

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills

To: Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

Decision No: 13/00006

Subject: Proposed expansion of Lower Halstow Primary School, Sittingbourne

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee 21 June 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Swale Central

Summary: Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 21 June 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the decision to issue a public notice to expand Lower Halstow Primary School (Community), Sittingbourne

Recommendations: That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree to issue a public notice to expand Lower Halstow Primary School (Community), Sittingbourne

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swale section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for additional places in the Sittingbourne area.
- 1.2 On 19 March 2013, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the (former) Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Lower Halstow Primary School (Community), Sittingbourne.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for September 2014 with an estimated cost of £275k.
- 2.2 Revenue: The school will receive Growth funding for a maximum of three years to provide protection on the increased Year R admission number of 30 should pupil numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened as a result of the expansion towards the cost of the non-staffing resources needed to set the class room up.
- 2.3 Human: The school will appoint additional teaching and support staff at the appropriate time.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition, “to ensure every child can 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 Swale section of the Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity across the whole of Swale, including the Sittingbourne locality.

4. Proposal

- 4.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lower Halstow Primary School by 10 reception year places, taking their PAN to 30 (1 FE) 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 pupils.
- 4.2 A public consultation took place between 15 April 2013 and 24 May 2013. Overall 250 copies of the consultation document were distributed. In response to the consultation 26 responses were received: 13 in support; 9 against; 4 undecided.
- 4.3 A public meeting was held on 8 May 2013 with 30 people in attendance.
- 4.3 Following the expiration of the public notice the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will allocate the capital funds to enable the expansion of Lower Halstow Primary School to proceed and authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council. In addition to authorising the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.
- 4.4 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out at the start of this consultation and is available via the following link:
[http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/LowerHalstowSchool/consultation Home](http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/LowerHalstowSchool/consultationHome). The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 Forecasts for Swale District indicate increasing demand for primary school places. The enlargement of Lower Halstow Primary School provides an expansion to accommodate current pressure and support the increasing pupil population.

6. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked agree to

(i) ISSUE a Statutory Public Notice to expand Lower Halstow Primary School, Sittingbourne

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

(ii) expand the school

Should objections be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and expand the school to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

7. Background Documents

7.1 COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s34295/FINAL%20VERSION%20Kent%20Comm%20Plan%20Ed%20Prov%202012-17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf>

7.2 Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 Primary Commissioning - Swale District

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/g4880/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Sep-2012%2010.00%20Education%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

7.3 The public consultation document is available via the following link:

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

7.4 Education Cabinet Committee report – 21 June September 2012 – Proposed expansion of Lower Halstow Primary School, Sittingbourne

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40883/Item%20B1a%20-%20Decision%20number%201300005%20Proposed%20expansion%20of%20LowerHalstow%20Primary%20School%20Sittingbourne.pdf>

8. Contact details

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