

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

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2014

Subject: Decision number 14/00004: Proposal to expand Iwade
Community Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Swale Central

Local Members: Mr Roger Truelove and Mr Lee Burgess

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Iwade Community Primary School from 2FE (60) to 3FE (90) from September 2015.

Recommendation(s):

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Iwade Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE (60) to 3FE (90).

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £3,500,000 from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

1.1 The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The district of Swale is forecast to have a deficit of up to 87 Reception year places in September 2016 and 2017.

1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Iwade Community Primary School by 30 reception year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 60 to 90 (three Forms of Entry) for the September 2015 intake. Successive

Reception Year intake will offer 90 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 630 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 Iwade Community Primary School.

1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 4 November and 16 December 2013. A public meeting was held on 18 November 2013.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Iwade Community Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3,500,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme, which includes funding from the Targeted Basic Need allocation from the DfE made in August 2013. 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 – For a period of three academic years from September 2015, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

c. Human – Iwade Community 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 273 Reception Year places within the planning areas of Iwade and Sittingbourne North. As new housing development in Iwade progresses more children will come forward for a place at the school, resulting in a deficit of up to 157 school places should the proposal not go ahead.

Consultation Outcomes

4.1 A total of 43 written responses were received with 28 respondents supporting the proposal, 12 objecting to the proposal, and 3 respondents were undecided.

4.2 A summary of the comments received at the time of writing is provided at Appendix 1.

4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

4. Views

5.1 The view of the Local Members:

Having attended the recent public meeting and heard the School's proposals, Local Member Lee Burgess has commented as follows:

"I have discussed this fully with the Parish Council and fully support the comments they have put forward which also reflect my views on the proposal."

Roger Truelove has provided the following comments:

"Whilst I appreciate the demographic pressure I am a little concerned about the proliferation of 3 form entry schools emerging in the Sittingbourne area.

There will be strong local concerns about traffic and parking in the School Lane area. This has presented problems in the past and local residents naturally fear an increase in numbers."

5.2 View of the Parish Council

The Parish Council's view is that they accept that the school needs to be expanded but have concerns that there will be no kitchen included in the proposals, no changing facilities for the children, the impact the extra traffic will have on the village and parking in and around the school.

- Kitchen – Currently meals are brought in to school by outside caterers. The children who go to lunch last regularly miss out on food as it's difficult to judge the numbers and there is often no food left. This will only be worse if the school has more pupils without the room to cope. Not having adequate food during the school day would effect the children's ability to work properly and would not be good for the welfare of the children.
- Changing facilities – Currently children get changed for things such as P.E etc. In this day and age this shouldn't be happening, especially with regards to the older children in the school. To not have these facilities could cause some children stress and anxiety.
- Extra traffic – In the 2013 reception intake 63 children applied for places at Iwade school of which 43 of those reside in Iwade. There were no children from Iwade that requested Iwade as their first choice that didn't get in to the school. As a worst case scenario if every child from outside of Iwade was driven to school that would mean 20 vehicles as things currently stand. With an extra class added, and assuming all those extra children were from outside Iwade, there is a possibility of having another 30 cars coming in to the village at drop off and pick up time. That is 50 possible vehicles driving in to the village from outside per year group. Over the seven years once all year groups have filled the school it could be a possible 300-350 extra vehicles twice a day excluding residents living in Iwade that drive to school. Does Iwade have the infrastructure to cope?

- Parking – The last school expansion included a drop off/pick up point for parents. This has never been used as it was badly designed. It is dangerous for children as cars were driving in to the school ground and entry/exit was via a private road behind the local shops. There are no pavements and the school gate come out directly on to the road. This area is now used by staff at the school to park. Where will the additional staff needed for the extra classrooms park and also the extra parents driving in to school, especially as it is shown that most will be coming from outside of the village?

5.3 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

The Governors and staff wholeheartedly support the Local Authority proposal to increase Iwade Community Primary school to a three form entry school. With more new housing in and around Iwade we feel that it is most important that all Iwade children should be able to attend their local school and secure the school of their first choice. Additional building and possible changes to the existing buildings will also enable us to make the site more suitable and meet the needs of both the school and the local community.

5.4 The view of the 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 cost-effective and sustainable solution to increase demand in the area. All other schools in the planning area were considered.

Iwade Community Primary is a popular and inclusive school judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and is regularly oversubscribed. The school's location means it is ideally placed to meet the forecast demand for primary school places in Iwade village as new housing development continues.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Iwade Community Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Iwade Community 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 Forecasts for the Swale district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 30 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)

Recommendation(s): The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £3,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
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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

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 – Targeted Basic Need Funded Projects.

