

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

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

**Subject:** Proposal to Enlarge Joy Lane (Community) Primary  
School

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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

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

**Electoral Division:** Whitstable

**Local Members:** Mr Mike Harrison and Mr Mark Dance

**Summary:** This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Joy Lane Primary School from 2FE to 3FE from September 2015.

*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 Joy Lane Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE to 3FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Canterbury district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The district of Canterbury is forecast to have a deficit of up to 29 Reception year places in September 2015 and only 0.4% surplus in 2018. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in Whitstable from September 2013 and Joy Lane agreed a temporary expansion for September 2013 and 2014.

1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Joy Lane 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 permanently expand Joy Lane Primary School.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 13 January and 28 February 2014. A public meeting was held on 30 January 2014.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Joy Lane 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 commissioned. 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.

- 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 – Joy Lane 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 331 Reception Year places within the Whitstable planning area. If capacity is not added, there will not be enough places available locally to meet demand and parental preference.

## **4. Consultation Outcomes**

- 4.1 At the time of print a total of 114 written responses were received: 70 respondents supporting the proposal; 19 objecting to the proposal and 25 respondent undecided.
- 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.

#### **4. Views**

- 5.1 The view of the Local Members:  
The Members have been contacted and we are awaiting their response.
- 5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:  
At the governing body meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2013 Governors made the following statement in regard to the proposed expansion:  
*“In response to the LA’s request to the Head Teacher and the Governing Body of Joy Lane Primary School to agree to proposals for the expansion to three-form entry, Governors agreed that there were good educational grounds to support such a proposal.  
It was, however, resolved that it was entirely conditional on*
- i. Improved safe access to the site*
  - ii. The addition of sufficient parking space to accommodate increased staff arising from the development.*
  - iii. A third access route to provide vehicle access through Vulcan Close to the School site, either as route in Vulcan Close and out to Joy Lane and/or drop off roundabout zone in Vulcan Close.*
- Subject to the satisfactory resolution of these points, the Governing Body unanimously agreed to support the proposals”.*

Mrs Hines, Headteacher responded:

*“As the Head Teacher, I have led three successful 'Good' Ofsted inspections in the School and three 'Good' Oyster Bay Nursery Ofsted inspections. The School has the Leadership and capacity to maintain, sustain and improve upon the Ofsted grade should the proposal move forward.*

*I understand residents concerns regarding traffic and parking and have worked very hard to improve and manage the situation, and feel this can be resolved as specified in the Governors statement. I believe the education of local children attending local Schools is more important and should remain paramount when considering the proposal to expand.*

*Once again, I would like to reiterate that the Teaching Staff and Governors of Joy Lane would fully support the expansion of our School.”*

- 5.3. 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.

Joy Lane Primary School 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 Whitstable.

#### **6. Delegation to Officers**

- 6.1 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.

## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Forecasts for the Canterbury 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).

## 8. Recommendations

**8.1 Recommendations: 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 Joy Lane Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE to 3FE, conditional upon obtaining planning agreement for the additional accommodation required.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

## 9. Background Documents

9.1 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)

9.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

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

9.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013

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

9.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

## 10. Contact details

Report Author:

**Marisa White**, Area Education Officer –  
East Kent  
01227 284407  
[marisa.white@kent.gov.uk](mailto:marisa.white@kent.gov.uk)

Relevant Director:

**Kevin Shovelton**, Director of Education  
Planning and Access  
01622 694174  
[Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk)

**The proposed expansion of Joy Lane Primary School to increase the PAN  
from 60 to 90 places**

**Summary of written responses**

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 600  
Responses received at time of print: 90

	Support	Against	Undecided*	Total
Parents/Carers	23	7	1	31
Governors	4			
Members of Staff	36			
Interested Parties	7	12	24	
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>114</b>

\*In support of the proposal only if parking and traffic issues are addressed adequately.

