From:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013
Subject:	Decision number - 13/00070 - Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Classification:	Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 21 June 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Tunbridge Wells Rural

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School to 1FE for September 2014.

Recommendation(s):

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Tunbridge Wells section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for 10 additional primary school places in the Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area.
- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 reception year places, taking their PAN to 30 (1 Form of Entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 30 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 210 pupils.
- 1.3 On 21 June 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 3 July and 30 July 2013. A public meeting was held on 10 July 2013.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 places taking their PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake and a total number of 210 places by September 2014.

a. The enlargement of the school requires the provision of two additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities including additional car parking on site. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £250,000, to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure improvements. A feasibility study has been completed and the design is being developed, but the total estimated cost is likely to be in the region of £703,000.

b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 These proposals 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 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision' referred to additional demand for 2014 2016 to be met by commissioning an additional 10 places in the Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of 16 written responses were received with 14 respondents supporting the proposal and 2 objecting to the proposal.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period is provided at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Member The Local Member for Tunbridge Wells Rural, Alex King MBE, has been consulted and strongly supports the proposal to expand this popular and successful school.
- 5.2 The view of the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, having been consulted on this expansion, fully supports the proposal to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

- 5.3: The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body The Headteacher and Governing Body of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School has been fully consulted and is supportive. The proposed expansion will enable the school to move away from the two mixed aged classes currently in the school and provide all village children with the opportunity to go to their local village school.
- 5.4. The view of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increased demand in the immediate area. All other schools in the planning area were considered.

Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary is a popular and inclusive school judged as 'good' and is regularly oversubscribed.

The Area Education Officer, however, notes the main concerns raised by the local residents of Pearse Place regarding access and parking. The local authority will work closely with the school on the provision of additional accommodation and the planning for the works on site. The school will produce a new travel plan in liaison with Highways and taking into consideration the views of the local residents.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the building.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. No comments were received and no changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the consultation period.
- 6.4 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 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, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation (under Appendix 2 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, following consultation and if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign the Lease on behalf of the County Council

and the Head of Special Educational Needs will sign the Service Level Agreement.

8. Conclusions

8.1 Forecasts for Lamberhurst/Goudhurst planning area within Tunbridge Wells Rural indicate increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 10 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2012 – 2017).

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your council/priorities, policies and plans/priorities and plans/bold steps for kent.aspx

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017 https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-andconsultations/strategic-

plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent% 202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf

10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 21 June 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Tunbridge Wells District

https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40893/Item%20C1a%20Primary% 20Commissioning%20Tun%20Wells.pdf

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Lamberhurst/consultationHome

11. Contact details

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The Proposed Expansion of Lamberhurst, St Mary's CE Primary School increasing the PAN from 20 to 30

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed:400Responses received:16

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	8			9
Governors	2			2
Members of	1			1
Staff				
Interested	3	2		4
Parties				
Total	14	2	0	16

In support of the proposal

- The expansion will provide an opportunity to rid Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School of mixed aged classes and provide all village children with the opportunity to go to their village school.
- Agree with the proposal however, the ideal solution would be to put a road or a footpath in from the old A21 to come out at the back of the school. Parents could park on the old A21 and be banned from using Pearse Place.
- The school expansion could have a major impact on the village for many years to come.
- A great idea. The expansion will free up places at Pembury and Brenchley which are much needed.
- Agree but consideration must be given to outdoor space/playing areas.
- The expansion will provide an opportunity for pupils outside the village to attend the school.
- Agree with the proposal however it is imperative that all agencies involved in planning all work in conjunction with each other. The planning stage must involve strategies to change or improve the access provision of the school.

Against the proposal

- The responses against the proposal came from local residents with concerns about the increase in traffic that the expansion would bring and parents parking on pavements and across resident's driveways.
- Residents also expressed concerns for the safety of the children entering and leaving the school premises.

The majority of those who expressed the above concerns suggested that a road or pathway be built from the A21 (Spray Hill) to the back of the school site thus alleviating the problem of parking and traffic. It was also suggested that the planning stage should include consideration of strategies to change or improve the access provision of the school.

Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's CoE (VC) Primary School Public Consultation Meeting 10 July 2013

Panel	Mike Northey	County Councillor & Deputy Cabinet Member for
	(Chair)	Education
	Jared Nehra	Area Education Officer (West Kent)
	David Hart	Area Schools Organisation Officer (North Kent)
	Michelle Hamilton	Area Schools Organisation Officer (West Kent)
	Ann Drury	Public Meeting Recorder
	Deborah Ledniczky	Public Meeting Recorder
	Caroline Bromley	Headteacher
	Tracie Dodd	Chair of Governors

Introduction

Councillor Mike Northey welcomed parents, staff and members of the public to the meeting.

