

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform  
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services

**To:** Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 15 December 2015

**Subject:** Proposed expansion of Hoath (Community) Primary School

Decision number: 15/00074

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee, 24 September 2014

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

**Electoral Division:** Herne and Sturry

**Local Member:** Alan Marsh

**Summary:** This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission a 2FE enlargement of Hoath Primary School.

**Recommendation(s):** The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Hoath Primary School from 63 to 105 places, increasing the published admission number to 15.

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

- (ii) Expand the school.
- (iii) Allocate £950,000 from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of ; Governance and Law, to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- (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.

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted

- (vi) 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 allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Canterbury district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 identified a future pressure in the Herne, Sturry and Marshside planning areas. The 2016-20 edition of the Commissioning Plan also identifies a growing need for additional primary school places in the planning areas, with a predicted deficit of 37 places in 2016 increasing to a deficit of 74 places by 2019.
- 1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Hoath Primary School increasing the capacity from 63 to 105 places adding a total of 42 places. The published admission number (PAN) will increase from 9 to 15 for the September 2016 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 15 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 105 pupils. Very small rural schools face financial challenges and increasing the size of the school will help sustain it for the future.
- 1.3 Feasibility was undertaken showing that there is sufficient space on the school site for three classrooms. Currently the school uses the original school hall as two classrooms and this project will allow the school to use the accommodation as a hall again for assemblies and PE. Additional parking spaces for staff will also be included.
- 1.4 The proposal would enable the school to operate as a half form entry school and make class organisation easier in the future. The school currently has three classes and teaches across the key stages. This proposal will allow Reception Year to be taught separately in one class and the remaining three classes to have two year groups, with a class-size limit of 30 children.
- 1.5 This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 30 September and 4 November 2015. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors, members of staff and local residents was held on 14 October 2015. This meeting was combined with the pre-planning consultation meeting and everyone had the opportunity to view the plans for the enlargement.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Hoath Primary School by 42 places increasing the PAN to 15 for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 105 places.
  - a. Capital: The school will be provided with three additional classrooms. The original school hall, which is currently used as two classrooms, will be converted back to a hall. A feasibility study has been completed the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £950,000. 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: The school will receive growth funding for the expansion period from September 2016 until it reaches a capacity of 105. The sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the setup costs of the additional classroom.

c. Human: Hoath Primary School will appoint additional teaching and support staff, as the need arises.

### **3. Policy Framework**

3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’.

3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2015-19’ identified the demand for up to 1380 school places within the Herne, Sturry and Marshside planning areas. If capacity is not added, there will not be enough places available to meet demand and parental preference.

### **4. Consultation Outcomes**

4.1 A total of 59 written responses were received; 44 of the respondents supported the proposal to expand the school, nine were against the proposal and six were undecided.

4.2 A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1.

4.4 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 is Mr Alan Marsh who responded that he supported the proposal to increase the capacity of the school.

5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:  
The Governing Body unanimously supported the proposal at their meeting on 24 September 2015. The Headteacher and Governors recognise that there is a shortage of primary school places in the wider community and want to support the future viability of the school for the village.

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 also a cost-effective and sustainable solution for the future increased demand in the area.

Hoath Primary School is a popular school judged “Good” by Ofsted. Our planning and principals by which we consider school organisation proposals outlined in the Commissioning Plan include:

- Every child should have access to a local good or outstanding school, which is appropriate to their needs.

- The curriculum is generally delivered in key stage specific classes. Therefore, for curriculum viability Primary schools should be able to operate at least 4 classes.
- Where possible, planned Published Admission Numbers (PANs) will be multiples of 30 but where this is not possible, multiples of 15 are used.

## 6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed enlargement of Hoath Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed enlargement of Hoath 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 Canterbury district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places in the Herne, Sturry and Marshside locality. This enlargement will add an additional 6 Reception Year places in the first year and 6 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, thereafter, and is in line with our vision to ensure that children and young people in Kent get the best start in life as set out in KCC's Strategic Statement 2015-20 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2015 – 2019).

## 9. Recommendation(s)

**Recommendation(s): The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:**

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Hoath Primary School from 63 to 105 places, increasing the published admission number to 15.

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- (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.

