

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

To: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

Subject: Proposal to expand White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts, Dover

Classification: Unrestricted

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

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Dover Town

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts from 1FE to 2FE for September 2014 and asks the Cabinet Member to take the decision outlined in the recommendation below.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to agree to the decision to:

Allocate £40,000 for the expansion of White Cliffs Primary College for Arts from the Medium Term Capital Programme. The additional funding of £1.8m for the project, as detailed below, was bid for and won as part of the Target Basic Need Fund.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Dover district section of the 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18', which was agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2013, has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The planning area of Dover Town is forecast to have a deficit of up to 29 Reception year places in September 2016 and 2017.
- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts by 30 reception year places, taking the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 60 (one form of entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils.
- 1.3 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 14 November 2013.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of seven additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been conducted. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2.2m. 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 - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget as follows:-
- (i) Pupil growth money: In the year of expansion (September 2014 to August 2015) the Reception Year PAN will be protected on 30 pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. This growth protection funding will continue for the following two years. Thereafter, future increases to the Reception Year PAN will be funded through the Local Authority's rising roll policy.
 - (ii) EFA Delegated budget: Academies are funded on the academic year September to August. The pupil count used in the calculation of the budget is taken from the October census, prior to the following academic year, therefore any increase to numbers on the October 2013 census will be reflected in the academy's academic year funding Sep 2014-Aug 2015. In acknowledgement of the lag in funding, growth funding has been provided for the period Sep 2014-Aug 2015.
 - (iii) Additional Classroom funding: As part of the permanent increase to the academy's PAN of 30 pupils, funding will be allocated at £6,000 as a contribution towards the set costs of each additional classroom that needs to be opened resulting from the increase of the PAN.
- c. Human – White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts will appoint additional teachers and support staff 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 29 Reception Year places within the planning area of Dover Town.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of three written responses were received, two respondents supported the proposal; and one was undecided.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments received 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.
- 4.4 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.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Members: Having attended the recent public meeting and heard the proposal, Local Member Mr Gordon Cowan is fully supportive of the proposal to expand this school. Mr Cowan is of the opinion that the senior management team have put in a tremendous amount of good work over the last few years and this shows in the excellent results and is a great message for the community. Doubling school numbers will still give the same level of education. Places are at a premium and we need to grow those places. The most essential part of all of this is the children, parents and the community. Mrs Brivio is also supportive of the proposal but has concerns around transport issues as, whilst high numbers of the pupils currently live in the local area and may well walk to school, with the increase in size it is very likely that children will come from further afield. The school is in an area that already suffers from heavy use with HGVs using the road past the school en route from the industrial area at the end of Coombe Valley Road. Consequently Mrs Brivio would like to be assured that a traffic management scheme will be in place.
- 5.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
Headteacher: The Headteacher is in full support of the proposal.
Governing Body: The Board of Directors are supportive of the sustainable long term solution that has been proposed by KCC to enable the school to move from one form entry to two form entry. The proposal includes extra classroom provision that will ensure the school's high standards are maintained.
- 5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts is a fully inclusive school judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and is increasing in popularity year on year. The school's location in Dover means it is well placed to meet the forecast demand for primary school places. Having considered other commissioning options this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increase demand in the area.

6. Education Cabinet Committee

- 6.1. The Education Cabinet Committee considered and endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan at its meeting on 27 September 2013. The Commissioning Plan identified the need for additional places in the Dover Town planning area of Dover District. In addition the bid for funds to expand the schools was considered and endorsed at the same meeting of the committee under the Targeted Basic Need Report.

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 planning area of Dover Town 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 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18'.

9. Recommendation

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to agree to the decision to:

Allocate £40,000 for the expansion of White Cliffs Primary College for Arts from the Medium Term Capital Programme. The additional funding of £1.8m for the project, as detailed above, was bid for and won as part of the Target Basic Need Fund.

10. Background Documents

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 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18

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

Education Cabinet Committee report– 27 September 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Dover District.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43250/Item%20D3%20-%20Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%202013-18%2027092013%20Education%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf>

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Contact details

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Proposal to expand White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts, Dover

Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 325
 Consultation responses received: 3

A summary of the responses received showed:

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors				
Staff				
Parents	1		1	2
Pupils				
Other	1			1
Totals	2		1	3

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- Thoroughly approve of investment
- I believe that only good can come from this radical transformation within White Cliffs. The proposed changes give a clear indication of the needs of our local families and their children and I am behind this 100%.
- The increasing pressure to provide additional school places is understood and the Board of Directors are to be commended for responding positively to KCC's request for increased capacity at the school.