Purpose of the Meeting

- To explain the proposal to expand Lamberhurst Primary School
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- To listen to views and opinions

Proposal

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given by Jared Nehra.

Kent County Council is proposing to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England primary school by 10 reception year places for September 2014, taking the published admission number to 30. Capacity for the school will increase from 140 places to 210 places. This equates to 10 additional places in each year group.

In rural Tunbridge Wells there has been some small scale housing development over recent years which coupled with the amount of inward migration from London is bringing new families to Lamberhurst village requiring additional school places in order to meet future demands.

Forecasts indicate that the increase in demand will continue for September 2014 and beyond and the local authority believes Lamberhurst St Mary's is ideally placed to accommodate this trend.

A comprehensive feasibility study and survey will be required and the pupils, staff and governing body will be involved in those discussions. The school may require improvements and upgrades to internal service and infrastructure accommodation. The safety of the children is paramount whilst building works are undertaken.

No final decisions will be made until the consultation process is over, so please complete a response form and return it to us by 1 August 2013.

Statement from the Rochester Diocesan Board of Education (Read by Jared Nehra)

The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education, having been consulted on this expansion, fully supports the proposal.

Statement from the Headteacher, Caroline Bromley:

Headteacher (HT) has had discussions with governors, staff and pupils regarding the local authority proposals who are supportive of expanding the school. HT believes it is in the best interests of pupils and community if Lamberhurst St Mary's is expanded. When HT originally took up the post, the school only had 93 children and a falling roll, but now is the school of choice for this area. There will be many challenges and opportunities to consider, but HT assured the meeting that through the expertise and support of the local authority and community these can be overcome in a positive way.

Statement from the Chair of Governors, Tracie Dodd:

Following in depth discussions all Governors are supportive of the proposal to expand the school. Governors wish to reassure parents, staff and local residents their concerns will be taken on board when considering the proposal and are hopeful that the school can move forward to a positive outcome.

Question	Response
John McNamara, Parent Michael Gove has announced that he is considering the role of the TA and in some cases may abolished, if so, how will that impact on quality of teaching if pupil numbers go up and staff on ground diminish?	Caroline Bromley, Headteacher Whether or not we have TAs in the future, the quality of education at Lamberhurst St Mary's will be maintained to the same high standards as long as I am headteacher. The school is going from strength to strength and we will ensure we deliver the very best with the provision we have got.
Jan Crouch, Resident When the letter came through the door my first reaction was 'here we go again'. Formal consultation process, a process you go through to be 'seen' to go through it. I believe any views of the residents will not be listened to and the expansion will go ahead. When the formal consultation was conducted for the school to be built, residents of Pearse Place were not consulted; the site was unsuitable as it was a cul-de-sac with limited access. Other sites listed with playing fields were ignored. Anyone with any sense would know that an extension would be needed because of the growing population. We were assured that there will be very little traffic as children will	Jared Nehra, AEO The school would have been built according to birth figures available at the time. Originally 140 school places were sufficient to meet the demand at the time. Due to outside pressures such as housing development, inward migration into the area, current projections indicate a need to expand the school further to accommodate 210 pupils. With regards to travel and traffic, as part of the proposal the school will revisit their School Travel Plan which will include looking at any mitigating factors to help reduce the impact of any increase.
come by walking bus. This happened for a little while and stopped and we are now faced with our quiet road being full of traffic and an	If the expansion proceeds to the formal planning stage, a separate consultation will take place regarding highway and planning

