

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 17 March 2016

Subject: Proposed expansion of Bysing Wood (Community) Primary School from 1FE to 2FE

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee, 15 December 2015

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Faversham (Tom Gates)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE (30) to 2FE (60) from September 2017.

Recommendation(s):

The Education and Young Peoples Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to proceed with the proposal; and

- i. Issue a public notice to expand Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE increasing the published admission number to 60.

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

- ii. Expand the school
- iii. Allocate £3.2m from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.
- iv. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- v. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure 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.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 identified a future pressure in the Faversham and Rural Faversham planning areas. The 2016-20 edition of the Commissioning Plan indicates that this pressure will continue. The current primary pupil population in the planning areas is 2,441 and this is expected to grow to 2,556 by September 2017.
- 1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Bysing Wood Primary School by 30 Reception Year places, taking the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 60 (2FE) for the September 2017 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 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identified the need for further capacity to serve Faversham and the surrounding rural area. Feasibility was undertaken showing that there is sufficient space on the school site for a 1FE expansion.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 14 January and 11 February 2016. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors and members of staff was held on 28 January 2016. 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 Bysing Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2017 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 completed and the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3.2m. 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 2017 the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. 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: Bysing Wood Primary School will appoint additional teachers and support staff, as the school size increases and 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, 2016-20’ identified the demand for up to 2,556 school places within the Faversham and Rural 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 23 written responses were received: 20 respondents supporting the proposal; 1 objecting to the proposal and 2 respondents 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 for Faversham, Mr Tom Gates, has been consulted about this proposal and is supportive of the proposed increase in numbers for the school.
- 5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Governors, Headteacher and staff of Bysing Wood Primary School see the proposed expansion as an opportunity to provide even more for the pupils and their families, as well as the wider community, whilst being socially responsible regarding the need for extra school spaces in the town.
- 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 local area. All other schools in the planning area were considered. Ethelbert Road Primary School has already been expanded from .5FE to 1FE and Ospringe CE Primary School expanded temporarily but permanent expansion could not continue due to highways issues.

There is a need for more school places in the Faversham locality. There are also plans for a significant number of houses to be built in Faversham, so more children will require a place in a local school.

Bysing Wood Primary School is a good and inclusive school that serves its local community well.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed enlargement of Bysing Wood Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed enlargement of Bysing Wood 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 Swale district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places in the Faversham and rural locality. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places in the first year and 30 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 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 Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE increasing the published admission number to 60.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £3.2 from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Summary of Written Responses

11. Background Documents

11.1 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>

11.2 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>

11.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

12. Contact details

Report Author

- Marisa White
- Area Education Officer –East Kent
- Tel number: 03000 413214
- marisa.white@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

- Keith Abbott
- Director of Education Planning and Access
- 03000 417008
- keith.abbott@kent.gov.uk

Proposal to expand Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 250
Responses received: 22

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	10	0	1	11
Governors	2	0	0	2
Members of Staff	7	0	0	7
Other interested party	1	1	1	3
Total	20	1	2	23

A summary of the main points:

In support of the proposal

Parents:

- This is a fantastic proposal. Not only would the new, improved facilities benefit a wide selection of local children, but the regeneration of the entire site would benefit the community as a whole.
- The school is a fantastic school, run by fantastic people. New housing is being built at the same time, which will mean that more families will come to the area and will want a place for their children in a good school.
- I think Bysing Wood is an excellent school and promote this proposal, but I do believe people still associate the school with a bad reputation, which is a huge shame as this is not the case at all.

Staff:

- This would be amazing for the school as the school has had great changes and is a highly recommended school for new pupils.
- I believe that the development will be a positive move for the school. However, considerable thought needs to be given to vehicle access to the site and the impact on the residential streets adjacent to the school.

Governors:

- The expansion of the school will bring with it much needed space and allow the school to provide the best education for its pupils and support for the local community.
- Our school needs to grow, however I would not want to lose the special learning environment that we provide the children. We have dedicated and caring staff and the general ethos of the school needs to be upheld.

Other Interested Parties:

- Faversham Town Council responded saying that they supported the proposed enlargement of Bysing Wood Primary School.

Against the proposal

Other interested parties:

- A parent of pre-school aged children raised a concern about the nursery on the site and what this would mean for its future. If the proposal did not affect the nursery, then she considered the proposal would be a good idea.

Undecided

Parents:

- Undecided, as likes how small the school is.

Other Interested Parties

- Local resident concerned about how the proposal would affect the surrounding neighbourhood.

Appendix 2

Proposal to expand Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE

Consultation Meeting for Parents/Carers, Governors and Staff Thursday 28 January 2016

Summary of the Meeting

Mr Ridings opened the meeting attended by approximately 10 interested parties, staff and governors.

Marisa White gave a presentation to explain why the local authority is proposing to expand Bysing Wood Primary School. She asked governors and staff to encourage parents to respond to the consultation.

KCC has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there are enough school places for children in Kent. We produce a Commissioning Plan each year. The Plan is informed by data provided from Health, Early Years colleagues and also includes the rate of inward migration into an area from the previous three years. It takes account of recent house building trends. We also take into consideration knowledge from people who live and work locally in the area.