**In support of the proposal**

Parents:

- Given the increase in new builds in the areas of Whitstable and Seasalter, it is apparent that more local school places will be necessary. Children thrive in a 'community-based' school that is close to home. Not providing additional places at the school would possibly lead to increase in transportation outside the area and increase in challenges for Joy Lane to provide places for siblings.
- Looking forward to the growth of an already fantastic school.
- I agree subject to the school receiving adequate funding and the parking issue being addressed.
- I agree with the proposal but have concerns about safety due to the amount of traffic and people parked inappropriately. Can the school have a supervised drop off area to ease congestion?
- In principle I have no objections to the scheme, Whitstable is a growing area, school places are desperately required and the expansion of Joy Lane seems to be the obvious solution. My major concern is the increase in footfall and traffic. I have concerns regarding safety in the Joy Lane area for pedestrians and motorists. What plans will be in place to address this situation as not all parents can walk. Will they consider a school bus scheme; this could reduce car numbers considerably. Is there a plan for speed bumps/traffic calming measures along Joy Lane to slow the traffic down? Will the area be policed more regularly to ensure people are driving safely?
- I agree with the proposal but have concerns with the school simply not being able to cope. A larger dinner hall or an additional one must be considered in the planning. There must be adequate staffing at lunch times, in the hall, but especially in the playground. Resource for all aspects of children's time at the school must be sufficient to keep them safe, fed and happy.

#### Staff:

- It is important for local children to be educated in their local home community.
- We are a good school, able to offer children high quality educational experiences.
- We have sufficient space for expansion whilst retaining large areas of open field and playing areas.
- Children should be able to attend a local primary school and not have to travel too far for their education.
- The school is a great asset to the local community. It has links with a number of community organisations including the Church and the University. The school has grown since the infant and junior schools were combined and has managed the growth sensibly and efficiently, improving educational outcomes along the way.

#### Other Interested Parties

- I fully agree with the need for enlargement of the school, but it is the problem about parking which concerns me. I really don't know what the answer is because more pupils usually means more cars. The idea of creating a car park on the Ladesfield Home site is good in principle, but unfortunately parents that are abusive and park irresponsibly probably won't go all the way round to Vulcan Close to park and will still park along Joy Lane. If the town is expanding then surely eventually we will need a brand new school and hopefully this will be on a site that will include parking.
- I wholeheartedly support this proposal. Whilst it is important that local issues surrounding parking and traffic management are addressed in some measure, this is the only school in the area with the capacity to expand.
- I have no problem with the idea as the school has the land to expand, but what most concerns me is the traffic in the local area. Maybe the idea of school buses would work, with pick up points and they could drive on site to drop off the pupils.

#### **Against the proposal**

#### Parents:

- Children can find large numbers overwhelming and their education will be adversely affected.
- The building work will be disruptive.
- Whole school events will be compromised
- The population of Whitstable/Tankerton/Seasalter is only going to increase with population growth, house building and new movements into the area. The only sustainable local solution is to build a new school.
- Joy Lane has really improved and the sense of school community is very strong. I would worry that increasing the intake would cause a drop in improvements and a loss in the community/social feeling passed onto the children.

#### Other Interested Parties:

- I am objecting to this for reasons of safety. Traffic congestions and parking; there have been several accidents in the past 2 months. The problem with parking should be addressed and dealt with before any further proposals are thought about.
- I disagree with the proposal but if they could establish a collection and pickup point for pupils being transported by car, on the school premises,

which would enable parents to arrive and depart quickly without having to try and find a parking place in nearby roads. There would appear to be sufficient land at the school to make this feasible. The area would have to be controlled by the school authorities to ensure no congestion occurred and that pupils were ready to be picked up at the specified time. It is suggested that such a scheme, if run properly, could transform the situation around the school and make expansion a much more feasible project.

- We are aware that the school has introduced initiatives to try to reduce traffic to and from the school, as well as putting in place a traffic management procedure at the school entrance. However, these measures are inadequate and do not cope with the problem which exists now and will get worse if the school population increases.
- We accept there is a strong case for the school to take in more children over the next few years. However, the likely impact it will have on the free passage and safety of school staff, residents, parents, children and the emergency services is unacceptable.