accident waiting to happen with parents driving to and from the school and children crossing the road. I hope it is not an accident waiting to happen if this extension is built, which I think it will be, no matter what we think. How will you manage the traffic and the children? On the original plans there was suppose to have been a road built from the trunk road to the A21 which would have taken traffic to and from the school but it was never built. If this was likely to be built would it be incorporated with the extension?	issues which will consider in detail the aspects about travel and traffic. The local authority understands the concerns of local residents around parking and access and a feasibility study will be undertaken to look into such issues.
Robin Musgrove-Wethey, Parent The cul-de-sac which was named after a Mrs Pearse who used to live in the vicarage donated the five acres of land, not for housing but for the building of a school. It was KCC's decision, who was administering the land on behalf of the benefit of the church at the time, to build some houses as well as a school. The houses were built first, some 25 years before the school, when it should have been the school first, housing second. Residents of Pearse Place should be thankful that Mrs Pearse donated land to the school as everyone in the area has benefit from additional housing.	
John Uren, Resident We are very proud of what the school has achieved and no-one is criticising that. The land here was deemed to have low cost housing for people who wanted to stay in the parish and at the time in the early 90's surveys showed that there wasn't a need for a new school. The school now having to expand raises the question about what is the catchment area for Lamberhurst and how many of the 210 children will be from Lamberhurst and not for children coming from the Tunbridge Wells area, creating more traffic and congestion in Pearse Place. I realise the school cannot be held responsible for the traffic but I fear it will only get worse if traffic management is not considered.	Caroline Bromley, Headteacher Thank you for your kind words and appreciates the local support. I contacted the local authority last summer as I was picking up messages from parents that lived within the village boundaries or 2 miles or less that had gone to appeal because they had been unable to get their child into the school for September based on the fact we had an admission number of 20. They had gone through the appeals process, which is an independent panel. Under parental preference it is the right of every parent to send their child to the school of their choice. Catchment areas do not exist any longer. If there are spaces in school you have to admit, the distance criteria comes into force only if the school is over subscribed. Last September the reception class had 30 pupils. One of those 30, who was originally refused a place according to the PAN of 20, lived 1.1 miles from the school.

	For September 2013 Reception Year there is an anticipated intake of 27, of which 6 pupils are outside a 2 miles radius. 2 of these are sibling links and 4 were granted on appeal. For September 2012 Reception Year intake was 30 pupils, 4 of which were outside a 2 mile radius. Of these, 2 had a sibling link and 2 were granted on appeal.
Barbara Twiss, Local Resident If the children are that local why can't they walk to school?	Cllr Michael Northey I hear you but I do not think we can insist that parents make their children walk to school.
Ross Gibson, Parent I live on the village boundary so I don't know how you expect me to get two toddlers and school age child to school by walking. I do tend to park at a friend's house away from the school and walk up but it is not easy with little ones. We are trying not to cause a problem. If there was a lollipop person or walking bus then possibly more people would be encouraged to walk.	
Isla Hill, Parent I live at The Down and I know a lot of parents use Sand Road and walk down as parking is an issue. I think parents are fairly considerate with their parking, I've never seen a drive being blocked as on the whole we do try to keep away from Pearse Place as much as possible.	
	Cllr Michael Northey Please do not shout out. I understand that there are strong feelings on both sides. It is a public consultation and you will be able to have your say, so please do not shout.
Susanne Marshall, Parent I and my family have lived in Lamberhurst for a long time. Has the school got any power of limiting intake, as I gather we do not? If we do not have the power to limit intake, like it or not, we need the expansion. Can we limit the intake?	Caroline Bromley, Headteacher The appeals process is a legal process that gives parents very strong rights to choose their children's school. We can set a recommended PAN under the guidance of the local authority but parents wanting their children to come to this school can go through the appeal process and the Independent Appeals Panel may allocate a place resulting

	in the increase in pupil numbers being squeezed in to the existing accommodation in mixed age classes.
	Birthing figures have been relatively low but other factors impact such as migration, less demand for independent schools due to the recession, people migrating from London and buying houses in the village or surrounding area, all put pressure on school places. We could not have planned for this. Last week we turned 8 children away and since Easter we turned 20 more children away, so they will have to go through the appeals process.
	Alex Roberts, Deputy Chair of Governors The governors have looked very closely at this as it is not good being reticent about it. The appeals were going through, we have no control over them and it is not a democratic process. Demographics cannot be resisted; we cannot turn children away from our village. It is not a case of children outside the area not getting in, it is local children. I appreciate there are real problems with traffic and we, as governors, have discussed this at great length. I am in charge of putting the Travel Plan together and my intention is that we work on a Travel Plan together to try and resolve these issues as best we can. Perhaps we could look at Spray Hill to improve the flow of traffic and appeal to the Highways Department.
	Headteacher will look at staggering drop off and pick up times but it doesn't change the volume of traffic but changes density of traffic. The walking bus failed because there was very little interest and unless you can convince the local authority to build some pavements I don't think it is an option. We need to work on the Travel Plan as it is key and once formulated we are very happy to email residents to keep them informed.
Barry Young, Resident I think the Vice Chair knows what I am about to say. Last week he parked on my drive and I blocked him in.	
Carol Edward, Resident Time and time again we come home from	