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## 10. Background Documents

10.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-2019

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

## 11. Contact details

Report Author

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## Appendix 1

### **Proposal to permanently enlarge Hoath Primary School from 63 places to 105 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 9 to 15 for Reception Year entry in September 2016.**

#### Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 180  
Responses received: 59

|                        | Support   | Against  | Undecided | Total     |
|------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Parents/Carers         | 16        | 2        | 1         | 19        |
| Governors              |           | 1        |           | 1         |
| Members of Staff       | 4         |          |           | 4         |
| Residents              | 19        | 6        | 3         | 28        |
| Other interested party | 5         |          | 2         | 7         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>44</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>59</b> |

A summary of the main points:

#### In support of the proposal

Parents:

- I fully support the outlined proposal as the school struggles for classroom space and relies on village hall availability for indoor PE, festivals and plays. As long as parking is managed I see little impact on the surrounding environment.
- I think it is great for the school and the community.
- We support the plans and believe it will help with the educational progress of pupils. We are not in favour of the current year group combinations so more classrooms will improve the situation significantly. We do have concerns about the parking situation and also hope that the availability of outdoor space will not be compromised too much.

Staff

- With the pressures of delivering the best possible education to each pupil it will be hugely beneficial to be able to have 4 classes instead 3, thus having a maximum of 2 year groups per class. The new classrooms will be an ideal environment to deliver a high level, well-resourced and precise education – space for all tables and chairs, increased storage space, easy use of ICT resources including the interactive white boards. The inclusion of a car park will decrease the amount of parked traffic on the road.
- My only concern to this plan was the traffic in the village, but after attending the meeting I must admit, I feel a little easier about it.
- I believe this is the way forward for the school and support the application.

Local Residents

- I would be delighted to see the school size increase. It should safeguard the school's place in the village, very important to keep village life going. Hoath school has an excellent reputation and is very popular.

- It is important for the parish of Hoath and surrounding hamlets that families with young children are encouraged to stay and educate their children locally for the future benefit of all.
- I support the expansion of the school as school places are badly needed in the area.
- I fully support the proposed plans and agree that it is the most viable way for the school to move forward.
- The school has an excellent reputation for the manner in which it educates and develops its pupils.
- Demand for places at the school substantially exceeds its ability to supply.
- Our only reservation about the proposed expansion is whether the proposed intake is high enough – both in terms of economic effectiveness and the pent up demand.
- The only problem I foresee is increased traffic. Please give careful thought as to how this can be managed.
- We have no objection to the enlargement of the school, but we are worried about the extra traffic that this will create.
- Our support is conditional upon what is a bad problem with the traffic at present not being exacerbated in the future. Perhaps staggered start/end times could also be a solution?
- While I don't have children a sustainable and successful school is important for the local community.

#### Other Interested Parties:

- I am all for the extension because it is a very well run school in need of the extension.
- I am in support of the proposal but do have concerns about parking and the increase in the number of cars.
- With an increasing population both locally and nationally more good and accessible school places are urgently required.
- I am aware that Hoath is an excellent school but with limited spaces. I believe the school can grow and will have an increase of population.
- Hoath is a wonderful school and I hope I can send my child there in 2016.
- Hoath is very popular with families who attend our pre-school setting. Therefore more places at Hoath will ensure these parents get their first choice for their children.

#### **Against the proposal**

##### Parents:

- We deliberately chose Hoath as first choice for our daughter due to its small and village feel. This will nearly double the size of the intake, and despite what is said, it will not retain that feeling.

##### Local Residents

- We believe it is well known by the school and the authorities that, currently, there are significant difficulties at both ends of the day due to the increased number of parents who need to drive into Hoath. Parking outside and in the vicinity of the school creates not only obstacles for other road users but also dangers to the children who are seen to run across the road unattended. Additionally, the environmental and pupil "well-being" impact of increased road usage is something that we all need to consider. We regret to have to write in a negative way, as the school is not something that we or many of the community would wish to lose, but we can well foresee the traffic issue

becoming detrimental to the positive way in which the school is viewed currently.

- This village does not have the road infrastructure to support a larger school.
- This is not for the benefit of the village as only a handful of children attending the school are from Hoath. We chose to live in this location for its peace and quiet and lack of traffic (we pay a premium for this) you are proposing a considerable increase in through traffic and parked cars having an impact on our quality of life. The parents' standard of driving (and parking) is appalling. Perhaps they need a lesson in rural driving.
- The school should serve local children not those from further away.

