30).

1.2 North Ascot, within the borough, is served by the Bracknell Forest schools, Ascot Heath Infant and Ascot Heath CE Junior, in a similar way that Charters School serves part of the same area for secondary places.

1.3 There have been no permanent expansions to primary school provision in Ascot over the past decade, although there have been two 'bulge' classes, one at South Ascot Village Primary School (2012) and one at Holy Trinity CE Primary School Sunningdale (2015) to cope with temporary increases in demand.

#### Underlying demand for places

1.4 The underlying demand for primary school places is now set to drop over the next few years, as the birth rate has fallen recently to just 134 in 2012/13. This compares to an average of 160 per year in the period 2008/09 to 2011/12.

**Table A1 – Live Births Information for Ascot**

| Year cohort starts Reception | 2011          | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Live Births in Ascot</b>  |               |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|                              | Year of birth | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 11/12 | 12/13 | 13/14 |
| No.                          | 169           | 200   | 162   | 150   | 166   | 161   | 134   | 145   | n/a   |

1.5 The falling underlying demand is part of a general fall in the birth rate across England, down from 729,674 in 2012 to 695,233 in 2014<sup>1</sup>.

1.6 The intakes into Reception classes in September 2017, 2018 and 2019 are expected, therefore, to be smaller than in recent years. The longer term demographics are unclear as the future cohorts are not yet born. It is quite possible that demand could continue to fall beyond 2019 or indeed rise again.

#### New housing in the Ascot area

1.7 Set against the current falling birth rate, however, is the impact of new housing in the Ascot area. The Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2014 and refers to the historic rate of approximately 60 new dwellings built per year in the area. Projecting this rate forward until 2030 equates to 840 additional

<sup>1</sup> Birth Summary Tables, England and Wales 2014, Office of National Statistics, July 2015



dwellings. A further 740 dwellings could come forward on the strategic sites identified in the neighbourhood plan, listed in Table A2.

**Table A2 – Strategic sites for housing in Ascot**

| Site                     | Location    | Size  | Primary school designated area |              |            |              |                     |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|--------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                          |             |       | Cheapside                      | Holy Trinity | St Francis | St Michael's | South Ascot Village |
| Ascot North ("Village")  | Ascot       | 3.5ha | ✓                              |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Ascot South ("Green")    | Ascot       | 5.4ha |                                |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Ascot Station            | Ascot       | 1.0ha |                                |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Heatherwood              | Ascot       | 18ha  |                                |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Shorts, St George's Lane | Ascot       | 5.6ha |                                |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Sunningdale Broomhall    | Sunningdale | -     |                                | ✓            | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Gasholder site           | Sunninghill | 2.5ha |                                |              | ✓          | ✓            | ✓                   |
| Sunningdale Park         | Sunningdale | 4.8ha |                                | ✓            | ✓          |              | ✓                   |
| Silwood Park             | Sunningdale | 5.5ha | ✓                              |              | ✓          |              | ✓                   |

- 1.8 Not all of these sites will necessarily be developed, and those that are developed may have other uses – employment, retail, healthcare, open space and education – in addition to housing on some or all of the site. The Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group believe, however, that as many as 1,580 new dwellings may be permitted in the Ascot and neighbourhood plan area up to 2030.
- 1.9 In approving the plan, the local community gave support to *"more houses built that our children could afford, typified as being 3-4 bedroom modest family homes"*<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.10 On the basis of the current pupil yield figures, 1,580 new dwellings might bring between 378 and 735 additional primary age children in total, equivalent to 54 to 105 children per year group:

