

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 19 March 2013
Subject	Decision No.12/02000 - Proposed expansion of Harrietsham CE Primary School, Maidstone
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs Members of the results of the Public Consultation.
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Harrietsham Church of England Primary School.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 On 21 November 2012, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that a consultation take place on the proposal to expand Harrietsham CEPS due to a new housing development taking place in the village.

1.2 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 8 January and 15 February 2013. A public meeting was held on 22 January 2013.

## **2. The proposal**

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Harrietsham CEPS by 10 Reception Year places taking their PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake. Successive reception year intakes will offer 30 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 210 places.

## **3. Bold Steps and The Kent Commissioning Plan**

3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.

3.2 The Maidstone District section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2012-17 highlighted that the need for new local provision would be driven by housing and indicates a need to commission adjustments where necessary to facilitate single year group teaching.

## **4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation**

4.1 The majority of respondents support the proposal.

4.2 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period are given at Appendix 1.

4.3 A copy of the notes made during the public meeting are given at Appendix 2.

## **5. Views**

5.1 Local Member

The Local Member is Mrs Jenny Whittle who wants children to be able to attend their local schools. She has worked with the Parish Council and the developer to ensure capital funding will be available. Mrs Whittle thinks this proposal is the right way forward and is very supportive. She hopes parents and the local community will embrace this proposal as this is a great school.

#### 5.2 Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer (Mid Kent) fully supports this proposal which conforms to the Authority's commissioning principles of expanding good, popular provision when places are needed. However, importantly the proposal seeks to ensure that children from Harrietsham village do not have to be driven to neighbouring communities for education

#### 5.3 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Harrietsham CEPS is fully supportive of the proposal.

#### 5.4 Headteacher

The Headteacher, Senior Management Team and Staff of the school have been fully consulted and are supportive.

#### 5.5 Pupils

A sample of pupil views on both the proposed expansion of the school and the housing development opposite the school are given at Appendix 4.

#### 5.6 Harrietsham Pre-School

Harrietsham Pre-School is fully supportive of the school expansion and recognises the growing needs of the Parish.

### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and can be found at: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/HarrietshamSchool/consultationHome>. No changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the Consultation period.

### **7. Financial Implications**

Capital funding is required to complete this expansion and estimated costs for 2014/15 are £414,279. The majority of capital funding for this project is provided by a Section 106 developer contribution of £350k This provides £50k on commencement of development (now due), with 50% on first occupation, and the balance (300k) prior to the 40<sup>th</sup> occupation or within 12 months of commencement. We still await confirmation from the DfE of our 'basic need' capital allocations for 2013/15

### **8. Recommendations**

8.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notices to expand Harrietsham CEPS.

### **9. Background Documents**

Harrietsham CEPS consultation document

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/HarrietshamSchool/consultationHome>

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework [http://www.ab-](http://www.ab-consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn)

[consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn%20ing%20and%20Skills.pdf](http://www.ab-consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn%20ing%20and%20Skills.pdf)

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/b11518/FINAL%20Version%20Kent%20Commissioning%20Plan%20Education%20Provision%202012-2017%20-%20Published%2020%20September%202012%201.pdf?T=9>

Education Cabinet Committee report – 21 November 2012 – Proposed Enlargement of Harrietsham Church of England Primary School:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s36608/Item%20D5%20ECC1%20v1%20Harrietsham%2029%2010%2012.pdf>

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## Proposal to expand Harrietsham Church of England Primary School

### Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed:	180
Consultation responses received:	11

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed	Totals
Governors				
Staff				
Parents	5		1	6
Other	3		2	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

- This will be an important addition to the school and the local community.
- Our children will be taught with their age peers all day rather than only in the morning.
- I agree with the proposal. I think the new classrooms are important, especially with the new housing development under construction opposite the school.
- I am in favour of the proposal but do have a few concerns. More computers for the IT room will be needed so children do not have to share. Additional parking may be needed and the pre-school will need expanding.
- We are supportive of the proposed expansion but are concerned that the two extra classrooms will not be enough in a few years' time, as there appears to be up to 400 houses being built.

#### Comments against the proposal:

- My concern is about the impact this may have on the future growth of small schools in the local area. There are currently over 70 spaces in schools in surrounding villages. It would be sensible for these spaces to be filled before expanding this school, especially if it will require expenditure from the public purse. I do understand that some parents want their children to go to school in their own village, but many parents choose to send their children to schools other than in their own village or town.
- During these financially challenging times my view is that this money could be better spent developing the existing schools in the area. Local smaller schools easily have the capacity to cover the shortfall and with minimal expansion could accommodate even more children.
- This project will have a detrimental effect on adjoining schools and communities. Schools such as Ulcombe may be unable to continue and have to close its doors.

**Public Consultation Meeting  
Harrietsham Church of England Primary School  
22 January 2013**

In Attendance:	
Gary Cooke - Chair	Chairman of the Education Cabinet Committee
David Adams	Area Education Officer – Mid Kent
Jenny Whittle	Local Member – Maidstone Rural East

**Purpose of the Meeting**

KCC is proposing to expand Harrietsham CofE Primary School to 1FE by adding two classrooms, taking the number of classes from five to seven. The school would admit 30 reception pupils into Year R from September 2014. Over a number of years the roll will increase from 140 to 210 pupils.

