

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
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To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 21 November 2012
Subject	Proposed enlargement of Harrietsham Church of England Primary School
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks the views of the Education Cabinet Committee on whether to progress a proposal to Public Consultation.
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to agree to a Public Consultation on the proposal to enlarge Harrietsham CEP School.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 A planning application has recently been agreed allowing 80 homes to be built in the village of Harrietsham. Work on site has commenced. As part of the planning process, a S106 developer contribution agreement was entered into which provides £350k to enable Harrietsham CEP School to be enlarged to accommodate the pupils arising from the new houses.

1.2 The Local Authority is proposing to enlarge Harrietsham CEP School by 10 places per year, bringing the total capacity of the school to 210 places. We would want to do this as quickly as possible to ensure the places are available as the families move into the houses.

## 2. Background

2.1 Harrietsham CEP School is a Voluntary Controlled school with a PAN of 20. The school relocated to its current site and into a new build about seven years ago. The school was designed to enable it to enlarge with minimal disruption (addition of two classes) as the central infrastructure (hall etc) is sufficient for a 1FE school.

2.2 A Feasibility study has been completed which demonstrates that two classrooms can be added to the end of the school building.

## 3. Commissioning Options

3.1 The Section 106 contribution is specific in providing for the enlargement of the village school. The funding cannot be used elsewhere.

3.2 The school was inspected in September 2011. While it was graded satisfactory overall, many aspects of its work were judged as good and outstanding, including the effectiveness of its leadership & management (good). The school has the staff capacity to manage expansion.

#### **4. Proposal**

4.1 It is proposed to enlarge Harrietsham CEP School to 1FE taking its PAN from 20 to 30 for the September 2014 intake. The school's class structure will change in future years as the larger cohorts work up through the school.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

##### **5.1 Harrietsham CEP School**

a. Capital - The enlargement of the school is estimated to be £380k. Additionally the school would receive £6k per classroom (£12k total) for furnishing. £350k will be available via a S106 agreement.

b. Revenue - The school will receive 'Pupil Growth Funding' in line with the arrangements recently agreed by the Schools' Funding Forum. For three years its Early Years and Key Stage One will be funded for 90 pupils as the school will need to operate three classes to comply with infant class size legislation.

c. Human – Harrietsham CEP School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

#### **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An assessment will be completed.

#### **7. Member Opinion**

7.1 Harrietsham CEP School falls into the Maidstone Rural East division. Mrs Jenny Whittle is the Local Member, and is a governor of the school. Mrs Whittle has been active in ensuring developer contributions were secured to enable the school to be expanded to serve the needs of the village as it grows. She has been informed of the proposal and is supportive.

#### **8. Area Education Officer Opinion**

8.1 The Area Education Officer (Mid Kent) fully supports this proposal. It is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increased demand in the locality.

#### **9. The Views of The School**

9.1 The Head Teacher and Governing Body have agreed to the proposal.

#### **10. The Views of Canterbury Diocese**

10.1 Canterbury Diocese are supportive of the proposal which increases capacity in a Church of England school.

## **11. Conclusions**

11.1 It is important that local provision is available to serve the residents of Harrietsham. This proposal seeks to ensure this is the case.

## **12. Recommendations**

12.1 Members are requested to agree that the Local Authority consults on the significant enlargement of Harrietsham CEP School.

## **13. Background Documents**

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework  
Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent

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