

From: Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

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

Subject: **Revocation of the decision to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE**

Decision Number: 19/00032

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee - 30 March 2017 and the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 18 January 2018

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Deal/Walmer, Cllrs T Bond and D Murphy

Summary: This report sets out the recommendation to revoke the proposal to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- (i) Revoke the decision to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60.
- (ii) Authorise the Corporate Director – Children's, Young People and Education Services to issue Public Notice to revoke the planned expansion of expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60.

1. Background

1.1 In April 2017 the Cabinet Member agreed to the expansion of Deal Parochial Primary School by 1FE, with effect from 1 September 2018. The decision was subject to planning permission being obtained. The expansion of the school was intended to add capacity and address the need for places as forecast in the 2017-21 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent, together with the demand from consented housing developments.

1.2 In January 2018 a decision was taken to delay the expansion of the school and the associated change in published admissions number until September 2020. This was due to less demand for primary places than previously seen, and the concerns of the Deal Learning Alliance Headteachers that adding extra capacity, given the reduced forecast demand, could have a negative impact on other schools in Deal. The headteachers and governing bodies of these schools all signed up to work with the Authority to ensure that every child in the Deal area needing a place is provided with one should the

expansion of Deal Parochial CEPS be deferred. This situation is reviewed annually.

- 1.3 In October 2018, there were 25 Reception places available within the Deal primary schools and 98 places across all year groups. First preference applications for September 2019 admissions to Year R are currently over half a form of entry fewer than the number of places available.
- 1.4 Actual admissions and applications for admission indicate that we do not need to expand Deal Parochial Primary School from September 2020. We would recommend that the decision is revoked. If there is a need for further primary provision in Deal after 2022-23, we will re-consult on the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Developer contributions of £950,000 are anticipated but have not yet been received. All will be held to support future expansion.
- 2.2 £42,372 has been spent on the feasibility work, alterations to Year R toilets and project management fees. These works are not abortive as they will be required when the proposal comes forward again. The remainder of the £2,850,000 committed from the Children's Young People and Education Capital budget will be available to support the wider CYPE capital programme.

3. Views

3.1 The views of the Local Members

Cllr Derek Murphy (Local Member and a governor at Deal Parochial CE Primary School): I understand the decision to revoke the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School. However, it is important that we retain the flexibility to increase places within the Deal primary schools should there be an unexpected increase in the population.

Cllr Trevor Bond: I am aware of the latest set of forecasts which showed the only pinch point in Deal being secondary school places in Goodwin Academy in a couple of years' time. This, despite all the houses being built over the next few years. It concerns me that the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School is being taken off the table for such a long period for the following reasons:

- The academisation of the Deal primary schools concerns me and I envisage the next step will be to reduce the number of primary schools which will put pressure on the remaining primary schools which will need to expand. If Deal Parochial becomes an Academy will the KCC still have to fund the expansion?
- Whilst no doubt careful thought has gone into the numbers, there are an unusually large number of single old people living in large houses in Middle Deal and sadly some will depart us over the next few years leaving the way for families to move in. So, whilst you may have taken the new houses into account, have we taken this into account?

Taking the above into account I would rather see the postponement for 2 years only.

3.2 Views of the Area Education Officer, David Adams

Current school roll numbers and the general reduction in birth numbers in Dover District indicate this expansion is not needed at this point in time. The work carried out to date will assist when a fresh expansion proposal needs to be brought forward. The expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School continues to be the strategic solution for meeting future demand in the Town.

3.3 View of the HT and the Governing Body

Justine Brown, Headteacher: I am happy for the school to continue to be part of the strategic plan and will continue to cooperate with Kent LA on such future proposals.

Mary Heard, Chair of Governors: I agree that the decision to revoke the proposal is appropriate at this time.

4. Equalities Impact Assessment

4.1 The Equality Impact Assessment has been reviewed in light of the request to revoke the expansion. It is not envisaged there will be a greater impact on protected groups.

5. Recommendation(s)

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6. Background Documents

6.1 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2019-23)
https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s88604/KCP%202019%20-%202023%20_Cabinet%20Committee%20-%20FINAL%20PW.pdf

6.2 Report to Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee – 30 March 2017
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s76201/Item%20B1%20Deal%20Parochial%20Expansion%20PL%20RG%20approved.pdf>

6.3 Report to Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 18 January 2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s82173/Item%209%20-%20Report%20-%20Deferring%20the%20expansion%20of%20Deal%20Parochial.pdf>

7. Contact details

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