Concerns raised:

- the school may be unable to attract and retain the requisite levels of additional teaching staff
- building works will be disruptive to pupils or staff if they take place during school hours
- estimates for building works may not include the need for such work to be performed outside of the normal school day
- any agreed capital expenditure required for accommodation and fit out plus any ongoing operational budget provision might not be ring fenced
- if there are any future budget cuts the school might not be indemnified by KCC/EFA

Public Consultation Meeting

White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts

14 November 2013

Mr Leyland Ridings (Chair)	LR	KCC Member
Mr Chris Russell	CR	Chief Executive - DFA
Mr Martyn Doole	MD	Director of Operations -DFA
Mrs Sue Knight-Fotheringham	SKF	Head of School
David Adams	DA	Area Education Officer (Mid Kent) KCC

Purpose of the Meeting

DA referred to a power point presentation and explained in detail the proposal to expand White Cliffs from 1FE to 2FE.

CR – The DFA was delighted that White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts had been recognised in this way. Since Sue Knight-Fotheringham (SKF) had been appointed the school had changed dramatically. The children were consulted on what they wanted to see and the quality of teaching and care was very high. The DFA was confident that with an added form of entry the standards would be equally as good. All staff are employed on a federation contract, and are part of one team which shares good practice. The School is run by SKF, but all members of the Federation are equally responsible for the children. This is a wonderful opportunity for this community.

SKF – was delighted to see parents present and thanked them for attending. All staff across the Federation were extremely dedicated to the children’s education, well being and believe that this will set them up as good employable citizens for the future. The children have always been the drivers within the Federation and they will have their say in the development of the new building. This is an amazing community to work in and it deserves to have the very best education we can offer. We have valuable support from parents and this is much appreciated.

Question	Response
<u>Guardian</u> : What will happen about traffic management? What about arrangements during construction?	<u>DA</u> – the project will probably take about a year to complete. The contractors who are employed will have a record of working on school sites and will have experience of managing safety etc. There will be a segregation within the school and contactors will work around the times of the school day as much as possible. Construction traffic will be kept separate for safety. Until we know what the solution is going to be for the build it is difficult to respond further. Again, this will depend on the solution as to how this will be managed.
Where will the new buildings be?	<u>CR</u> – it is possible the build might be at the back or another solution is to build another storey on top. We don’t know yet but disruption will be kept to a minimum.
What about the children’s play space, will some of this be lost?	<u>CR</u> - We will be putting new spaces in, if we build on existing areas. We don’t have the detail yet but this will be a key area.

Question	Response
<p>There are generally two adults per class will this continue? Canteen facilities, will they be upgraded?</p> <p>Will this happen right from the start?</p> <p>How do you intend to maintain the current excellent standards?</p>	<p><u>CR</u> – Yes.</p> <p><u>CR</u> - The kitchen will be made a larger.</p> <p><u>CR</u> - It will be part of the phased programme. The kitchen will be larger and also the hall.</p> <p><u>CR</u> - Exactly the same way as we do now. The whole Federation acts as one and supports each other. There will be no falling off of standards at all.</p>
<p><u>Local Member</u>: How you will accommodate an extra class next September?</p> <p>Will there be extra parking?</p>	<p><u>CR</u> – We are exploring options at the moment but we won't go down the mobile route, we are quite clear about that. It is possible we may use Barton Junior School and if this is the case we will provide transport. As soon as plans are ready, final decisions can be made.</p> <p><u>CR</u> – yes.</p>
<p><u>Local Member</u>: This is a good community. I must congratulate Chris, his team and the Federation as a whole on the tremendous amount of good work that has taken place. This shows in the excellent results. Doubling school numbers will still give the same level of education. There are not many here tonight but I am sure the message will be 'let's get on with the job and build a school for the future'. Places are at a premium. Let's continue to build on the Federation. The most essential part of all of this is the children, parents and the community. Congratulations.</p>	
<p><u>Parent</u>: In expanding the school, there will be two classes per year group, how will this work?</p> <p>Will you be expanding Pebbles nursery?</p>	<p><u>SFK</u> – We can't answer this right at the moment but Barton and Shatterlocks are experienced at this and we will draw on their expertise. Children will be looked at by friendship groups, so we will be having those discussions with parents. Children who start their education with friends will remain the same.</p> <p>Pebbles nursery is a business in its own right and is not part of the main school. I know it is full at the moment and there is a waiting list. I would hope this could be looked at later in order to provide childcare for this area.</p>
	<p><u>LR</u> – Those in this school are lucky, there is a super group of teachers, board of directors and children.</p>

DA – Reminded those present that comments should be received by 29 November and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

13 people attended the meeting.