### **Undecided about the proposal**

Parents:

- The main reason we chose Hoath for our child was because of the small class and small school. I agree with bigger classes and extra classes, however, not the proposed numbers. I think 12 children is more suited than 15. 24 in a class rather than 30. 30 in a class is not what we would like as it goes against the reason we chose Hoath.

Local Residents:

- Very concerned about the number of cars that obstruct vision at the junction. Another 42 children mean more cars. It is something that needs addressing as a matter of urgency.
- Our main concern is the parking of staff cars and parents at drop off time and pick up time.

Other Interested Parties:

- As Chairman of the Village Hall, which as you know is situated opposite the school and was indeed the village school before the existing building, I am very concerned about the current vehicle congestion and any increase which will inevitable result if pupil numbers go up. Virtually all the pupils which currently use the school arrive from outside the village and are therefore driven in. The increase in numbers will come solely from outside and this means forty or so more cars. No one has anything against where the pupils come from but unless you provide parking the situation will be going from bad to worse. We have frequently requested the possibility of reducing the village speed limit to 20 mph without success.
- Hoath Parish Council Clerk and District Councillor – The current situation with traffic movements and parking is pretty terrible. The proposal represents a huge increase in numbers of around 65%. Without some robust means of dealing with traffic/parking, these plans look bad. No-one wants to see the school close, but these extra places are not for local children and there is little or no tangible benefit to Hoath village.



**Proposal to permanently enlarge Hoath Primary School from 63 places to 105 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 9 to 15 for Reception Year entry in September 2016.**

Consultation Meeting for Parents/Carers, Governors, Staff and Local Residents  
Wednesday 14 October 2015

Summary of the Meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr John Simmonds who welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was attended by approximately 30 parents, members of staff, governors and local residents. Mr Simmonds introduced Marisa White, Area Education Officer who explained the rationale for the proposals and the consultation timetable.

| <b>Comments and Questions</b>   | <b>Responses</b>  |
|---|---|
| <p>Headteacher:<br/>There are two main reasons why we want to expand. Nationally a new curriculum was put in place in 2014. Up to 2014 we had KS1 in one class but after 2014 it was clear this was not working. We now have three teaching spaces but this is still a challenge. We approached KCC and asked for additional space to enable Year R to be taught separately.<br/>Funding for small schools has changed over the years. Small schools no longer receive additional funding. We still need to support one teacher per class plus additional help. We now have 70 children on roll and the main part of the school is two classrooms. When we asked for additional space we realised that we needed other space as well – a hall, small group rooms etc.</p> |   |
| <p>My concerns, and those of other residents, are around parking and increased traffic. Six extra children in the first year but 40 extra in time which could be 40 extra cars.<br/>What thought have you given to the provision of parking for parents drop off and pick up as well as sports days etc. Also, why are you expanding Hoath when there are not enough children in the village to fill the school anyway? School is on a nasty bend and you have parking, children crossing etc. Can you put our minds at rest?</p>   | <p>Headteacher: Staff parking will come off the road as the front playground will become a parking area for staff. At the start and end of the day it is extremely difficult. I am also the Headteacher at Chislet and we have the same problem there. There are 92 children at Chislet and we try to ensure parents park on one side of the road. That many parked cars does slow the traffic down.<br/>Locals know when schools are busy and tend to steer clear at those times. I have only witnessed one accident – one car pranged another car – no accidents to children or adults.</p> |