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s42589/Item%20B2%20-%20Targeted%20Basic%20Need%20Funded%20Projects.pdf>

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Contact details

Report Author

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Relevant Director:

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- Director of Education Planning and Access
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The proposed expansion of Iwade Community Primary School to increase the PAN from 60 to 90 places

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 550
Responses received: 43

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	3	6	2	9
Governors	1	0	0	1
Members of Staff	18	0	1	19
Interested Parties	6	6	0	11
Total	28	12	3	43

In support of the proposal

Parents:

- Whilst I am all for the need to expand to allow all Iwade children the opportunity to attend the school I am worried that as initially there will not be the sufficient number of Iwade children requiring one of the 90 places that they will then be filled with children from outside the village. Could we then eventually be in the situation we are now where there will still be not enough spaces for all children living in Iwade?
- Agree with the expansion but concerned that the amount of funding available for the expansion and the need for compromises to take place. What impact will this have on the facilities being provided? A kitchen and adequate dining areas being a good example, there are already issues with the food being delivered in and I can see this getting worse with an increase in school pupils and the free school meals available to everyone from next year.

Governor:

- The housing developments have significantly increased the population of Iwade. As the housing development continues, Persimmon currently building 420 homes, the demand for 'local' school places in Iwade will increase.

Staff:

- The school is currently full and this means that when families move into the village there are no places available and children have to travel to other schools in Sittingbourne.
- At Iwade we provide employment for a large number of local people. Many of our current employees live in the village and if our school expands there will be even more employment opportunities for local people from the community of Iwade.
- Our school has a thriving Breakfast and After School Club and I believe these facilities are necessary for a community such as Iwade as our numbers suggest. Parents who move into this area will also require such childcare facilities and I believe Iwade Community Primary School can and should offer these 'wrap around' arrangements for the community.

- Many of the staff responding to the consultation said that plans for the school should include a kitchen so that the school can provide meals for all the children at Iwade School and their federated school, Bobbing Village School.

Other Interested Parties

- I have no objection in principle to the expansion of the school. I do however have reservations in connection with the parking outside the school.
- I agree with the proposal but this seems to be all about primary school places, with no mention of provisions for older children in the area.
- Clearly necessary.

Response from Iwade Parish Council:

Iwade Parish Council supports the expansion to three forms entry and the residents understand that there is a need for it, but this is going to cause major issues with traffic in the village and issues around this. The question of a satellite school was raised and we would ask if this has been investigated as this would address these issues and if appropriately located assist areas where there is a shortage of places such as Kemsley and Bobbing, cutting down on the need for parents to travel some distance to school.

Other concerns raised by residents were the need for a kitchen and changing rooms, both for the welfare of the children.

Against the proposal

Parents:

- Iwade is losing its village look and feel and expanding the school will contribute to this.
- If the school expands the places will fill with children outside the village which will inevitably increase traffic flow at an already very busy time.
- May be a new school built somewhere between the villages or to the east of the A249 may be a better option and with the correct road network be less strain on an already bursting system.
- The expansion of the school would mean losing valuable outdoor space which the children enjoy being able to use for sports and general play.
- I personally believe that there is not enough space for an additional 210 children with the associated buildings required. Some of the space I believe to be protected due to the great crested newts so cannot be considered useable space.
- I feel that in ten years' time perhaps this extension could be justified but currently the figures do not stack up. Places will be filled with children from outside Iwade as the demand from within Iwade is evidently not there. This will only serve to bring its own problems as children from outside will have to drive hence parking and traffic problems.
- I fully support the school as my children are very happy there but would like to see it mature with its current size and perhaps expand in the future with a satellite site if this were shown to be required.

Other Interested Parties:

- The expansion of Iwade Primary School is in mine and many residents of Iwade opinion unsustainable. The quality of life of local residents should also be taken into account as well as the educational needs of the young.

School Lane is virtually closed down twice a day due to the heavy traffic caused by parents dropping off or collecting their children.

- A bigger school would make the village a more appealing place to build even more housing, which is not what I would like to see.
- Parking is a major issue at school pick up and drop off times already – how will the village cope with more cars during these times if the school was to expand?
- The playing fields are vital to the school and our children's health; surely expansion will mean the loss of part of this valuable amenity?

**Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School,
Public Consultation Meeting – Monday 18 November 2013**

Panel	Mr Leyland Ridings (Chair)	Chair of Education Cabinet Committee
	Mrs Marisa White	Area Education Officer (East Kent)

In Attendance

	Mrs Jane Wiles	Area Schools Officer
	Mrs Ann Davies	Public Meeting Recorder
	Mrs Katrina Ware	Executive Head Teacher
	Ms Caroline Mariner	Head of School

The meeting was chaired by Mr Leyland Ridings and was attended by approximately 30 people including parents, governors, staff and other interested parties. The meeting was also attended by Local Member, Mr Lee Burgess.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion and the reasons for the proposal being brought forward by KCC was given by Marisa White. Marisa White explained that this is the consultation for the education case and that a separate planning consultation regarding the building project would take place, running in parallel with this consultation. She explained that the school would grow over a 7 year period as each successive Year R admission number increases from 60 to 90.

