

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

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014

Subject: Decision Number: 14/00029 Proposal to permanently
increase the Published Admission Number for
Queenborough Primary School & Nursery

Classification: Unrestricted

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

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Sheerness

Local Members: Ms Angela Harrison

Summary: This report seeks Committee approval of the permanent increase to the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 45 to 60 and the temporary increase to the PAN from 60 to 90 for September 2014.

Recommendation:

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) Permanently increase the PAN to 60 and temporarily increase the PAN to 90 for entry September 2014
- (ii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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 98 Reception year places in September 2014. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places on the Isle of Sheppey.

- 1.2 It is proposed that the increase to the PAN for Queenborough Primary School & Nursery, adding 15 Reception Year places, taking the published admission number (PAN) from 45 to 60, should continue. This increase was consulted on as part of the Admission Arrangements consultation for entry in September 2013.
- 1.3 Queenborough Primary School & Nursery changed from a two form entry First School to a Primary School in September 2008 as part of the Sheppey Review. The school at that time had a PAN of 60 and this was reduced to 45 when the school became a primary school. It was agreed that the PAN of 45 would be reviewed each year because of the growing pupil population and with the agreement of the governing body, the school continued to admit over this number in order to provide enough primary school places. The school currently has 375 pupils on roll.
- 1.4 The temporary accommodation provided for the change to a primary school is undersized and does not allow the PAN of 60 to be applied to all year groups and therefore to permanently increase the PAN the school needs additional accommodation to provide classroom sizes and facilities for a two form entry primary school.
- 1.5 The consultation on the increase to the PAN has already taken place as part of the Admission Arrangements consultation for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools undertaken by the Local Authority. The new School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulation 2013 allows for schools to expand without going through a statutory process if the capital is secure to provide the additional accommodation, the project has planning agreement (a planning application has been submitted) and the increase to the PAN has been consulted on.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 **Capital** – The permanent increase to the PAN across all age groups and the temporary increase to the PAN for September 2014 requires the provision of 4 additional classrooms and a small hall. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £1,500,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme. 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.

Revenue – The school has already received some protection funding for the increase in the PAN from 45 to 60. The school will receive protection for 30 pupils for one year for the temporary increase in September 2014. The sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs for the additional classrooms.

Human – Queenborough Primary School & Nursery will appoint an additional teacher for the temporary increase.

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 608 Reception Year places on The Isle of Sheppey for entry in September 2014. A temporary expansion of 30 additional Reception Year places at Queenborough Primary School & Nursery will help to ensure enough places are available to meet demand and parental preference. A new two form entry primary school will open at Thistle Hill in September 2015 to provide additional primary school provision on the island to meet future demand.

4. Views

- 4.1 The view of the Local Member:
The Member has been contacted and we are awaiting their response.
- 4.2 The view of the governing body
The project has the full support of the governing body. The Governors appreciate that this expansion is necessary because of an increase in demand for primary school places. Although the speed of the building programme to accommodate this expansion is hurried, the Governors remain whole heartedly behind the principle of expansion coupled with the addition of new building which will provide Queenborough School with the facilities it requires to meet effectively the obligations placed upon it.
- 4.3 The view of the Area Education Officer
The Area Education Officer fully supports the continuing increase to the PAN for Queenborough Primary School & Nursery and the provision of sufficient accommodation to allow this. This is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increase demand in the area. New housing development is planned for Rushenden and a new school will be included. However, there will be an additional demand at Queenborough until this new school can be realised. Other schools on The Isle of Sheppey have taken temporary expansion (Halfway Houses, Minster-in-Sheppey and Eastchurch). A new two form entry primary school will open in September 2015 at Thistle Hill which will ensure that sufficient places are available for the future.

Queenborough Primary School is judged ‘Good’ by Ofsted and is a popular and inclusive school. The school’s location means it is ideally placed to meet the demand for primary school places on Sheppey.

5. Delegation to Officers

- 5.1 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.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Forecasts for the Swale district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This permanent increase in PAN will add an additional 15 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).

7. Recommendation

Recommendation: 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) Permanently increase the PAN from 45 to 60 and temporarily increase the PAN to 90 for entry September 2014
- (ii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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

8. Background Documents

- 8.1 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
- 8.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>
- 8.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013
<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s42589/Item%20B2%20-%20Targeted%20Basic%20Need%20Funded%20Projects.pdf>

9. Contact details

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Relevant Director:

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COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00029

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently increase the Published Admission Number for Queenborough Primary School & Nursery

Decision:

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

- (i) Permanently increase the PAN from 45 to 60 and temporarily increase the PAN to 90 for entry September 2014
- (ii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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

This decision is conditional to planning permission being granted

Reason(s) for decision:

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 98 Reception year places in September 2014. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places on the Isle of Sheppey. Permanently increasing the PAN for Queenborough Primary School & Nursery 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 of the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school and Headteacher;
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

It is proposed to permanently increase the published admission number of Queenborough Primary School & Nursery from 45 to 60 and to temporarily increase the published admission number to 90 for entry in September 2014.

- a. Capital – The permanent and temporary increases of the PAN requires the provision of 4 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £1,500,000. 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 – Queenborough Primary School & Nursery will appoint additional teachers, as the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the Swale District.

14 March 2014

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the permanent increase of the admission number for 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