

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	Part I except for – Appendix C Part II, contains exempt information - Not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
Title	New Primary School Places in Ascot
Responsible Officer(s)	Alison Alexander, Managing Director and Strategic Director Children's Services
Contact officer, job title and phone number	Kevin McDaniel, Head of Schools and Educational Services, 01628 683592
Member reporting	Cllr Phillip Bicknell Lead Member for Education
For Consideration By	Cabinet
Date to be Considered	28 April 2016
Implementation Date if Not Called In	1 June 2016
Affected Wards	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 demand arising from families moving into the area; new housing expected to be built locally and the borough's aspiration for a school place surplus of 10%. There are five primary schools in Ascot, Cheapside, Holy Trinity CE Primary School Sunningdale, South Ascot Village, St Francis and St Michael's. All schools are currently at capacity in each year. In academic year 2016/17 there are 27 spaces across the area.
2. This paper proposes consultation on options to expand one or more of the existing primary schools or to explore opening a new primary school commenced in 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 have choice of access to local, diverse, high quality school places that supports progress and attainment in all pupils.	September 2017

1. DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet:

- i. Approves public consultation, commencing June 2016, on options for providing additional primary school places in Ascot in the suggested priority order as follows:
 - Expand Cheapside CE Primary School from 16 to 30 places per year group.
 - Expand South Ascot Village School from 30 to 60 places per year group.
 - Expand 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 expansion of primary school places in Ascot to August 2016 Cabinet.
- iii. Approves further feasibility and design works proceeding alongside the consultation to allow 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 There are five primary schools in the Ascot area and the Royal Borough is considering expansion at three of these at the current time. The three schools currently being considered for expansion are Cheapside, Holy Trinity and South Ascot Village School. The other schools (St. Francis and St. Michaels) are on sites that are too small for further expansion. Further information about the options for new primary places in Ascot is contained in Appendix B.
- 2.3 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. This is the recommended option.	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. This is not recommended.	Full and fair public consultation on these proposals is required by government legislation and guidance.

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 capital 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. The full costs are currently not yet budgeted.

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:
- Expand Cheapside CE Primary School to 30 places per year group.
 - Expand South Ascot Village Primary School to 60 places per year group.
 - Expand Holy Trinity CE Primary School to 60 places per year group.
 - Explore opening of a free school on a new, unidentified, site.
- 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 th June 2016	Public consultation starts
8 th July 2016	Public consultation ends
25 th 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)

Name of consultee	Post held and Department	Date sent	Date received	See comments in paragraph:
Internal				
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	01/04/16	14/04/16	
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	
External				
Ascot Primary Schools				
Ascot Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group				

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type:	No
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, Ascot Heath CE Junior and Cranbourne Primary School, 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.

1.5 The gap between the number of Live Births ¹(around 160), and the number of Reception places available (136), will be due to children attending local independent sector schools or state schools in other local authority areas.

Table A1 – Live Births Information for Ascot

Year cohort starts Reception	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Live Births in Ascot									
	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

1.6 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 2014².

1.7 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.

¹ Live Birth data comes from Office for National Statistics, just over a year in arrears

² Birth Summary Tables, England and Wales 2014, Office of National Statistics, July 2015

New housing in the Ascot area

- 1.8 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 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	✓		✓		✓

- 1.9 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 Ascot 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.
- 1.10 In approving the Ascot Neighbourhood Plan, the local community gave support to *"more houses built that our children could afford, typified as being 3-4 bedroom modest family homes"*³.
- 1.11 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 (1.8 forms of entry) to 105 (3.5 forms of entry) 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
Total	-	1,580	378	1,580	556	1,580	735

*Note that 1 bed flats are assumed to have no pupil yield.

Resulting primary age children per year group	54		79		105
Size of primary school needed (Forms of	1.8		2.6		3.5

³ Page 32, Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan, 2014

Entry)				
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- 1.12 These models are not an attempt to set out what the new housing in the area will actually be, but 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. The type of dwellings being built will have a significant impact on the level of extra demand for primary school places.
- 1.13 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).
- 1.14 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 in the neighbourhood plan and this report will need to be revisited in due course.

Movement in the area

- 1.15 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%

- 1.16 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. With current vacancy levels so low there is the risk that children may have to be placed in schools outside the area, which could require the borough to provide home to school transport.
- 1.17 Whilst this situation may ease as a result of the smaller intake trends, this may only be temporary if the underlying demand – the number of live births locally – picks up again.

Conclusion on demand

- 1.18 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 increase in the birth rate in future will mean that this need is brought forward. Finally, the existing level of surplus places is below the 10% sought by the borough, and some families are finding it difficult to get primary school places in Ascot.

APPENDIX B – OPTIONS FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN ASCOT

Options for new primary school places in Ascot

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

A new primary school

- 1.2 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’.
- 1.3 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. 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.
- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 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 explored alongside options to expand existing schools.

Expanding the existing primary schools

- 1.6 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 % achieving L4+ in Reading, Writing and Maths
Cheapside	Voluntary Aided Church of England	16	30	+14	Outstanding (2007)	71%
Holy Trinity Sunningdale	Voluntary Aided Church of England	30	60	+30	Good (2014)	81%
St Francis	Academy Catholic	30	30	-	Outstanding (2013)	97%
St Michael’s	Voluntary Aided Church of England	30	30	-	Requires Improvement (2014)	86%
South Ascot Village	Community	30	60	+30	Good (2015)	90%

- 1.7 The three schools currently being considered for expansion are Cheapside, Holy Trinity and South Ascot Village School. The other schools are on sites that are too small for further expansion.

- 1.8 **Cheapside CE Primary School** is the smallest school in the area, with an admission number of just 16 in Reception. 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.
- 1.9 The school governors and Headteacher had previously approached the borough about an expansion to assist with their longer-term financial viability and quality of provision. They are very keen to expand and will be flexible about a suitable scheme for the school buildings to achieve this. An expansion at Cheapside could also provide places in all year groups immediately, for families moving into the area.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 **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 at this school to cope with local demand. The building at the southern end of their site, which 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 need either a hall extension or a second large space, and additional car-parking.
- 1.13 The school are happy to explore expansion further through public consultation.
- 1.14 **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.
- 1.15 **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.