Katrina Ware, Executive Headteacher said that the school wanted every child in Iwade to get a place at the school but this had not happened resulting in children living opposite the school having to travel out of the village for their education. The concerns that this proposal brings with regard to parking and traffic around the school are issues that we can work through together. The school is a 'Good' school as judged by Ofsted and is working towards becoming an 'Outstanding' school in the future.

Issues Raised	Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted
122 applications for a place, how many of those were actually Iwade families? If the school becomes 'Outstanding' families from other areas will want their children to go to the school.	I do not have the information with me this evening, but the authority can provide that information. As mentioned in the presentation, we can for a period of three years create a catchment area which will ensure that children from Iwade will be given priority for a place at the school.
If the school becomes an academy will that change the admission arrangements	Academies have to comply with the Admissions code and would therefore not be vastly different. Katrina Ware confirmed that it would not be the intention to change the oversubscription criteria if the school became an Academy.

Issues Raised	Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted
<p>If the 90 places are not taken up by Iwade children will they fill from elsewhere? Do we need 90 places for Year R?</p>	<p>Katrina Ware said that this was a risk but by September 2015, the risk will be less as the new housing comes forward. Marisa White said that we cannot stop families from Kemsley applying for places as parents have a right to express a preference and some prefer a good school further away.</p>
<p>As residents we are concerned about the traffic and parking. Expansion of the school would be an accident waiting to happen and could be a child from the school. We would like to be involved in the plans.</p>	<p>The intention will be to involve the residents. We have had some surveys carried out and in the early designs we are looking at ways of mitigating the traffic problem. Residents may have ideas that will help with the planning.</p>
<p>There was a drop off point at one time.</p>	<p>Katrina Ware said that there was drop off point but it was badly planned and didn't work for the residents or the school. The school wants the residents to be fully involved and this new planning process could be the opportunity to sort out the problems the best we can.</p>
<p>Will expanding the school mean that as well as additional classrooms the hall will be expanded and a kitchen will be provided as at the moment the school meals are cooked off site and brought in and I think that as the school expands a larger kitchen at the school will be needed to provide the meals.</p>	<p>We are at the feasibility stage for the new buildings and the school will be involved. The targeted basic need funding from government for additional places is never enough to provide everything and the school will need to prioritise. During the design stage, enlarging the hall will be looked at if this is not possible the provision of a second large space will be explored. We do not have funds at present for a new kitchen but we will hear more in December about the government's new policy on Free School Meals for all infant aged children and any capital allocation to support this.</p>
<p>Concern raised that there are not secondary school expansions planned and she does not want the children having to travel further for their secondary education.</p>	<p>In the shorter term we are beginning discussions with local secondary schools about providing additional capacity. In the longer term Swale Borough Council's Local Plan for new housing has secured secondary and primary school sites on the Grovehurst Farm development as we are aware that all the secondary schools are on the</p>

Issues Raised	Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted
	other side of Sittingbourne. These will come alongside the new housing development.
When will the building work begin?	It will depend on the design and structure but although some of the work may need to take place in term time, the key period will be summer 2014. Increasingly modular build is being used, which means the foundation work is completed on site and the modular buildings are manufactured off site and installation on site is a shorter period. Health and Safety will be key to the project.
Where on the site will it be built?	Katrina Ware responded - It appears that it will be at the far end of the site and will take some field, but we have a lot of field at the top end which is currently not being used for sports. We hope that the playing field in the village which is part of the development will be released early and that field is only a two minute walk for us. The amount of sport and play space required will be factored into the plans.
I don't understand why when the school was going to be an academy you were looking at community provision and now that you are proposing expansion you are still considering community provision as part of the school, but because there is limited space I would prefer that there is additional field space rather than an after school or breakfast club.	The school, at the heart of the village, is a community provision. We have a thriving breakfast and after school club and this will continue.
Can I confirm that the Reception PAN in September 2015 will be 90 and the rest of the year groups will stay at 60?	This was confirmed.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00004

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (v) Issue a public notice to expand Iwade Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE (60) to 3FE (90).

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

- (vi) Expand the school
- (vii) Allocate £3,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (viii) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
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Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Swale section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for up to 87 additional Reception Year places within Swale district.

The expansion of Iwade Community Primary School will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 18 November, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the Borough and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

It is proposed to enlarge Iwade Community Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated

to be in the region of £3,500,000 of which £1,946,501 will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and the remainder from the Basic Need Budget. 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 – Iwade Community Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2012

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the Swale District.

14 January 2014

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

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Date