

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services**

To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 17 March 2016**

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway: **None**  
of Paper

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

Electoral Division: **Swanscombe & Greenhithe (Cllr Peter Harmon)**

**Summary:**

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place

**Recommendation:**

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

- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b. Allocate £2.65m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- d. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

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 in order to allow for proper consideration of the points

raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.2. The Dartford district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identifies a local pressure in Reception year places in the Swanscombe & Greenhithe planning area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the planning area from September 2016.
- 1.3. Every school in the planning area was considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including location, cost, proximity to demand, site size, willingness of the school, highways issues, Sport England and Ofsted rating. Craylands Primary School was identified as the best option for expansion according to these criteria.
- 1.4. The Department for Education issued new Regulations in 2013 (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013), and as a consequence of the changes introduced in these regulations, local authorities can propose making changes to maintained schools including expansion (enlargement of premises) providing that they follow the statutory process.
- 1.5. Before a statutory Public Notice is published to initiate a representation period, a public consultation must be undertaken.
- 1.6. This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 18 January to 22 February 2016. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors, members of staff and other stakeholders was held on 26 January 2016.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Craylands Primary School, increasing the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.
  - a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £2.65m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project are an estimate. 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, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

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

### **3. Kent 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 the Education Commissioning Plan.
- 3.2. The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2016-20’ identified a pressure on primary school places in the Swanscombe & Greenhithe planning area. Changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on primary school places in the planning area.

### **4. Consultation Outcomes**

- 4.1. The local authority established a formal consultation process over a five week period, between 18 January to 22 February 2016. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors, members of staff and other stakeholders was held on 26 January 2016. For this proposal an informal meeting was held giving the public the opportunity to discuss the proposal with the AEO and property representatives.
- 4.2. A total of 38 written responses were received by the local authority through the prescribed consultation process. 20 respondents supported the proposal. 16 objecting to the proposal. 2 respondents were undecided.
- 4.3. A summary of the comments received by the local authority is provided at Appendix 1.

### **5. Views**

#### **5.1. The Local Member**

Cllr Peter Harmon was informed of the proposal.

#### **5.2. Headteacher**

The Headteacher fully supports the proposal.

#### **5.3. Chair of Governors**

The Chair of Governors is fully supportive of the proposal.

#### **5.4. Area Education Officer:**

The analysis of the needs in the area indicate that due to immediate pressure and future demand, based on planned new housing in the Swanscombe & Greenhithe planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required.

5.5. The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every primary school in the planning area with a view to whether that school could be enlarged. I am of the firm opinion that notwithstanding the objections received during the consultation, the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solution to the demand in the Swanscombe & Greenhithe Planning Area is to enlarge Craylands Primary School by 1 form of entry

## **6. Proposal**

6.1. Although the school is a PFI build, The proposed expansion of Craylands Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.

6.2. 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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## **8. Conclusions**

8.1. Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to medium & large scale housing development and inward migration.

8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2016 – 2020).

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1. The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b. Allocate £2.65m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to

- accommodation.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
  - d. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

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 in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised. This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

## **10. Appendices**

10.1. Appendix 1 – Summary of Written Responses

## **11. Background Documents**

11.1. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/bold-steps-for-kent>

11.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016 – 2020

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=61244>

11.3. Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

## **12. Contact details**

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*Relevant Director:*

Keith Abbott

Director of Education Planning and Access

03000 417008



## Appendix 1

### Proposal to expand Craylands Primary School Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 240

Consultation responses received: 38

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed
Governors	1		
Staff	3		
Parents	15	2	16
Pupils			
Other	1		
Totals	20	2	16

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

- Good school with potential
- The site is large enough to accommodate more children as long as the buildings/facilities are developed appropriately.
- With excellent HT and governors
- Having attended the open day at the school I was very impressed with the facilities and outdoor space.
- Strongly in favour of proposal as it is sad children from neighbouring Penstemon Drive Estate are unable to place children in school
- Think plans need to be developed with staff and governors as we know and understand needs of our children
- Need storage space/breakout space/learning space for smaller groups
- Need to keep community feel as it is a small school with a wonderful family like environment and I don't want to lose this
- Kitchen space and space for children to eat in is vital. For many children school lunch is very important and we don't want this compromised
- Am in favour of expansion but must not be rushed and all members of school community involved
- I am very happy with the nurturing and personality developing aspect of this school and would not want to lose this. I really believe in bigger possibilities for children coming into school from surrounding area to experience a good education
- Hope pre-fab classrooms will not be used for expansion.
- Have concerns relating to traffic and parking
- Think it is a good idea and will give more places for people in the area
- Concerned the school hall is not large enough as already have issues when using space for school productions.
- Concerned re lack of storage space
- Very concerned about losing the mobiles as they have been invaluable for staff, specialist teachers, outside organisations when meeting with pupils