**Table A3 – Pupil yield figures for 1,580 dwellings, illustrative only**

| Dwelling type and size  | No. of primary age children per dwelling | Model 1           |            | Model 2           |            | Model 3           |            |
|---|--|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|   |  | No. new dwellings | Yield      | No. new dwellings | Yield      | No. new dwellings | Yield      |
| 1 bed flat  | 0.00                                     | 490               | n/a        | 290               | n/a        | 90                | n/a        |
| 2 bed flat  | 0.14                                     | 490               | 69         | 290               | 41         | 90                | 13         |
| 2 bed house   | 0.68                                     | 180               | 122        | 290               | 197        | 390               | 265        |
| 3 bed house   | 0.40                                     | 180               | 72         | 290               | 116        | 390               | 156        |
| 4 bed house   | 0.46                                     | 180               | 83         | 290               | 133        | 390               | 179        |
| 5 bed house   | 0.53                                     | 60                | 32         | 130               | 69         | 230               | 122        |
| <b>Total</b>  | -  | <b>1,580</b>      | <b>378</b> | <b>1,580</b>      | <b>556</b> | <b>1,580</b>      | <b>735</b> |
| <small>"Note that 1 bed flats are assumed to have no pupil yield.</small> |  |                   |            |                   |            |                   |            |
| Resulting primary age children per year group                             |  |                   | 54         |                   | 79         |                   | 105        |
| Size of primary school needed (Forms of Entry)                            |  |                   | 1.8        |                   | 2.6        |                   | 3.5        |

- 1.11 These models are not an attempt to set out what the new housing in the area will actually be, but they do give an indication of the additional demand that the new housing might bring. As the new dwellings will be constructed over the lifetime of the

neighbourhood plan, the impact will be spread out over a fifteen year period. It can be seen that the type of dwellings being built will have a significant impact on the level of extra demand for primary school places.

- 1.12 The strategic sites are spread across the Ascot area. Both South Ascot Village School and St Francis Catholic Primary have large designated areas that cover the whole Ascot area (excluding North Ascot).
- 1.13 The Royal Borough expects to be consulting on the full draft Borough Local Plan later in 2016, and this may have an impact on the housing allocations for the Ascot area. The housing assumptions will, therefore, need to be revisited in due course.

#### Movement in the area

- 1.14 In recent years, most year groups in the five primary schools have been full, or close to full, creating difficulties for families moving into the area. Table 5 shows the spare places in the Ascot primary schools in January 2016.

**Table A4 – Places available in Ascot Primary Schools, January 2016**

|                  | Year R | Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Places available | 151    | 136    | 136    | 166    | 136    | 136    | 136    |
| Number on roll   | 154    | 135    | 133    | 147    | 135    | 142    | 134    |
| Empty places     | -3     | +1     | +3     | +19    | +1     | -6     | +2     |
| % surplus        | -2%    | +1%    | +2%    | +11%   | +1%    | -4%    | 1%     |

- 1.15 So far in the 2015/16 academic year, the Royal Borough's Fair Access Panel has had to consider six applications for primary school places in Ascot, where there has been no place available locally. Three schools have had to take two extra children each, into year groups that are already full. There is also the risk that children may have to be placed in schools outside the area, and so require expensive home to school transport arrangements, at a cost to the borough.
- 1.16 Whilst this situation may ease as the smaller intake trend continues, this may only be temporary if underlying demand picks up again.

#### Conclusion on demand

- 1.17 Whilst there may be a short-term easing of demand for Reception places in Ascot, it seems likely that new housing and inward migration to the Ascot area will result in the need for new primary school places. In addition, any revival in the underlying birth rate will bring this need forward. The existing level of surplus places is also well below the 10% sought by the borough, and some families are finding it difficult to get primary school places in Ascot.
- 1.18 It is proposed, therefore, that the Royal Borough consults locally on options to provide new primary school places in the Ascot area. The borough will then have a set of proposals that can be implemented as and when needed.

#### Options for new primary school places in Ascot

- 1.19 New primary school places in Ascot could either be provided by extending existing schools or by opening a new school.

#### A new primary school

- 1.20 The Education Act 2011 established a presumption that any new school would be an academy, a state-funded school independent of local authority control. The Department of Education (DfE) refers to these new provision academies as 'free schools'.

- 1.21 In many cases, free schools are opened by sponsors working directly with the DfE to launch new provision. Where a local authority has identified a need for a new school, however, it should run a competition to find a provider, although this competition can be suspended or run in parallel to any application for a 'central' free school being considered by the DfE.
- 1.22 A new free school developed by the DfE will often be fully funded by central government (including any land purchase, capital and revenue start-up costs), but these costs fall to the local authority if it has identified the need for a new school to meet rising demand. In this case, therefore, the assumption must be that a new free school in the Ascot area would need to be funded by the local authority.
- 1.23 At present, no site for a primary school has been identified, although the ongoing Borough Local Plan process may bring proposals forward. It is proposed that the Royal Borough should consult locally on whether a new school option should be therefore be explored.