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| <p>Has any consideration been given to obtain land to have some sort of a car park for parents? The number of cars has increased over the years. Is there any budget? Any thought for creating this, particularly in the afternoons when parents sit and wait for children?</p>  | <p>Marisa White: We haven't not given it thought. The same issue arises on every consultation – village and town. Our budget is Basic Need which is based on 80% of what is required to provide buildings for additional capacity. KCC has to supplement that budget to make up the balance. There is no money to purchase land, particularly if used for only part of the day. If anyone has any thoughts please let us know. We will look at anything that anyone comes up with.</p>  |
| <p>I work for the Community Safety Unit at Canterbury City Council. We have issued a guide about parking issues outside schools as we get complaints about this. We don't get complaints about Hoath. The guide is produced for parents and is being rolled out to schools, parish councils etc. Both Hoath and Chislet will be involved. It also includes links to schemes, letters, conversations schools can have with drivers etc.</p> |   |
| <p>Why not build a brand new school at Broomfield and close Hoath? It sits on a lot of land so must be worth a bit of money. Siting it at Broomfield would cut down on traffic movements.</p>  | <p>Marisa White: We would not normally consider closing a popular and excellent school. There are large housing developments happening locally – Herne Bay, Hillborough, Chestfield, etc. On housing developments we can seek developer contributions. We are looking at that but do not have funding to purchase a piece of land where there is no development to build another school or to move and expand Hoath. Funding has become tighter and tighter – either Basic Need or related to housing developments.</p>   |
| <p>Has the Headteacher considered staggering the starting time of the school? To have a flow of traffic rather than all arriving at once.</p>  | <p>Headteacher: Yes. That is one idea we would definitely look at.</p>  |
| <p>What number of people who are local attend the school and how many are driven in? what areas are people coming from in the future?</p>  | <p>Headteacher: Some years it is very much local residents and siblings. Other years there are no children of that age in the village. It moves quite a lot. Currently we have a lot of children from the village plus Hersden, Sturry and Herne Bay. Also, families move in and out of the village. It fluctuates considerably year on year.</p> <p>Marisa White: We can produce a dot map showing where the children are currently coming from. There are pressures in Herne, Broomfield and Marshside wards. We cannot say only children from those areas will come in the future. Parents can</p> |

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|---|---|
|   | put their choices of schools and it varies from year to year.   |
| I had a problem with parents flying up the road at more than 30 mph in the mornings. Two of them last week on mobile phones. Is that right?   | John Simmonds: No. Every village has the same problem. If there is a perceived problem of safety then the police will appear. Quite often these are residents and not people passing through.   |
|   | John Simmonds: I am delighted that the opportunity arose to expand Hoath. It is a good school and will be accessible to more children.<br>Regarding the funding. We have made £430m of cuts already and will need £80m savings this year. £500m since 2010. Money is extremely tight.<br>I represent Blean. 400 children go to Blean PS on the main A2090. It actually slows the traffic down. There are no accidents as people take care. The school is on that main A road plus the university. Residents are quite canny at avoiding hot spots. I have seen communities that have lost their school. The loss of a school is quite profound. |
| KCC is responsible for planning consents. Why don't you make it a condition that any development includes a school?   | John Simmonds: Population growth is not always where the schools are. Where there are developments we do try and get funding. We take money from developers up front otherwise the development does not go ahead.   |
|   | John Simmonds: Very constructive ideas. This is the first stage of the process. Whatever we do we want it to be as acceptable as possible to the village.   |
|   | Headteacher: Please contact me if parents are driving dangerously. I am more than happy to confront that parent. Do not want this to be a concern for residents.  |
| A local resident mentioned that he owns land adjacent to the village hall. He has mentioned this before. There are concerns around traffic when the parish hall is in use. He is willing to look at use of land for parking. Bearing in mind planning issues, funding etc we can work with others to provide something. |   |

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00074

For publication

**Subject: Proposed expansion of Hoath Primary School**

Decision:

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

- i. Issue a public notice to expand Hoath Primary School from 63 places to 105 places increasing the published admission number to 15.

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

- ii. Expand the school.
- iii. Allocate £950,000 from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.
- iv. Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law 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

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted

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 allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Canterbury district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 has identified a need for 1,380 school places in the Herne, Sturry and Marshside planning areas, which exceeds the number of places available. Expanding Hoath Primary School from 63 places to 105 places 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 will take into account:

1. the views expressed by those attending the consultation meeting on 14 October 2015, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
2. the views of the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school and Staff;
3. the Equalities Impact Assessment and any comments received regarding this; and
4. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to enlarge Hoath Primary School by 46 places taking the PAN to 15 (.5FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 105 places. .

- a. Capital: The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 3 additional classrooms. A feasibility study has been completed the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £950,000. 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: The school will receive growth funding for the expansion period from September 2016 until it reaches a capacity of 105. The sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the setup costs of the additional classroom.
- c. Human: Hoath Minster Primary School will appoint additional teachers as the need arises and the school size increases.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

On 24 September 2014 the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the Canterbury District.

**Any alternatives considered:**

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 explored all options for providing additional primary school places. This proposal to expand Hoath Primary School has been 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**

**Date**