- As a member of staff I do understand the need for places but our school is already bursting and there is not enough room for staff as toilets and staff room are not teaching spaces not sure how important they are
- Feel the build would be better built in the court area as it would seem mad to expect KS2 children to play in a very small area and it would not seem fair on Reception children to be surrounded by them either
- We need to ensure that the close knit community feel of our school is not lost at any cost, our care and education is outstanding and this not be lost
- The Town Council not only agree with the plan to expand the school from 1FE to 2FE but would like to see this as we recognise there is a shortage of quality school spaces in the area
- I look forward to seeing the plans
- Would have appreciated an additional date for the consultation as couldn't make the 26th

### **Comments against the proposal:**

- I disagree with expanding the school to 2FE as it will mean a reduction of recreation area for children at the same time as doubling the amount of pupils
- The school hall is currently not big enough for parents to be able to attend plays/concerts/assemblies, increasing the size by including one classroom is not adequate to resolve this problem with the current amount of pupils let alone double the amount
- Parking/dropping off pupils near to the school is already dangerous with the leisure centre car park that is used by parents full and other parents using the nursery car park despite not having any children attending the nursery and making it extremely hazardous for the small children that attend and also meaning that there is not always a place to park for those of us dropping off children that attend the nursery
- The excellent atmosphere in the school where every child's name is known by the teachers and pupils know most of the other pupil's in the school. Each child is known and valued as an individual which would be more difficult in a larger school
- Having had 2 children who have attended Craylands, thrived in a 1FE and both now attend grammar school, another currently in Y4, one due to start this September and another younger child will start in 3 years, I feel that the younger two will miss out to the above point if the school became 2FE.
- The reception play area which has recently been finished is not big enough for 60 pupils and sharing it would half the amount of time it is currently used due to more pupils using it.
- We chose the school for our children because it was a 1FE and although some parents specifically choose schools because they are larger, there should be some left at 1FE. The Gateway School has much larger grounds but has not been consulted to expand. Their parking problems are equal to ours.
- Both my children that have left have commented that they are glad it was 1FE
- I believe the expansion of the school will have a negative impact on the learning experience for children
- Loss of outside playground – the outside playground area available for children will be reduced as a result of the new building. The grounds are not large for the existing school and despite proposing to double the number of pupils the outside playground space will be reduced significantly by the development. This is detrimental to children and will reduce the amount of exercise they are able to get at



school which is vitally important as children are now less likely to be playing out in the street at home

- Loss of the community/family atmosphere in the school – doubling the number of pupils will reduce the opportunities for younger children to interact and see the older children within the school as it will by necessity reduce the number of all school assemblies, lunch times and other activities
- Reduced access to the school – the current volume of children accessing the school through the gate is difficult and once our daughter has joined the mass of children entering the school at the same time it is very difficult to see that she actually has passed through the gates this will be much worse with a proposed doubling of the numbers of children who all arrive at school at the same time and does not help start the day in a calm and welcoming manner
- Disruption to children during construction – the proposal to build a two storey school building within the grounds very close to the current school buildings means that there will be a significant disruption to the children with noise and air pollution caused by the construction activity
- I believe that expanding the school would have a negative impact on the surrounding community
- Increased traffic congestion – the school currently makes no provision for parking or dropping off children by car and relies upon the goodwill of neighbouring businesses and local residents where parents need to park whilst dropping off children at the school. Increasing the school to a 2FE will not only increase the number of pupils who will be driven to the school but also increase the proportion of pupils travelling to school by car as pupils from an expanded catchment area are far more likely to travel by car
- Reduced choice in type of school – there are already larger primary schools in the area and prospective parents are able to choose between the larger resources available in a larger school and the really friendly positive atmosphere of a community school. Craylands Primary school will be difficult to differentiate from other schools in the area if it moves to 2FE
- Temporary traffic congestion due to the volume of cars/vans to bring construction workers to the site and also deliveries of building materials
- We have had good experience of the school, it is not somewhere that pushes academic excellence but is a positive environment where all children are valued as individuals and they all know each other and care for each other. This would be lost in a larger school
- Craylands is a small community school for local children. It is already under pressure from new housing developments at Ingress Park (in Greenhithe) and other local developments
- The main problem is a 'lack of schools' due to expansion over the past 15 years of local area. New school should have been considered at Ingress Park and perhaps elsewhere in Greenhithe/Stone to provide school places for those who live there
- A child should be able to walk to local school – any expansion at Craylands will bring children from outside the area and completely misses the point of community education
- There is little space for current intake, classes in mobile classrooms and no normal library. There is just not enough room
- The deal seems to be done without any consultation with parents.