## APPENDIX B – OPTIONS FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN ASCOT

### Expanding the existing primary schools

- 1.1 The Royal Borough has been working with three primary schools in Ascot to develop proposals for expanding the existing schools on their current sites. Initial feasibility work has been carried out at each of the schools.

**Table B1 – Potential for expansion at existing schools**

| School                          | School Type                       | Current places per year group | Potential places per year group | Potential increase in places per year group | Latest Ofsted grade         | Key Stage 2 results 2015<br>% achieving L4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Cheapside</b>                | Voluntary Aided Church of England | 16                            | 30                              | +14   | Outstanding (2007)          | 71%   |
| <b>Holy Trinity Sunningdale</b> | Voluntary Aided Church of England | 30                            | 60                              | +30   | Good (2014)                 | 81%   |
| <b>St Francis</b>               | Academy Catholic                  | 30                            | 30                              | -   | Outstanding (2013)          | 97%   |
| <b>St Michael's</b>             | Voluntary Aided Church of England | 30                            | 30                              | -   | Requires Improvement (2014) | 86%   |
| <b>South Ascot Village</b>      | Community                         | 30                            | 60                              | +30   | Good (2015)                 | 90%   |

- 1.2 The three schools currently being considered for expansion are Cheapside, Holy Trinity and South Ascot Village School.
- 1.3 **Cheapside CE Primary School** is the smallest school in the area, with an admission number of just 16. The school has to run mixed age group classes, which can present challenges for teaching the national curriculum. Small classrooms add to this difficulty for some subjects.
- 1.4 The school governors and Headteacher had already approached the borough about an expansion to assist with their longer-term financial viability. They are very keen to expand and will be flexible about a suitable scheme for the school buildings to achieve this. An expansion here would also provide places in all year groups immediately, for families moving into the area.
- 1.5 The school is on a small site, which could be increased to the required size for 30 places per year group through the use of an adjacent parcel of land owned by Sunninghill Parochial Charities. The heavily wooded site would require some clearing to make it suitable, but the school will want to retain it as a wooded area, creating a 'forest school' environment. An approach has been made to the charity, and they have confirmed in principle that they would be willing to lease the site to the school, subject to a satisfactory lease agreement between both parties. A copy of the letter from the charity is provided as Appendix C, which is a Part 2 item.
- 1.6 The school would be increasing by about half a form of entry – 14 children per year group – and would only need three classrooms, associated toilets and a small group room. Staff parking would need to be increased and parental traffic managed; the school are already considering various ways of addressing this. The woodland area would need to be fenced, and the playing pitch area increased.
- 1.7 **South Ascot Village School** has sufficient space on its site to expand to take an

additional 30 children per year group. A bulge class has recently been built there to cope with local demand. The building at the southern end of their site, which already has a nursery class in it, could be extended by a second storey and could accommodate most of the five or six additional classes required, although other options also exist. The school would also need either a hall extension or a second large space. The school would need additional car-parking.

- 1.8 The school are happy to explore expansion further through public consultation.
- 1.9 **Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Sunningdale** has sufficient space on its site to expand to take an additional 30 children per year group. A bulge class has recently been built there to cope with local demand. To expand, therefore, the school would need an additional six classrooms, plus an internal alteration to increase the size of the hall. The classrooms would probably be in a two-storey block. Extra staff car-parking would be required, and the existing arrangements for off-site parental drop-off of children would need to continue. The school are happy to explore expansion further through public consultation, and equally happy not to be expanded yet.
- 1.10 **St Francis Catholic Primary School** and **St Michael's CE Primary Schools** are both on relatively restricted sites with limited opportunities for expansion. Either school could, potentially, be relocated and expanded onto a larger site if one became available and if the school communities agreed, as a longer term possibility.
- 1.11 The outcome of the main consultation on new primary school places is recommended to go back to Cabinet in August 2016.