

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

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health
Reform

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

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2014

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Northfleet & Gravesend West

Summary: Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 14 January 2014, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to expand Lawn Primary School Primary from a PAN of 20 to 1FE for September 2014.

Recommendation(s):

the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to take 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.
- 1.5 On 14 January 2014, the Education Cabinet Committee considered the proposed decision and discussed the concerns raised. and resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform he agree to decision (14/0002) outlined in the recommendations above.

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.

5. Views

5.1 Local Members

Narinderjit 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 Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to take the decision to:

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- (ii) Expand the school
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- (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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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 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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