

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

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

Subject: Decision number: 14/00004 Proposal to expand Iwade
Community Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013 & 14
January 2014

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Swale Central

Local Members: Mr Roger Truelove and Mr Lee Burgess

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 the recommendations set out below.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform take the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Iwade Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE (60) to 3FE (90).

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £3,500,000 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 Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The district of Swale is forecast to have a deficit of up to 87 Reception year places in September 2016 and 2017.
- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Iwade Community Primary School by 30 reception year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 60 to 90

(three Forms of Entry) for the September 2015 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 90 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 630 pupils.

- 1.3 On 27 September 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 4 November and 16 December 2013. A public meeting was held on 18 November 2013.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Iwade Community Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3,500,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme, which includes funding from the Targeted Basic Need allocation from the DfE made in August 2013. 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 – For a period of three academic years from September 2015, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

c. Human – Iwade Community 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 273 Reception Year places within the planning areas of Iwade and Sittingbourne North. As new housing development in Iwade progresses more children will come forward for a place at the school, resulting in a deficit of up to 157 school places should the proposal not go ahead.

Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of 43 written responses were received with 28 respondents supporting the proposal, 12 objecting to the proposal, and 3 respondents were undecided.

4. Views

5.1 The view of the Local Members:

Having attended the recent public meeting and heard the School's proposals, Local Member Lee Burgess has commented as follows:

'I have discussed this fully with the Parish Council and fully support the comments they have put forward which also reflect my views on the proposal.'

Roger Truelove has provided the following comments:

'Whilst I appreciate the demographic pressure I am a little concerned about the proliferation of 3 form entry schools emerging in the Sittingbourne area.

There will be strong local concerns about traffic and parking in the School Lane area. This has presented problems in the past and local residents naturally fear an increase in numbers.'

5.2 View of the Parish Council

The Parish Council's view is that they accept that the school needs to be expanded but have concerns that there will be no kitchen included in the proposals, no changing facilities for the children, the impact the extra traffic will have on the village and parking in and around the school.

- Kitchen – Currently meals are brought in to school by outside caterers. The children who go to lunch last regularly miss out on food as it's difficult to judge the numbers and there is often no food left. This will only be worse if the school has more pupils without the room to cope. Not having adequate food during the school day would effect the children's ability to work properly and would not be good for the welfare of the children.
- Changing facilities – Currently children get changed for things such as P.E etc. In this day and age this shouldn't be happening, especially with regards to the older children in the school. To not have these facilities could cause some children stress and anxiety.
- Extra traffic – In the 2013 reception intake 63 children applied for places at Iwade school of which 43 of those reside in Iwade. There were no children from Iwade that requested Iwade as their first choice that didn't get in to the school. As a worst case scenario if every child from outside of Iwade was driven to school that would mean 20 vehicles as things currently stand. With an extra class added, and assuming all those extra children were from outside Iwade, there is a possibility of having another 30 cars coming in to the village at drop off and pick up time. That is 50 possible vehicles driving in to the village from outside per year group. Over the seven years once all year groups have filled the school it could be a possible 300-350 extra vehicles twice a day excluding residents living in Iwade that drive to school. Does Iwade have the infrastructure to cope?
- Parking – The last school expansion included a drop off/pick up point for parents. This has never been used as it was badly designed. It is dangerous for children as cars were driving in to the school ground and entry/exit was via a private road behind the local shops. There are no pavements and the school gate come out directly on to the road. This area is now used by staff at the school to park. Where will the additional staff

needed for the extra classrooms park and also the extra parents driving in to school, especially as it is shown that most will be coming from outside of the village?

- 5.3 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Governors and staff wholeheartedly support the Local Authority proposal to increase Iwade Community Primary school to a three form entry school. With more new housing in and around Iwade we feel that it is most important that all Iwade children should be able to attend their local school and secure the school of their first choice. Additional building and possible changes to the existing buildings will also enable us to make the site more suitable and meet the needs of both the school and the local community.
- 5.4 The view of the Area Education Officer:
The Area Education Officer for East 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.

Iwade Community Primary is a popular and inclusive school judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and is regularly oversubscribed. The school's location means it is ideally placed to meet the forecast demand for primary school places in Iwade village as new housing development continues.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Iwade Community Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Iwade Community 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 Swale district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 30 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): That the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform take the decision to:

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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– 27 September 2013 – Targeted Basic Need Funded Projects.

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s42589/Item%20B2%20-%20Targeted%20Basic%20Need%20Funded%20Projects.pdf>

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

10.4 Education Cabinet Committee report– 14 January 2014 – Decision number: 14/00004 Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=5470&Ver=4>

11. Contact details

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