

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

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014

Subject: Challock Primary School, Ashford - Provision of two permanent classrooms in place of two temporary classrooms and expansion of the school hall

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 September 2011;
Education Cabinet Committee – 21 September 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Divisions: Ashford Rural West

Summary: This report sets out the need to provide two permanent classrooms and to expand the school hall at Challock Primary School following significant enlargement.

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) Allocate a total of £725k from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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 Following completion of statutory processes, in November 2011 KCC decided to permanently enlarge Challock Primary School from a PAN of 20 to a PAN of 30 with effect from September 2012. This increased the capacity of the school from 140 places to 210 places. At the time of the consultation the school had 5 classrooms. Its hall was undersized at around 100sqm. Moving to a capacity of 210 places meant that the school needed two additional classrooms and a larger hall in order to accommodate the additional pupils. For a 1FE school the hall should be 150sqm to enable the school to deliver the full curriculum and meet current regulations and guidelines.

1.2 The school had accommodated a bulge reception class in 2011 due to pressure of places in Ashford. Therefore two classes were needed from September 2012 in order to accommodate the permanent change of number. Following KCC's

decision, a two class temporary pavilion was provided. This pavilion is located away from the school building and has temporary planning consent. The school hall has not been expanded.

2. Accommodation Needs

- 2.1 The expansion of Challock Primary School in 2012 was achieved using temporary accommodation as there was insufficient time to provide permanent accommodation ready for September 2012. In order to be consistent with other expansions in the recent and ongoing round of school expansions, we are seeking to provide two permanent classrooms and expand the hall to a sufficient size to accommodate 210 pupils (from 100sqm to 150sqm). The pavilion classrooms can be re-used at other sites where temporary accommodation is required.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 a. Capital: The proposal is to provide an enlarged school hall to Challock Primary School and two permanent classrooms. A feasibility study has been completed. The total end cost is estimated to be in the region of £725k. Provision of the permanent accommodation will involve an initial cost of £975k but this will be offset by the release of the temporary classrooms for use on another project in the County, saving that project £250k. The costs of this 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: There are no revenue implications arising from this proposal.
- c. Human: There are no staffing implications arising from this proposal.

4. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 4.1 This proposal 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'. Challock Primary School is judged Outstanding by Ofsted.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the consultation to expand the school in 2011. No comments were received at that time.

6. Views

- 6.1 The view of the Local Members:
Mr Simkins has been contacted and we are awaiting a response.
- 6.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Headteacher and the Governing Body are fully supportive of the proposal to provide two permanent classrooms (in place of two temporary classrooms) and an expansion of the school hall."
- 6.3. The view of the Director:
The Director of Education Planning and Access fully supports the proposal. Challock Primary School is a popular and inclusive school judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is regularly oversubscribed. The school hall needs to be enlarged following expansion. The scheme to provide the enlarged hall and permanent classrooms enabling the temporary classrooms to be used elsewhere represents the best value for money.

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. 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 It is essential that this school is provided with the minimum accommodation it needs, including a hall of the correct size for the number on roll, and that the accommodation matches the current permanent accommodation. This school's willingness to expand when requested is testimony to its commitment to support delivery of high quality education to more children and to work with the LA to help it discharge its responsibilities.

9. 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) Allocate a total of £725k from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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/old_steps_for_kent.aspx

- 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18

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

School Organisation Advisory Board report: Proposal to expand Challock Primary School

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MIId=3553&Ver=4>

11. Contact details

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Relevant Director:

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Provision of two permanent classrooms in place of two temporary classrooms and expansion of the school hall at Challock Primary School

Decision:

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

- (i) Allocate a total of £725k from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (ii) 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
- (iii) 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

Reason(s) for decision:

It is essential that this school is provided with the minimum accommodation it needs, including a hall of the correct size for the number on roll, and that the accommodation matches the current permanent accommodation. This school's willingness to expand when requested is testimony to its commitment to support delivery of high quality education to more children and to work with the LA to help it discharge its responsibilities. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views of the, the local County Councillor; Headteacher and Chair of Governors of the school;
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

- a. Capital: The proposal is to provide an enlarged school hall to Challock Primary School and two permanent classrooms. A feasibility study has been completed. The total end cost is estimated to be in the region of £725k. Provision of the permanent accommodation will involve an initial cost of £975k but this will be offset by the release of the temporary classrooms for use on another project in the County, saving that project £250k. The costs of this 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: There are no revenue implications arising from this proposal.
- c. Human: There are no staffing implications arising from this proposal.

Cabinet Committee recommendations:

27 September 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan 2013-2018 which identified the need to expand and retain the current provision in the Ashford District.

14 March 2014

To be completed

Any alternatives considered: The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the permanent 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