

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

Summary:	This report provides the results of the Public Consultation for consideration by the Cabinet Member and seeks agreement to expand the school.
Recommendations:	The Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills is recommended to expand Harrietsham CE School via the necessary first stage issue of a Statutory Public Notice and to put in place measures to continue with the proposal after that period has ended

1. Introduction

1.1 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.

1.2 On 21 November 2012, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Harrietsham CEPS.

1.3 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’.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

4.1 The consultation document was distributed to parents / carers, school staff, nursery staff, governors and County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local library, the Borough and Parish Councils and others, on accordance with the agreed County policy. The document was also posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated via email.

4.2 Approximately 180 copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses.

5. Responses to the Public Consultation

Written responses

5.1 11 responses have been received of which 8 are in favour and 3 are opposed. The Cabinet Member has reviewed these responses and should have due regard for them before taking a decision.

6. Views

6.1 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.

6.2 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

6.3 Governing Body

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

6.4 Headteacher

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

6.5 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.

6.6 Harrietsham Pre-School

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

7. Equality Impact Assessment

7.1 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.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 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 40th occupation or within 12 months of commencement. We still await confirmation from the DfE of our 'basic need' capital allocations for 2013/15

9. Recommendations

9.1 The Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills is recommended to:

(i) issue a public notices to expand Harrietsham CEPS.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

(ii) expand the school

Should further representations be received within the public notice period a further cabinet Member decision will be sought before any expansion is progressed.

10. Officer Scheme of Delegation

10.1 The Cabinet Member should be aware that no specific officer delgations are included within the formal decision as the Officer Scheme of Delegation, under Appendix two part 4 of the Council's constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council in this instance.

10.2 Officers performing tasks under the scheme of delegation are expected to keep the relevant portfolio holder informed of progress.

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-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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