

By: Andy Roberts, Interim Corporate Director - Education, Learning & Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 20 May 2011

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a consultation to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

Introduction

1. (1) Aldington Primary School is a community school, providing for pupils aged 4-11 years. The Published Admission Number is 20, giving a total capacity of 140 places. As at January 2011, the school had 143 pupils on roll.

(2) Ashford is identified as a growth area by the Government and has agreed to provide 25,000 houses between 2001 and 2031.

Background

2. (1) Aldington Primary School is a single storey building of brick and stone construction built in the 1890s and extended in 2004 to replace temporary accommodation. A site plan is attached as Appendix 1.

(2) 64 families applied for year R places at Aldington School for September 2011 (30 first preferences). The school was last inspected in January 2008 and judged by Ofsted to be 'good with outstanding features'. Expansion is, therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

(3) Appendix 2 sets out the forecast school rolls within three miles of Aldington Primary School. These show a steady reduction in the availability of school places up to 2014-15. Of greater significance is Appendix 3 which sets out the forecast year R pupil numbers. The birth rate has increased in recent years resulting in a shortfall of places for four year old children from 2011-12 onwards.

(4) Aldington Primary School has been asked by the Local Authority to admit 25 children into year R in September 2011, to ensure all children from the village had places.

The Proposal

3. The proposal is to expand Aldington Primary School by 10 places per year, bringing the total capacity to 210 places, to provide a one form of entry, with up to 30 places per year group. The expansion of the school will be gradual with the additional

places being created annually. It is proposed that the school formally expands for September 2012. Appendix 4 provides a dot map of the home locations of pupils who currently attend the school.

Site Issues

4. The site is sufficiently large to accommodate a one form entry school (210 pupils).

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

5. (1) Two classrooms will need to be provided, together with additional toilet provision and hard play space. £94,000 is available from Developer Contributions towards the costs of permanent provision; the remainder would be made available from the Capital Budget. The school will not need additional accommodation until September 2012.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually in line with its pupil numbers increase. The school will also receive reorganisation funding, currently £7,041 based on a per class allocation for furnishing.

Views of the Local Members

6. The Local Member, Andrew Wickham is aware of the proposal and supports the expansion of the school to meet local needs.

Views of the Governing Body

7. The Governing Body has been seeking expansion of the school for a number of years to meet the growing needs of the village. It has been consulted and has agreed to support the proposals.

School Improvement Implications

8. Aldington Primary School is a popular, over-subscribed school, which is performing well. It has the leadership capacity to manage the school during the building works, and growth of the school. The gradual growth of the school will help ensure it remains stable. A single age group structure will offer advantages in terms of curriculum delivery, stability of friendship groups and extend the range of skills within the staff group as numbers increase. The breadth of after school activities will increase.

Transport & Environmental Impact, Including Community Implications

9. Any current transport arrangements for pupils will continue. The gradual growth and admission of additional reception aged pupils should ensure that local children are admitted, thereby helping reduce the need for local families to travel to more distant schools.

Proposed Timetable

10.	Public Consultation Period	15 Jun 2011 to 21 Jul 2011
	Public Meeting	27 Jun 2011
	Report back to SOAB	12 Oct 2011
	Cabinet Member Decision	21 Oct 2011
	Public Notice Issued	4 Nov 2011
	Public Notice Expires	15 Dec 2011
	Cabinet Member Decision	Jan 2012
	Implementation	1 Sep 2012

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to recommend that a public consultation be conducted on the proposal to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 to 210 places.

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The Local Member is Andrew Wickham.

Background Documents:

None