### **Undecided because of parking and traffic issues**

Many local residents sent in written responses to the consultation and did not indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with the proposal. The responses spoke in support of the school and the expansion but only if the highways issues are resolved, additional parking is provided so that parents do not have to park in the surrounding roads and more precautions are put in place to ensure the safety of children.

**Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School,  
Public Consultation Meeting – Monday 18 November 2013  
Summary of the Meeting**

<b>Panel</b>	<b>Mr Mike Harrison (Chair)</b>	<b>Local Member for Whitstable</b>
	<b>Mrs Marisa White</b>	<b>Area Education Officer (East Kent)</b>

**In Attendance**

	Mrs Jane Wiles	Area Schools Officer – East Kent
	Mrs Jill Clinton	Area Schools Officer – Mid Kent
	Ms Janet Streek	Project Manager – Property & Infrastructure Support
	Mrs Debra Hines	Headteacher
	Miss Elizabeth Mastin	Chair of Governors

The meeting was chaired by Mr Mike Harrison and was attended by approximately 80 people including parents, governors, staff and other interested parties of whom 35 were local residents.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion and the reasons for the proposal being brought forward by KCC was given by Marisa White. Marisa White explained that this is the consultation for the education case and that a separate planning consultation regarding the building project would take place, where there would be an opportunity to comment on the plans for additional accommodation. She explained that the school would grow over a 7 year period as each successive Year R admission number increases from 60 to 90.

Debra Hines, Headteacher explained that the school, when operating as a separate infant and junior school used to have 540 pupils attending and that expanding the school to 630 pupils was not a huge increase in numbers.

The school has a dynamic team and the local authority is confident in the school ability to provide an excellent education allowing the school to flourish. The school already serves the local community, including letting the field, use of the swimming pool and links with Seasalter Church.

The school was a pilot for the SEND strategy because of the school's specialist field in Autism and it is planned that in the future the Unit will provide locally for children who have a statement of educational needs requiring a place at the Unit, rather than children having to travel from further afield. The school already has an efficient plan in place for getting children travelling in taxis on and off the site each day.

The school is part of the Coastal Alliance and works with other schools collaboratively, including looking at ways to reduce traffic around the schools and ensuring children are safe. The school already has a walking bus and encourages children to walk, cycle and use scooters to come to school.



<b>Issues Raised</b>	<b>Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted</b>
Residents feel angry that they cannot get on and off of their drives in the mornings. Parents abuse the local residents and emergency vehicles are unable to access Tolgate Road during the period that parents are dropping off or collecting their children.	
A concern was raised as to whether the site would take additional buildings and whether there would still be room for cricket and football pitches.	The site is large enough for the additional buildings and this project would not impact on the playing field.
Why is the local authority not taking action to resolve the difficulties between the school and residents?	A traffic management survey will take place and will be required for the planning process. It is in everyone's interest that this is included as part of the process and we will work together with the community and the school within the bounds of what is possible within the area. More parents work and therefore drive their children to school. This consultation is about the education reasons for the permanent expansion of the school. There is a planning application for accommodation to deal with a temporary bulge. If the permanent expansion is not agreed the PAN will stay at 60 and additional children will not be admitted beyond the two year bulge.
The local residents should have the opportunity to have their say and input before the plans go forward.	
If the proposal does not continue will the additional classrooms for the temporary expansion be empty.	No, those classrooms would be used for a 7 year period while the additional children complete their education at the school. We are allowed a two year bulge by Law but beyond that we have to consult on permanent expansion.
There is chaos every day in Joy Lane. I agree that is a need for more school places and Mrs Hines has worked hard to resolve problems but she cannot order what should be done. KCC can do something and must do something. The Old Peoples' Home next door is empty and would provide the opportunity for a new access road and a large car park. This is within the gift of KCC and Mr Harrison should be pursuing this.	Mr Harrison answered that Mr Gough is the Cabinet Member for Education and would need to be involved in any decisions. He asked that local residents to bring forward ideas.
Local resident asked the Headteacher to	Mrs Hines answered that the Highway

