

**From:** Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education,  
Learning and Skills

**To:** Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013

**Subject:** Decision number 13/00091: **Proposal to expand Slade  
Primary School**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013

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

**Electoral Division:** Castle Ward, Tonbridge: Richard Long/Christopher Smith

**Summary:** Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 4 December 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to expand Slade Primary from 1.5FE to 2FE for September 2014.

*Recommendation(s):*

that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform take the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Slade Primary School, The Slade, Tonbridge by 15 places from 1.5 FE to 2FE.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1.5 million from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- (v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.
- (iv) Should objections be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and expand the school to allow for proper consideration of the points raised

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Tonbridge and Malling section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The planning area of Tonbridge South is forecasted

to have a deficit of up to 26 Reception year places in September 2014 and 2015.

- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Slade Primary School by 15 reception year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 45 to 60 (2 Forms of Entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils.
- 1.3 On 27 September 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Slade Primary School.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 14 October and 29 November 2013. A public meeting was held on 4 November 2013.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Slade Primary School by 15 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.

a. The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 5 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £1.5 million of which £0.9 million will be funded from the Targeted Basic Need allocation from the DfE made in August 2013 and the remainder from the Basic Need Budget, which includes the annual capital allocation for Basic Need from the DfE. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Slade Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

## **3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ has identified the demand for up to 26 Reception Year places within the planning group of Tonbridge South.

## **4. Consultation Outcomes**

- 4.1 A total of 46 written responses were received: 17 respondents supporting the proposal; 26 objecting to the proposal and 3 respondent undecided.

## 5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Members:  
Having attended the recent public meeting and heard the School's proposals, Local Member Christopher Smith is pleased to support the proposed expansion of the Slade Primary school to a 2 form entry with the increase of pupils rising from 315 to 420 places. Local Member for Tonbridge, Richard Long, having been consulted, also supports this view.

## 6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Slade Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Slade Primary School is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

## 7. Delegation to Officers

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## 8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Slade Primary is a popular and inclusive school judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is regularly oversubscribed. The school's location in Tonbridge South means it is ideally placed to meet the forecasted demand for primary school places.
- 8.2 Forecasts for the planning area of Tonbridge South indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 15 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2013 – 2018).

## 9. Recommendation(s)

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## 10. Background Documents

### 10.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council/priorities\\_policies\\_and\\_plans/priorities\\_and\\_plans/bold\\_steps\\_for\\_kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx)

### 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

### 10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Tonbridge & Malling District.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s40893/Item%20C1a%20Primary%20Commissioning%20Tun%20Wells.pdf>

### 10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Slade/consultationHome>

## 11. Contact details

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