

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

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 23 July 2014

Subject: Proposal to Enlarge Rose Street (Community) Primary School, Sheerness

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 sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Rose Street School, Sheerness, from 1FE to 2FE from September 2015.

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 Rose Street School, by 210 places from 1FE to 2FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £2,700,000 from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

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. Specifically, the Isle of Sheppey is forecast to have a deficit of up to 98 Reception year places in September 2016 and this deficit is expected to continue. The new primary school being built at Thistle Hill will provide an additional 60 Reception Year places from September 2015. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide an additional 38 places in Sheerness from September 2014 and Rose Street School agreed to provide a temporary expansion of 30 additional places from September 2014.
- 1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Rose Street School by 30 Reception Year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 30 to 60 (two

Forms of Entry) for the September 2015 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 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 a Sheerness Primary School. Feasibilities were undertaken at both Rose Street School and West Minster Primary School. Rose Street Primary School was considered to be the most cost effective and sustainable solution to meet the increased demand. Rose Street School also meets KCC's stated intention to only consider expansion to schools judged as "Good" or "Outstanding" wherever possible.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 2 June and 30 June 2014. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors and members of staff was held on 16 June 2014.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Rose Street School by 210 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.

- a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study was commissioned. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2,690,765.15. 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 variation exceeds 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 – Rose Street 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 214 Reception Year places within the Sheerness 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 A total of 38 written responses were received: 28 respondents supporting the proposal; 2 objecting to the proposal and 8 respondents undecided.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Member:
The Local Member, Ms Angela Harrison commented as follows:

“When the County Council started closing primary schools across Kent (2005/7) due to projected falling numbers of children, Rose Street was a failing school with falling numbers and a poor reputation. The Education Department was considering closing it. However, it was federated with West Minster Primary, put in special measures and due to tremendous hard work, not least by the former Head, Julie Holmes, it is now a thriving school – The School of Choice in Sheerness. I mention this, because doubling the size of the school will cause disruption to the smooth running of the school, no matter how carefully it is done, and I am concerned about the impact on the children’s learning.”

“When the Isle of Sheppey went from 3 tiers to 2 tiers, and the primary schools had to take 2 extra years, a lot of time and effort was put into the Rose Street site to properly plan the additional buildings to make best use of a very tight footprint. The result was extremely good. The school paid out of its funds for astro-turf to be put down on part of the “play area” for the children.”

“Now it seems that the plan is to dump some buildings on the astro-turf as it is the only available space and not replace the astro-turf elsewhere. This is wrong. I would expect the County Council to replace what they have to take up.”

“Overall, I understand the need for all schools to take the additional children predicted.

1. I want the Education Department to keep a close eye on other schools in the area using the additional capacity at Rose Street to divert their more needy applicants.
2. I would expect the final site plan and buildings to be agreed with the School and Governing Body and not just imposed.
3. I would expect the County Council to replace the astro-turf if it has to be taken up.”

The Education Cabinet Committee has a thankless task looking at these issues right across the County, but I hope you will be able to take on board my comments.”

- 5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Governing Body of the Sheerness West Federation and the Executive Headteacher are supportive of the Local Authority's plan for Rose Street Primary School to grow to 2 forms of entry, as they acknowledge the need to serve the wider needs of the children of Sheerness. They will work closely with the LA to provide the most appropriate accommodation to enable the school to continue the high standard of provision for which it is known and resulted in Rose Street being designated a 'National Support School' by the National College for Teaching and Learning in 2013.
- 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 increased demand in the area. All other schools in the planning area were considered.

Rose Street 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 Sheerness.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Rose Street School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Rose Street 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. 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 Rose Street School, by 210 places from 1FE to 2FE, 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 £2,700,000 from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.

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

<http://kent590w3:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=5033&Ver=4>

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Contact details

Report Author

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Relevant Director:

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- Director of Education Planning and Access
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The proposed expansion of Rose Street School to increase the PAN from 30 to 60 places

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 400
Responses received: 38

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	10	1	6	17
Governors	1	0	1	2
Members of Staff	17	1	1	19
Total	28	2	8	38

In support of the proposal

Parents:

- Worried that new classrooms will be put on the playing field or magic grass as both areas are used by children and their friends.
- Thank you for expanding the school for local children.
- Agree with making the school larger and extending pupil base but has concerns with the school losing its 'closeness' and maintaining the friendly and warm environment. The school has come a long way and improved over the years. Please do not lose the way in the education of the children.
- Expanding will benefit the school but concerned whether 10 month daughter would eventually get a place despite a sibling already attending and whether there will be enough help for children who are struggling so they do not fall behind. Will there be increased classroom assistants?

