

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

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

Subject: Decision Number: 14/00018 Proposal to Enlarge Joy Lane
(Community) Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013, 14
March 2014

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Whitstable

Local Members: Mr Mike Harrison and Mr Mark Dance

Summary: Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 14 March 2014, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to the recommendations below:

Recommendation(s):

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Joy Lane Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE to 3FE.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1,500,000 from the Education. Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

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. This decision is conditional upon the grant of planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by 1 October 2014.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Canterbury district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The district of Canterbury is forecast to have a deficit of up to 29 Reception year places in September 2015 and only 0.4% surplus in 2018. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide

additional places in Whitstable from September 2013 and Joy Lane agreed a temporary expansion for September 2013 and 2014.

- 1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Joy Lane 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 permanently expand Joy Lane Primary School.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 13 January and 28 February 2014. A public meeting was held on 30 January 2014.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Joy Lane 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 commissioned. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £1,500,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme. 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 – Joy Lane 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 331 Reception Year places within the Whitstable planning area. If capacity is not added, there will not be enough places available locally to meet demand and parental preference.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 At the time of print a total of 114 written responses were received: 70 respondents supporting the proposal; 19 objecting to the proposal and 25 respondent undecided.

5. Views

- 5.1 The view of the Local Members:
The Members have been contacted and we are awaiting their response.
- 5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
At the governing body meeting on 2nd December 2013 Governors made the following statement in regard to the proposed expansion:
*“In response to the LA’s request to the Head Teacher and the Governing Body of Joy Lane Primary School to agree to proposals for the expansion to three-form entry, Governors agreed that there were good educational grounds to support such a proposal.
It was, however, resolved that it was entirely conditional on*
- i. Improved safe access to the site*
 - ii. The addition of sufficient parking space to accommodate increased staff arising from the development.*
 - iii. A third access route to provide vehicle access through Vulcan Close to the School site, either as route in Vulcan Close and out to Joy Lane and/or drop off roundabout zone in Vulcan Close.*
- Subject to the satisfactory resolution of these points, the Governing Body unanimously agreed to support the proposals”.*
- Mrs Hines, Headteacher, responded:
“As the Head Teacher, I have led three successful 'Good' Ofsted inspections in the School and three 'Good' Oyster Bay Nursery Ofsted inspections. The School has the Leadership and capacity to maintain, sustain and improve upon the Ofsted grade should the proposal move forward.
- I understand residents concerns regarding traffic and parking and have worked very hard to improve and manage the situation, and feel this can be resolved as specified in the Governors statement. I believe the education of local children attending local Schools is more important and should remain paramount when considering the proposal to expand.*
- Once again, I would like to reiterate that the Teaching Staff and Governors of Joy Lane would fully support the expansion of our School.”*
- 5.3. 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.

Joy Lane Primary School 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 Whitstable.

6. Delegation to Officers

- 6.1 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.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Forecasts for the Canterbury 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).

8. Recommendation(s)

8.1 Recommendation(s): the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is on the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Joy Lane Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE to 3FE, conditional upon obtaining planning agreement for the additional accommodation required.

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.

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. This decision is conditional upon the grant of planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by 1 October 2014.

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
<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s42589/Item%20B2%20-%20Targeted%20Basic%20Need%20Funded%20Projects.pdf>
- 10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

11. Contact details

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