Gary Cooke introduced himself and David Adams who then gave a summary of the proposal. The Headteacher confirmed that the proposal for two further classrooms had always been in the plan. It would enable the school to expand and accommodate local children. It wouldn't mean that it would be a large school; it would remain a village school catering for the growing needs of the village.

Question	Answer
<p><b>Carer / Parish Councillor</b> - I didn't personally think there would be a consultation. I wonder if the village should have been invited. Lots of people didn't know anything about this meeting. The Parish Council were not informed.</p> <p>With regard to the plan for the two new classrooms it would be better to see them on the other side of the building rather than the proposed suggestion.</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> – There are two phases to the consultation. There is this meeting and there will be a planning application where both the Parish and Borough Council will be notified. This will cover the broader planning issues and is another opportunity for the public to comment.</p> <p><b>David Adams</b> - The public consultation and all documentation referring to it is on KCC's website. The Parish Council should have had the public consultation document as they are on our list of consultees. I am happy to come along and talk to the Parish Council if they would like. Sometimes it is more difficult to ensure the wider community are involved.</p> <p><b>Headteacher</b> - The land on that side does not actually belong to the school. Our land stops at the perimeter fence. We did at one time consider a small classroom there, but there simply isn't the space.</p> <p><b>David Adams</b> - Many of these issues will be addressed via the planning application process and the options will be clearer.</p>
<p><b>Parent</b> - Presumably this public consultation has to take place and I am here to offer my support to the proposal. It is clear we can't stop development in the village and I therefore support the expansion of the school.</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> - When you expand a school by more than 25% there has to be a public consultation by law. Thank you for your support.</p>
<p><b>Parent</b> - My only concern regarding the proposal is the disruption for the children whilst the building is going on. Could you put my mind at rest?</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> - I can't say there will be no disruption.</p> <p><b>David Adams</b> - You are absolutely right to ask the question. The building was designed to enable expansion. Its central facilities (hall, staffroom etc)</p>

Question	Answer
	<p>are sufficient for a 1FE school. The plan at the moment is to continue the existing corridor and provide two further classrooms. This will enable a self contained building site. The contractor will work with the school to ensure minimum disruption. The school can continue to operate in the existing building. The contractor will be limited to the hours that they can work, which will benefit the community too. The build should take a relatively short period of time and a lot of that will be in the summer period. We will need to work around SATs etc. The contractors are used to working on school sites, all workers are CRB checked.</p> <p><b>Gary Cooke</b> – We will not compromise on safeguarding.</p>
<p><b>Parent</b> - When you talk about resourcing I know the funding for the build has been agreed. I am more concerned about the resourcing for extra teachers, more children etc especially during the transition period.</p> <p>I am supportive and feel happier with the answers you have given.</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> – Resourcing will be in place. KCC can provide an advance to the school to ensure adequate teaching provision.</p> <p><b>David Adams</b> – There are three forms of funding that are available, Re-organisation Fund, Pupil Growth Funding and Rising Roll Funding. The capital will provide the classroom shell and fixtures and fittings. The reorganisation fund will provide £6,000 per classroom for the school to spend how it likes to resource the classrooms.</p> <p>Pupil Growth Funding will enable the school to operate 3 Infant classes, and provide 90 pupils worth of funding (although there may not be 90 pupils immediately). This will fund three teachers and continue for three years until there are eventually 30 in each cohort. There is no protection for KS2. This is where the Rising Roll funding will come in and this looks at the roll from year to year; as the pupil numbers grow the budget increases.</p>
<p><b>Chair of Governors</b></p>	<p>I have worked in finance in another school where a similar expansion took place and I can confirm that the funding, as just explained, is available..</p>
	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> - Standards will be maintained.</p> <p><b>Jenny Whittle</b> - I would just like to say that I didn't get my daughter into any of my three preference schools and I want children to be able to attend their local schools. I have worked with the Parish Council and the developer to ensure the right capital funding. Revenue funding has been addressed. I think it is the right way forward and I am very supportive. I hope parents and the local community will embrace this, it's a cracking school and the Governing Body are fully supportive.</p>
<p><b>Ex-parent</b> - Will it remain a Church of England school?</p>	<p>Yes, it will.</p>

The meeting finished and Gary Cooke thanked everyone for attending.

Approximately 30 people attended the meeting.

**Proposal to expand Harrietsham Church of England Primary School**

**A sample of pupil responses to the proposed expansion of the school (and the housing development opposite the school)**

- My little sister has one more year until she goes to school. Mum and Dad want her to go to the same school as me (even though I won't be there) and if people start to move in and their children want to go to this school then my sister won't get a place here and then she would have to go to a different school where no teachers know her or her family, and this will be really sad for all of us. So, if you make extra classrooms because of the development and more children my little sister has a better chance to get in.
- I think it would be quite good for students to be in a classroom with only children the same age. I also think that it's going to make Harrietsham look cramped and destroy our nature areas which is what makes Harrietsham our village.
- I think it is a good idea that there is going to be a park in the development because the children that move in will be able to get to know each other and play together. The children in Harrietsham will have another park to play in and meet the children in the development.
- Although the houses might be nice there will be lots of traffic on West Street. After the houses are built I don't think it will feel like a village any more.
- I think it will make West Street a much more busier place which will be better for all the shops and businesses but will also make it harder for the parents to bring their children to school.
- I think it will affect the roads opposite the school. It will also be really dangerous for people walking to school.