

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

To: **Richard Long, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

Subject: **Proposal to expand Water Meadows Primary school,
Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4HS
by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN)
from 15 places to 30 places from September 2020.**

Decision No: 20/00008

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: **None**

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

Electoral Division: **Herne Village and Sturry – Allan Marsh**

Summary: This report informs members of a proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary School from 15 place to 30 places in September 2021.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to expand Water Meadows Primary school, Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4HS increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 15 places to 30 places from September 2020.

1. Introduction

1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's commissioning plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-2023 is a five year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

1.2. The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2019 -2023 identifies a need for additional places in the Marshside Primary Planning Area from 2020. This is due to pressure from new housing in Sturry and Hersden which has already commenced build-out. This proposal to expand Water Meadows Primary school by 0.5FE will provide the additional places needed to accommodate pupils from these new housing developments coming forward in the planning area.

1.3. An additional 800 houses (currently submitted for planning) will be built adjacent to Water Meadows Primary School (Persimmon development) and land will be provided by the developer to expand the school by a further form of entry to become a 2FE primary school in the future as the need arises.

Canterbury District's Local Plan proposes a total of 2055 new homes for the Marshside primary planning area for the period 2018 to 2031.

2. **Proposal**

- 2.1. It is proposed to permanently expand Water Meadows Primary School from 105 places (0.5FE) to 210 places (1FE). The PAN for the school will increase from 15 to 30 for Reception Year entry in September 2021 and subsequent years.
- 2.2. Water Meadows Primary school is part of Stour Academy Trust and is a 0.5FE school with a current capacity of 120 with 82 on roll, 37.1% of whom are eligible for free school meals. (May 2018 School census) Water Meadows obtained an Ofsted judgement of good in March 2019 with outstanding in Leadership and Early Years. The popularity of the school is growing year on year and for September 2019 there were 15 pupils on roll in reception.
- 2.3. A planning application has been submitted (application no: CA/19/2221 (KCC/CA/0244/2019)) and it is anticipated it will be granted mid-January. It will provide the school with 4 new classrooms and refurbishment of ICT suite and extension to the Hall. Upgrades to the drainage, water and power will be needed to accommodate both the initial 0.5FE expansion and the further 1FE expansion. The build work is scheduled to commence before the September 2020 to enable the school to offer 30 Year R places for September 2020.

3. **Alternative Proposals**

- 3.1. Water Meadows Primary School has the capacity on its current site to expand and meet the needs of the planned housing in the Primary Planning Area. Other schools in the planning area do not have the capacity to expand as they are on restricted sites.
- 3.2. Water Meadows is the nearest primary school to the current and future housing development. It is also adjacent to the proposed development of 800 new housing where land has been secured from the developer. Water Meadows has also been named for any developer contributions in the area.

4. **Financial Implications**

4.1. **Capital**

- 4.1.1. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the costs for this proposal to be £2.3m. This would be funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget and Developer Contributions.
- 4.1.2. £73517.98 in developer contributions has been collected by Canterbury City Council towards the 2 phases of expansion of Water Meadows Primary School.
- 4.1.3. An additional £955,211.32 in developer contributions is being sought for the two phases of expansion of Water Meadows Primary School.
- 4.1.4. A total of £1,028,729.30 should therefore be secured for the two phases of expansion: (1) by 0.5FE and, (2) the further 1FE expansion

- 4.1.5. Up to £2,500 is provided for each newly provided classroom for ICT equipment from Capital budget. Totalling £12,500 for this project
- 4.1.6. In line with the agreement of the Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure here is an estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal, these estimates will be refined as detailed work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to the Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made.

4.2. Revenue

£6,000 per new learning space will be provided to the school from the DSG revenue budget towards the cost of furniture and equipment. For this proposal it is estimated that a total of £30,000 will be provided.

4.3. Human

The school will appoint staff as appropriate as it grows over the years.

5. Vision and Priority for Improvement

This proposal 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)’.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. Water Meadows Primary School undertook a consultation during the ‘In Round’ admissions consultation in 2018/2019 to increase their PAN to 30 from September 2020. No responses were received to the consultation. A business case was submitted to the Department for Education for approval and in April 2019 Dominic Herrington, Regional Schools Commissioner approved the school request to expand by 0.5FE from September 2020.
- 6.2. A pre-planning letter drop to local residents was circulated on 13 September 2019 by Gen2. No responses were received from the pre-planning letter drop.

7. Views

7.1. The Local Member

The Local Member has been informed of the proposal.

7.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

Water Meadows Primary School its Governing Body and The Stour Academy Trust support the plans to expand the school and build four additional classrooms. Moving to 1 form entry, will provide school places for local children, enabling the LA to meet the need for extra school places in the locality and will secure the long -term financial viability of the school.

7.3. 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 sustainable solution to increased demand in the local area.

8. Conclusions

The proposed expansion of Water Meadows Primary School will provide additional primary places in the Marshside planning area, where pressure on places has been identified. The increase is also linked to new housing development in Hersden and Sturry. This Proposal will add an additional 105 places to the school's capacity 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' (2019 – 2023).

9. Recommendations

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to expand Water Meadows Primary school, Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4HS increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 15 places to 30 places from September 2020.

10. Background Documents (plus links to document)

- 10.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/29786/Kent-County-Council-Strategic-Statement.pdf
- 10.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>
- 10.3. Equality Impact Assessment – Attached
- 10.4. DPIA Screening Assessment – Attached

11. Contact Details

Report Author:
Marisa White
Area Education Officer – East Kent
Tel number 03000418794
Marisa.white@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:
Keith Abbott
Director of Education Planning and Access
03000 417008
Keith.Abbott@kent.gov.uk