Our current Commissioning Plan identified the need for additional places to support the increased demand in Faversham and rural area. There are a number of year groups already under pressure for places. In the current draft local plan there are a number of considerable sized housing developments planned for Faversham.

The proposal is to permanently expand the school by 1FE and the school would grow gradually year on year by admitting up to 60 children into Reception Year. If there is a severe definite local demand, we may ask the school to open another year group class early, but our intention is to expand gradually.

This is the education consultation, not the planning consultation for the building project, but we are consulting in parallel with the pre-planning consultation.

Why Bysing Wood? A good and inclusive school, growing in popularity. It serves the local population where we do need more places. The Headteacher and governing body are supportive of this proposal.

Comments	Responses
I live alongside the school and my biggest concern is that with potentially another 400 children coming to school over the next few years, what about the traffic? Both ends of the road, Lower	Marisa White responded: It will be 420 in total when the school is fully expanded. As part of the planning process highways issues and travel to school issues are looked at. The School has to look at its

<p>Road and Hayesbrook Road – parents come from the other side of Faversham and park their cars every morning.</p>	<p>current travel plan and refresh and renew it, and consult with staff, parents and local residents to do that. Funding for school expansion does allow some money to look at access and what can be done for parking, but the majority of funding is for the provision of education. It is an issue at virtually every school that we deal with and we are aware that parents who live locally do not always walk their children to school and some will drive a couple of hundred yards to the school. We will work with the school to influence those parents and give them different alternatives.</p> <p>The Headteacher responded: One of the unknowns is where the children will come from. Pedestrian access is planned from the development on the old brickworks site. If other housing developments go ahead, the schools nearby may take those children, where at the moment children living closer to us might go. This could have a knock on effect for us as children could come from further away. We are currently working with a new local community warden who is assisting us with looking at parking and what people are currently doing.</p>
<p>You give a date of September 2017 for the implementation. When will the building actually start?</p>	<p>James Sanderson responded: Construction would commence in summer 2016. Kier Construction is here tonight. We normally allow between 10-12 months for the building project and will aim to finish by June 2017 to allow the school some time before the autumn term starts.</p>
<p>We need to make plans for workmen not to mix with children.</p>	<p>Careful consideration will be given to the health and safety of the children and staff.</p>
<p>Do we have an actual date for the building of the houses? There are 260 going up over here but what about the housing on the far side?</p>	<p>Jane Wiles responded: My understanding is that on the old brickworks site, building will start later this year with the first houses being ready for occupation in Spring 2017. Marisa White responded: We will try to get you information on the other proposed developments.</p>
<p>What is the mix of the housing?</p>	<p>Percentage of social housing. Mainly housing, not apartments.</p>
<p>In my old school we had a new build with Kier. Very successful, well-managed project. Children were kept away from the site. I have a lot of confidence with the people in the room.</p>	
<p>Headteacher: We see the proposal as an opportunity. We want to make sure we are playing a part in the Faversham development and provide opportunities for local</p>	

people as the population increases.

We need more space in the school. If we had the extra small hall this would allow us to offer wrap around care in the after school period which we can't do at the moment. More pupils would mean more money which would allow us to provide extra areas of expertise which we currently can't afford. I'd like to develop a pastoral team and employ a sports coach etc.

The whole school site would be fenced. At the moment we don't use the school field much because of people misusing it, but if fenced it will become available for our pupils and could also become a community space.

The area of wooded land directly behind the school car park is a potential space that we could use for some outdoor provision. This will give some of our pupils the opportunity to experience nature.

Key for the school is how we harness the potential to keep what we have now, in terms of the ethos, atmosphere etc. The footprint of the expansion is not large. The new building will not affect current neighbours; it will be closer to the new housing development. For me, grasping the opportunity for the school, the children and the local community and hopefully play a part in Faversham as a town, growing and developing and becoming more prosperous.

Chair of Governors: When the proposal was first discussed with us the additional places were not required for the new housing developments but for families currently living in Faversham. So even if some of the developments don't go ahead, we are still going to need additional school places. All of the governors fully support this proposal.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00159

For publication

Subject: Proposed expansion of Bysing Wood (Community) Primary School

Decision:

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

- i. Issue a public notice to expand Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE increasing the published admission number to 60.

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

- ii. Expand the school
- iii. Allocate £3.2 from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget.
- iv. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- v. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure 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 Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 identified a future pressure in the Faversham and Faversham Rural planning areas. The 2016-20 edition of the Commissioning indicates that this pressure will continue. Expanding Bysing Wood Primary School from 1FE to 2FE 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:

1. the views expressed by those attending the consultation meeting on 28 January 2016, 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 Cabinet Committee.

Financial Implications:

It is proposed to enlarge Bysing Wood Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE)

for the September 2017 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 completed the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3.2. 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 2017, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. 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: Bysing Wood Primary School will appoint additional teachers and support staff, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

17 March 2016

To be added after the meeting

15 December 2015

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan 2016-20, which identified a need for additional places in the Swale District.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 explored all options for providing additional primary school places. This proposal to expand Bysing Wood Primary 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