

From: Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's and Young People's Cabinet Committee – 15 January 2021

Subject: Proposal to expand Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School from 192 places to 240 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 48 to 60 for Year three entry in September 2021

Decision Number and Title

20/00114 - Proposal to expand Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School from 192 places to 240 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 48 to 60 for Year three entry in September 2021

Key Yes: *Public Notice required*

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report:

Electoral Division: Whitstable West – Mark Dance
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>

Summary: This report sets out the need for the expansion of Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE primary school from a PAN of 48 to 60. This will ensure the financial viability of both junior schools in Whitstable and ensure that all children attending the infant schools can have the opportunity to move onto a Whitstable Junior school

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to permanently expand Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed Junior School from 192 places to 240 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 48 to 60 for Year three entry in September 2021

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 2020-2024 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 Commissioning Plan 2020-2024 identified the need to expand Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed Junior School to ensure the financial viability of both junior schools in Whitstable and ensure that all children attending the infant schools can have the opportunity to move onto a Whitstable Junior school.
- 1.3 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)’.

2. Background

- 2.1 Whitstable has two junior schools and they historically have operated for many years with inoperable Published Admission Numbers (the number of pupils it can take in each year group). In December 2018 Whitstable Junior School ran a consultation to reduce its Published Admission Number from 75 to 60 with effect from September 2020 onwards. This reduction was agreed but conditional on Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed consulting on a proposal to increase its PAN from 48 to 60 to ensure that there were sufficient Junior places to match the number of places in the Whitstable Infant schools.
- 2.2 Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School is a popular school judged “Outstanding” by Ofsted.
- 2.3 An education consultation was undertaken from 21 September to 19 October 2020, due to covid restrictions a consultation event was not permitted, however an on-line response form was devised for the KCC webpage to enable respondents to comment on-line.
- 2.4 The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, schools in the Canterbury District, County Councillors, Local MP, Diocesan Authorities, Canterbury City Council and other interested parties. The consultation document was posted on the School’s website and on KCC’s website and the link to the website was widely circulated.
- 2.5 A total of 21 response were received during the consultation period with 10 supportive, 2 Undecided and 9 against. A summary table below shows the responses and analysis of the responses is provided in appendix 1

	Support	Undecided	Against	Total
Parents/Carers	8	2	7	17

Pupils			1	1
Members of Staff				
Governor				
Other Interested Parties	2		1	3
Total	10	2	9	21

- 2.6 A feasibility study has been carried out at the school to identify the additional spaces required for the additional pupils. Two new classrooms are to be created using the existing kitchen, dining hall and conservatory space. A new, separate building will house a new kitchen and dining hall together with additional parking spaces and as part of this work, the children's toilets will be refurbished.
- 2.7 The Headteacher and Governing Body are fully supportive of this proposal to expand the school.
- 2.8 The Canterbury Diocesan are fully supportive of the scheme and have advised they have funding to contribute to an element of this proposal. Contribution yet to be advised dependent on a detailed project cost breakdown.
- 2.9 The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposal to increase the PAN at Whistable and Seasalter Endowed Junior School to ensure the Published Admission Numbers in the Junior schools in Whitstable match those of the Infant Schools.
- 2.10 Mark Dance, the County Council Member for Whistable West supports the proposal.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The feasibility estimates the costs for this proposal to be £959,926. Final costs will be confirmed as the plans are finalised for submission for planning. The costs will be met through the allocation of funding from the capital budget and Canterbury Diocese have also advised they have additional funding to contribute towards this expansion. Contribution yet to be advised.
- 3.2 As per KCC policy, a total of £6,000 per new classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget.
- 3.3 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 to progress, 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 Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made allowing a public notice to be issued.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 Please include the legal implications of the proposed decision. Legal advice should be sought from Legal Services.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the consultation process and is attached. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Sufficient local junior provision for children in Whitstable.
- Future financial viability of the school and local Infant schools.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment. The outcome of the public consultation and community consultation will enable the Local Authority to test out these assumptions.

6. Other corporate implications

6.1 Planning and Highways will be consulted pre planning and during the planning application.

7. Governance

7.1 The Director for Education will have delegated authority to take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into necessary contracts or taking other legal actions as required to implement the decision as the proposal is below £1m

8. Conclusions

8.1 The proposal to expand Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School in Whitstable will ensure that there are sufficient Year 3 places in Whitstable and that Junior places match the number of places in the Whitstable Infant schools.

9. Recommendation(s):

9.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposed decision to permanently expand Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed Junior School from 192 places to 240 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 48 to 60 for Year three entry in September 2021

10. Background Documents

10.1 It is a Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.2 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>

10.3 KCC consultation page.

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/WhitstableandSeasalterEndowed/consultationHome>

11. Contact details

Report Author: Marisa White

Name, job title Area Education Officer –
East Kent

Telephone number 03000 418794

Email address marisa.white@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director: David Adams

Name, job title Interim Director of
Education Planning and Access

Telephone number 03000 414989

Email address david.adams@kent.gov.uk