<b>Issues Raised</b>	<b>Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted</b>
educate the children on road manners when using their scooter and bikes	Code is taught to the children and included in cycling proficiency. The school does their best to work with the parents to ensure the children's safety but cannot ban people from using the road.
All the relevant services should be brought together with the residents to work forward in a clear way to enable a safe and excellent education to continue.	We will go back to Property and Highways to set up a workshop to try and mitigate the problems.
Offers from Kent Police, Fire Brigade, Education and Highways should come here and hold a workshop with residents to thrash out a solution.	
KCC should have a plan or strategy as part of this proposal with regard to the road safety issues. How can we agree with a proposal when there are no plans for us to see?	Marisa White explained the difference between the education consultation and the planning consultation. Janet Streek advised that Highways would be consulted on the plans and that Planners would take note of the views from the residents. A travel plan will be produced by the school for the planning application, setting out their aims to establish measures to reduce car travel.
Mr Gough needs to meet with the residents to ensure he is making the right decision.	Mr Harrison responded that he would liaise with Mr Gough.
A parent spoke saying that not all parents park badly and are rude. Would it be possible to move the SureStart Children's Centre now that the school has grown?	We cannot evict the Children's Centre as they provide a valuable service and utilised the surplus accommodation when the infant and junior schools amalgamated. The benefits from the services provided by SureStart and their work with families helps to prepare the children for school.
A parent commented that they were very happy with the school and that Whitstable is a growing town with more people moving in. The traffic in Whitstable is congested and parking is a global problem for schools.	
Joy Lane does a wonderful job and the after school club is full to capacity. If	Mrs Hines responded that the after school club was provided by teachers

<b>Issues Raised</b>	<b>Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted</b>
more pupils come into the school, how will they obtain places at the after school club.	and the school tries to offer different activities. Extra staff would be needed to enlarge the after school club, but until the school knows whether the expansion would be permanent they cannot plan everything.

#### Parents/Carers meeting: 24 February 2014

An additional meeting was held for parents/carers who did not have the opportunity to ask questions at the public meeting. Questions were asked about whether the structure of the school day would change, what could be done about the parking issues and traffic queues and the impact of the building work on the children's education.

Mrs Hines, Headteacher spoke about the gradual increase to the school roll and that currently there was not an impact. Parking and highways issues would be looked at as part of the planning process and a further meeting with local residents had been arranged. The ideal solution would be to have an additional access to the school. There are plans to reopen the access via Vulcan Close when the private nursery rebuild has been completed, but this will be a walking route and not parking. The building work for the school accommodation will be managed to ensure the children's education takes priority and work would be carried out during the school holiday periods.

#### Residents meeting: 25 February 2014

An additional meeting was held with residents, including a representative from the Highways Authority. The local residents spoke about their support for the school and the issues with regard to parking, the attitude of some parents and their concerns about children's safety. The local residents were happy to support the proposed expansion as long as measures were put in place to reduce the impact of additional cars in the area.

The local residents would like KCC to consider the option of using the Ladesfield site, which has now closed and is adjacent to the school, to provide vehicular access to the school and car parking. This would allow a 'drop off' to be created. Reducing the speed limit and better signage were also discussed.

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

### DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

### DECISION NO:

14/00018

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to expand Joy Lane (Community) Primary School**

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Joy Lane Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE to 3FE.  
And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice
- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

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. This decision is conditional to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Canterbury district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for 29 Reception Year places within Canterbury District. The expansion of Joy Lane 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 30 January, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillors; Governing Body of the school and Staff;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and any comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

#### **Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to enlarge Joy Lane 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 commissioned. 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 – Joy Lane Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**27 September 2012**

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the Canterbury 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 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:

.....  
**Signed**

.....  
**Date**