Staff:

- Fantastic opportunity to expand an already brilliant school. Children and parents will benefit.
- Hope traffic plan will solve the present congestion in Seashells car park and not increase difficulties. Solution would be to re-site the main entrance to Broad Street so children and families are not using the Seashells car park.
- Only concern is parking and whether car park is big enough. Impossible to park outside school in both Rose Street and Broad Street due to staff, St. Edward's School and Seashells.

Against the proposal

Staff

- Not enough school space for the classes. The hall is already small. How will the school cater for whole school assemblies and invited visitors to speak to the children? Is there going to be enough outdoor space for the children as there is only one field?

**Proposal to expand Rose Street School,
Consultation Meeting for Parents/Carers, Governors and Staff
Monday 16 June 2014
Summary of the Meeting**

Panel

Leyland Ridings	Chair of Education & Young People's Services Cabinet Committee
Steven Connors	Executive Headteacher, Sheerness West Federation
Marisa White	Area Education Officer

The meeting was attended by parents, staff and governors. The meeting was also attended by Angela Harrison, KCC and SBC Local Member.

The meeting was an informal event to give parents/carers, governors and members of staff an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the proposal.

Marisa White opened the meeting and explained the reasons for bringing forward the proposal. Because of the pressure on primary school places, especially in Sheerness, the local authority had approached Steven Connors, Executive Headteacher for the Federation, and the Governing Body asking if feasibilities could be undertaken to explore the possibility of expanding one of the schools by a form of entry. The Executive Headteacher, Head of School and Governing Body agreed, and the decision was made to consult on permanent expansion of Rose Street School.

Steven Connors said that the school was working closely with the local authority on the project. The school had agreed to admit 60 into the Reception Class in September 2014 because of the number of applications received for a place in the school. The first phase of the project would be to provide an extra classroom for Reception Year, losing as little outdoor space as possible. The new classroom would house the nursery and the current nursery and Reception class would form the two Reception classrooms. The second phase would be to provide a new building, which would be used for Years 4, 5 and 6. Years 1, 2 and 3 would remain in the current building.

Mr Ridings explained that the results of the consultation would be reported to the Education & Young People's Services Cabinet Committee meeting on 23 July, a recommendation would be made to the Cabinet Member on whether to take the proposal forward.

Issues Raised	Responses from Marisa White (MW) and Steven Connors (SC)
When the schools on the island went from a three to two tier education system, staff spent a long time and worked hard to provide adequate play area, including astro-turf and allotments and would not want the new buildings to result in the school losing these facilities.	MW - We would not want to do anything that would result in the school losing what it has fought hard for over recent years. We will try to come up with a solution that the school is happy with. SC – The school will continue to fight for the outdoor space, especially for children who do not have that opportunity at home. The allotments are a big part of what the school offers and we will be looking creatively at using other areas. We are looking at ways of creating outdoor space and will look at what we can do

	about the astro-turf.
Issues Raised	Responses from Marisa White (MW) and Steven Connors (SC)
A concern was raised about other schools not taking children and Rose Street having to take them.	MW - The schools on the island work well together. Children are placed through the "In Year Fair Access" process, agreed by the schools. This process ensures that children are shared out fairly. Many of the schools are over PAN. However, it is difficult to manage the perceptions of parents especially when a school suggests that perhaps another school would be more suitable for their child.
A concern was raised about the hall size and timetabling space for PE sessions.	MW – the feasibility is indicating that the school will need a second large space. SC – this could be used for music.
Will we have somewhere here to provide school dinners for our children as West Minster does not have the capacity to provide meals at Rose Street as well as for itself.	MW – this will be looked at as part of the feasibility for space to provide a kitchen. MW will raise the issue with KCC Client Services. SC – commented that West Minster has a new steamer which increases the capacity to cook and therefore can provide meals for the additional children in September 2014, but that a kitchen would be required for September 2015.
A query was raised about providing good quality teachers because of the difficulty that the island has of getting good staff.	SC – said that this was the highest priority and that the school was fully staffed for September. He had recently been to Canada on a recruitment trip and had recruited 17 teachers to a supply agency and the school will be employing 3 excellent teachers. The school has a good reputation, but this issue remains high on the governing body agenda.

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 Rose Street (Community Primary) School

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Rose Street School, by 210 places from 1FE to 2FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
(iii) Allocate £2,690,765.15 from the Education & Young People's Services 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for up to 98 Reception Year places on the Isle of Sheppey. The expansion of Rose Street 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 consultation meeting on 16 June, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillor; 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 Rose Street School by 210 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 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 £2,690,765.15. 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 – Rose Street 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 Swale District.

23 July 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:

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Signed

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Date