- There is not enough room in the school for an extra class as it is the children struggle to eat lunch in the hall and it is unacceptable to put children into temporary classrooms, as they freeze in winter and sweat in the summer
- Playing fields will be lost and decent teachers will be spread too thin
- Health & Safety issues
- Did not like the attitude of the letter or tone ' we are going ahead regardless'
- I chose to send my son to a small school so feel my rights have been trashed – angry doesn't come close – leave Craylands alone!
- Having moved from Knockhall Academy we have experience their building works to expand to a 3FE school. The disruption, although school tried to keep to a minimum, is too much for parents and children alike. It's noisy, distracting and inconvenient.
- Craylands has an excellent balance of outdoor space for the children and this will be compromised with the additional children and of course the extra buildings
- This is a great school, my child has been so happy here and I do think this is due to the feeling a small school has
- Parking will be affected. Swanscombe Leisure Centre has adequate parking but with the additional classes, there will be additional cars. Nearby roads will be congested and local residents will be inconvenienced. Knockhall had problems with parking before the expansion and have only got worse since last summer
- I like the fact that school is small and the teachers know all the pupils by name. I feel that this intimacy will be lost by the school becoming bigger
- We already having children eating their packed lunches in the classroom as there isn't enough room in the school hall to accommodate them all
- The facilities are not big enough to expand the school as during playtime when its muddy the children are not allowed on the grass and the playground is not big enough for the pupils at present so how will they manage with another 30 plus children
- I do not feel that temporary units are sufficient for teaching children in. They are cold in the winter
- Building work will upset the running of the school. Why didn't Crest Nicholson build a school on Ingress Park as promised?
- Think school should stay as it is. Like my children attending a small school.
- Feel if need more classrooms would need better parking facilities, bigger hall, playground etc and should have planned for that originally when building Craylands
- Lack of dinning space
- Lack of school hall/gym
- Lack of playground space – concreted not field. Current field not big enough
- Transportation issues – current roads around the school are congested daily around school open/close times
- My child is sensitive and would not cope very well in a large group or crowded situation. There are already concerns with H&S during school run and additional traffic would endanger the children
- School needs to expand to accommodation additional housing crisis so perhaps they should be approached to provide additional spaces. There are already a lot of schools with large intakes that parents can select. To expand Craylands would ruin the ethos and personal attention to care for the children & staff. My child's education and emotional needs will suffer as a result of expansion. She is happy and stable at school
- Currently do not have headteacher so not the best time to expand

- Feel this is a foregone conclusion given timings/plans – plus only a week's notice for consultation meeting is not a long time for working parents
- Where will 2016 additional entrants go as school is full to capacity and additional facilities not provided
- The school has such a lovely family feel that is why it is so popular
- I love the school as it is and will be disappointed if it does expand as it won't be the Craylands everyone knows and loves
- The road is quite fast and there is limited parking for those who drive. If expansion goes ahead then a proper crossing is needed or a lolly pop lady as I'm sure an accident will occur
- Expanding school does not solve issue of shortage of places in the area. Should be looking at a new school
- Expanding school will have a detrimental effect on Knockhall Academy as it is a poor school so will have ½ empty classes.
- Why not build a new school at Greenhithe, after all they only have one school

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00093(g)

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE**

Decision:

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

- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Craylands Primary School from 1FE to 2FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b. Allocate £2.65m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- d. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

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 in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. The views received from the consultation with parents/carers, staff and governors.
2. The views of the Governing Body
3. The views of the Local Member
4. the views of the Area Education Officer
5. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

12.2. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Craylands Primary School, increasing the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.

- e. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £2.65m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project are an estimate. 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.
- f. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
- g. Human – Craylands Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**17 March 2016 report to Education and Young Person’s Cabinet Committee**

To be added after meeting

**15 December 2015 report to Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee**

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

Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to medium & large scale housing development and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, ‘Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People’s Services’ and the ‘Commissioning Plan for Education’ (2016 – 2020).

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

**N/A**

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**Signed**

**Date**