work to find parents parked in the resident's	
work to find parents parked in the resident's car park and it is just not on.	
Bob Crouch, Resident You haven't told us where you are going to build the additional space.	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer We had an initial feasibility study done but do not have detailed plans as this will form part of the planning process and is separate to this consultation. You will be given the opportunity to make your views known at the planning application stage should the proposal be agreed.
Parent Clearly the school will need additional classrooms as you already have 30 in reception and will have an additional 30 in September 2013 and 30 in 2014 which is going to be a problem for the school, yet you have no plans? You will need to house 210 children so there must have been some feasibility study undertaken as to what the site will look like, whether big enough as at the moment the school does not have sufficient rooms.	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer The initial feasibility indicates the site is large enough for the expansion and the HT and Governors have expressed their views in preference of a permanent build. We are consulting on whether the proposal should proceed and if agreed, there will be a detailed feasibility and survey conducted which will inform us whether the scheme can be fulfilled.
Kim Capone, Parent If this proposal with an architectural plan agreed for parents and residents to view, can we be consulted on the plans?	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer Yes. If it proceeds to a formal planning stage you can be part of the formal planning consultation process.
Heather Dyke, Parent I am new to the village but it seems there isn't sufficient space for outdoor sporting areas in school so are there any plans for extending the sports facilities?	Caroline Bromley Part of the agreement with Kent County Council will be that none of the playground area or sports fields will be used in any way as part of this expansion. The nature of this building means there are wasted pockets of space which could be used within to create classrooms. I will not allow any of the play ground nor sports field to be used, neither will Sport England, it would be blocked at the planning stage.
Melina Alexander, Parent Is the school hall and computer suite going to be big enough to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers and accommodate the additional family members wishing to attend a school event?	Caroline Bromley, Headteacher As part of the strategic planning, which I have over 32 years experience of, you have to think of ways of how you can logistically operate, i.e. children eat at separate times, school plays currently run over 3 days, this could be increased to run over 4 and limit tickets to 2 per family. I am not going to commit to

	anything that is going to create more work but
	want the best for the children of Lamberhurst.
	I believe it is good for the children, good for
	the staff and good for the community.
Mr Williamson, Resident What would happen if the Old Vineyard land which was the original site identified for the	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer Houses cannot be built overnight, would need to go through the planning process, which is a
school build was sold for housing and 30 houses were built upon it, would the school	formal statutory process that the landowner/builder has to seek before building
have to be extended further?	on land. It will have to go through consultation where consideration to all aspects, including
	impact on education provision within the area. If the development was approved the
	developer will be approached about a
	contribution to help with educational impact
	arising from that development. Should that happen then the formal process would be
	followed through and planned at that stage but
	we are not aware that this is imminent.
	Jarod Nohro, Aroo Education Officer
Frances Trew, Governor Has does a deliberation make it to the	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer Yes, as part of the planning process, detailed
planning consultation stage? Do we get	plans will be available and there will be an
another chance before the planning stage to	opportunity for you to comment on those
see the practical proposal for any changes to the roads, traffic plans, access and the impact	proposals. This is the most appropriate forum to raise concerns about travel, traffic etc. As
to the general environment?	the process continues there is a separate
	statutory process around the planning
	proposal.
	The statutory process time line is explained in
	Section 4 of the Public Consultation
	document.
Resident	
Plans will come to the Parish Council seeking	
their views and have 3 weeks statutorily to reply so it is not just a done deal.	
Lamberhurst Parish Council will hold a	
meeting open to the public to canvass their	
views.	
Do not think many people have an issue with	
a wonderful school expanding, the problem is the traffic.	
Resident	Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer
Suggestion that the Public Consultation	Yes, good suggestion. The planning process
document is published or where it can be	is separate and details will be published.

Cllr Northey thanked everyone for attending and for the questions that had been asked. He encouraged parents, members of staff, residents to send in their comments by the closing date of 1 August 2013. Following the consultation the Cabinet Member will decide whether to continue with the proposal. If so, KCC will publish a Public Notice which will run for 6 weeks. The Cabinet Member then considers all the responses made and decides whether to proceed with the expansion. Building work will commence if the proposal is agreed, with the school to open as 1FE in September 2014.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Approximately 49 people attended the meeting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

(i) Issue a public notice to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School, Lamberhurst village, Tunbridge Wells

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

(ii) Expand the school

Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Tunbridge Wells section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for additional places in the Lamberhurst/Goudhurst area.

The expansion of Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School, Lamberhurst Village, Tunbridge Wells will address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 10 July 2013, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: **12 September 2012**

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the **x** area.

21 June 2013

The Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School, Lamberhurst Village, Tunbridge Wells.

27 September 2013

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

DECISION NO:

13/00070

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

date