

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

**To:** Education Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2014

**Subject:** Decision Number 14/00001: Proposal to expand Lawn  
Primary School

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** Northfleet & Gravesend West

**Summary:** This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Lawn Primary School Primary from a PAN of 20 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:**

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Lawn Primary School, by 10 Reception places, from a PAN of 20 to 1FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £350k from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) 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
- (v) AUTHORISE 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

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The planning area of Northfleet is forecasted to have a deficit of up to 34 Reception year places for September 2015 and up to 28 Reception Year places for 2016.

1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Lawn Primary School by 10 reception year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 20 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, the Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Lawn Primary School.

1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 12 September 2013 to 9 October 2013. A public meeting was held on Wednesday, 18 September 2013.

## **2. Financial Implications**

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lawn Primary School by 10 places taking the PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 210 places.

a. The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 2 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £350k of which £350k will be funded from the Basic Need Budget, which includes the annual capital allocation for Basic Need from the DfE. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

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

c. Human – Lawn Primary School will appoint additional teachers, 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, 2013-18’ has identified the demand for up to x Reception Year places within the planning area of Gravesend North.

## **4. Consultation Outcomes**

4.1 A total of 16 written responses were received with all responses supporting the proposal.

4.2 A summary of the comments received at the time of writing 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 Local Members**

Narinderjit Singh Thandi and Sue Howes have been informed of the proposal

### **5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:**

The Headteacher and the Governing Body are supportive of the sustainable long term solution that has been proposed by KCC to enable Lawn Primary School to move from a PAN of 20 to 1 form entry.

### **5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:**

The Area Education Officer for North 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 increase demand in the area. All other schools in the planning area were considered.

Lawn Primary School is a popular and inclusive school. It has an Ofsted grading of 'Good'. The school's location in Gravesend District means it is ideally placed to meet the forecasted demand for primary school places.

## **6. Proposal**

6.1 The proposed expansion of Lawn Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.

6.2 The proposed expansion of Lawn 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. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

## **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, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## **8. Conclusions**

8.1 Forecasts for the planning area Gravesham District indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional x 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' (2013 – 2018).

## **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:**

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Lawn Primary School, by 10 places from 20 reception year places, to 1FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £350k from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) 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
- (v) AUTHORISE 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

## **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](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 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 21 June 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Gravesham District.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=5047&Ver=4>

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

## **11. Contact details**

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Relevant Director:

- Kevin Shovelton`
- Director of Education Planning and Access
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- [Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk)



**The proposed expansion of Lawn Primary School to increase the PAN from  
20 to 30 places**

**Summary of written responses**

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 500

Consultation responses received: 16

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	<b>In Favour</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Opposed</b>
Governors			
Staff	13		
Parents	2		
Pupils			
Other	1		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>		

**Comments in favour of the proposal:**

- The headteacher, Governors and Staff are in favour of the proposals and wholeheartedly support the local authority.

**Comments against the proposal:**

- There were no negative comments received.

## Appendix 2

### Proposal to expand Lawn Primary School, Gravesend Public Consultation Meeting 18 September 2013

Panel	Kevin Shovelton	Director Education Planning & Access
	Richard Dalziel	Area Education Officer, West Kent
	David Hart	Area Schools Organisation Officer
	Ann Drury	Public Meeting Recorder
	Angela Wilson	Headteacher

#### Introduction

Kevin Shovelton welcomed parents, staff and members of the public to the meeting, explaining that unfortunately Cllr Leyland Ridings, County Councillor and Chairman of the ELS Cabinet Committee was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health.

The meeting was asked to address any comments or questions through the Chair. Public Consultation meetings are recorded so an accurate record can be kept.

#### Purpose of the Meeting

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

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given by Richard Dalziel.

Kent County Council is proposing that Lawn Primary School increase its Reception Year R intake to 30. Successive reception intakes will offer 30 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 210 pupils.

The Area Education Officer is responsible for making sure there are enough school places. The Kent Commissioning Plan 2012-2017 outlines the proposals and forecasts that more primary school places are required in the short and medium term across much of Gravesend.

Certain changes will be required of the school and at the moment it is envisaged that an additional 7 teaching rooms will be required. There will be a need to improve and upgrade the infrastructure accommodation which may include additional toilets, main hall, parking and soft and hard play areas.

A feasibility study will be undertaken. Once plans are drawn up pupils, parents, staff, governors and local residents will be consulted further.

#### Timetable

Jun 2013	KCC Education Committee (recommendation to consult)
Sep 2013	Start of consultation
Sep 2013	Public meeting
Oct 2013	Close of consultation (deadline for comments)
Nov 2013	KCC Education Committee (results of consultation)

Nov 2013	KCC Cabinet Member decision on the proposal
Nov 2013	Public Notice issued (if agreed by Cabinet Member)
Jan 2014	End of Statutory Representation Period
Jan 2014	Formal Cabinet Member decision
Tbc	Building work underway
Sep 2014	School opens as a 1FE school
<p>Both the Headteacher and governors are in favour of this proposal. No decisions will be made until the consultation process has finished. Four response forms have been received so far and the local authority look forward to receiving more, so please complete a response form and return it by 14 October 2013.</p>	
<p>The local authority will negotiate with the school as to when the building works will start but beforehand a full feasibility study will be undertaken. KCC Planners, Highways and Gravesham Borough Council representatives will be heavily involved in these consultations. If this is not possible by September 2014, then temporary accommodation will be installed to cater for the extra children. The leadership and management of the programme will fall quite heavily on the school so there will be a certain amount of disruption.</p>	
<p>In the presentation you said we would need 7 teaching rooms to accommodate the extra children whereas in actual fact we need 8 new classrooms because of the nursery.</p>	<p>Apologies we will amend that.</p>
<p>Have the local authority taken into account the space lost by utilising the ICT, family room etc. into classrooms?</p>	<p>The local authority will look at the project in its entirety and will recognise the space you have sacrificed already.</p> <p>No-one will be getting 'gold plated' buildings as currently the local authority have 60-70 building projects underway at the moment costing millions of pounds. Funding mostly comes directly from central government but sometimes if there are any housing developments underway in the local area the local authority may receive developer contributions. Any alterations to the building will be quite basic but to the required standard and fit for purpose.</p>
<p>Are there any plans for new builds in the area?</p>	<p>There are no new builds planned on existing schools. However, there are large housing developments planned in the Thames Gateway area which will generate the need for additional provision. The local authority receives developer contributions from any new development to assist with building of new schools. It may also mean that some neighbouring schools will be required to take in some extra children.</p>
<p>The meeting closed at 8.15pm and Mr Shovelton thanked everyone for attending the</p>	



meeting and for the questions that had been asked. He encouraged everyone to send in their comments by the closing date, 14 October 2013.

15 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

DECISION NO:

14/00001

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to expand Lawn Primary School**

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Lawn Primary School, by 10 places from a PAN of 20 to 1FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £350k from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) 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
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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 Gravesham section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for up to 34 additional Reception Year places within the planning area of Northfleet for 2016.

The expansion of Lawn Primary School will help to 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 18 September 2013, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillors; 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

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to enlarge Lawn Primary School by 10 places taking the PAN to 30 (1FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 210 places.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 2 additional classrooms, as well

as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £350k of which £350k will be funded from the Basic Need Budget. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Lawn Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**2 June 2013**

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the planning area of Gravesham District.

**14 January 2014**

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

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

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**Signed**

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**Date**

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