

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education**

To: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Education**

Subject: Alteration of the decision to expand Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young Persons Cabinet Committee, 1 July 2106

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Elham Valley

**Summary:** This report sets out the request to delay the expansion of Sellindge Primary School until September 2020 and the reasons for the request.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet Member is asked to delay until 1 September 2020 the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 30.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A new housing development of 250 homes is consented for the site opposite Sellindge Primary School. House building was anticipated to commence in 2016. The developer is committed to provide additional land for the School to enable the building to expand without loss of outside space, plus £836K in financial contributions.
- 1.2 The developer and land owners are yet to agree the land price. Therefore, the development has not commenced. As the expansion of Sellindge Primary School is linked to the development and the receipt of land and contributions, the planned expansion will now not able to proceed until September 2020 at the earliest.

## 2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 a. Capital – the expansion of the School will lead to three new classrooms being built alongside increased staff parking facilities. The cost of £836,000 will be covered by the developer contribution. Additional land will be provided free of charge.
- b. Revenue – As roll numbers increase, the School will receive additional funding through its delegated budget.

- c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

### **3. Kent Policy Framework**

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child can go to a good school where they can make good progress and every child can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2015-2018’.

### **4. The Report**

- 4.1 Planning permission has been agreed for the development of 250 homes on a site opposite Sellindge Primary School. In order to accommodate the primary aged pupils from the development, Sellindge Primary School would need to expand.
- 4.2 In April 2016 KCC officers consulted on the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE. The results of the consultation were reported to the Education Cabinet Committee on 1 July 2016. On 6 July 2016 the Cabinet Member agreed to the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE, with effect from 1 September 2018, subject to planning permission being obtained.
- 4.3 A public notice was issued on 8 September 2016 outlining the proposal to expand the school by 0.5FE, increasing the published admissions number to 30 from September 2018.
- 4.4 The expansion of the school is explicitly linked to the development. The housing development cannot commence until the land has been purchased, which has been delayed. As part of the S106 the developer has agreed to purchase and demolish a cottage adjoining to the school site and to give this land to KCC to enable the expansion of the school. Without this land the school cannot be expanded.
- 4.5 The Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed in light of the request to delay the expansion. No amendments have been needed. There are forecast to be sufficient primary aged places in the planning area for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

### **5. Views**

- 5.1 The views of the Local Member has been sought. Susan Carey has commented “I support the expansion this popular and successful school in step with the expected new homes”.

### **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 In light of the delay in house building, which has no confirmed start date, the expansion of the school will need to be deferred.

## 7. Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet Member is asked to delay until 1 September 2020 the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 30.

### 7. Background Documents

7.1 Report on the proposal to expand Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE, 1 July 2016

7.2. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf)

7.3 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21

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

## 8. Contact details

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