

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

**To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee**

**Subject: Proposal to expand Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE**

**Classification: Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: **None**

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

Electoral Division: **Elham Valley (Susan Carey)**

**Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to expand Sellindge Primary School for September 2018.**

*Recommendation(s):*

**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:**

Allocate funds from the Education and Young People's Basic Needs budget so that the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5 FE can go ahead.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 A new housing development of 250 homes is planned for the site opposite Sellindge Primary School. Building is anticipated to commence in 2016, possibly taking some four years to complete. The developer is providing additional land for the School to enable the building to expand without loss of outside space, plus £836K in financial contributions.
- 1.2 Sellindge Primary School is a popular and successful school, rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is regularly oversubscribed. In 2016, 58 families applied for the 15 Year R places, 20 of these were first preferences. The majority of the applications have come from Sellindge and the surrounding locality with the furthest first preference application being 3 miles from the school.
- 1.3 The school, with a capacity of 105 places, currently has 116 pupils on roll. Without the new housing, the roll is forecast to grow to 137 during the next four years. The new housing is likely to generate some 70 additional primary aged children and the school cannot accommodate these pupils without additional teaching space.
- 1.4 We wish to see village children able to attend their local school and not having to travel some miles to an alternative school. Expanding Sellindge Primary School to enable local children to attend is the logical option and is also in line with our expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.
- 1.5 The complete expansion will offer 105 additional primary school places in the area of significant population growth.

- 1.6 Kent's Commissioning Plan for Educational Provision aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision. With significant house building forecast in the Sellindge area, the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20) sets out the intention to increase provision in Sellindge.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Kent County Council is proposing to expand Sellindge Primary School from its current 0.5FE to 1FE increasing the school by 105 places. Currently, the School operates five teaching groups. Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are in single age classes, while Years 3 to 6 are taught in mixed year groups with 30 pupils in each class. This proposal would mean that over time all children would be taught in dedicated year groups of 30, providing an opportunity for them to be taught and assessed with their peer group. They will remain with this peer group through primary school. As the School grows, it will increase its staffing. This will bring a greater range of skills and expertise, and there may also be opportunities to provide a wider range of clubs for the children.
- 2.2 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, held by the Governing Body, which took place between 18 April 2016 and 16 May 2016. A public meeting was held on 28 April 2016 where the expansion proposal and the proposed plans were shared.

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 a. Capital – the expansion of the School will lead to three new classrooms being built alongside increased staff parking facilities. The cost of £836,000 is covered by the developer contribution.
- b. Revenue – As roll numbers increase, the School will receive additional funding through its delegated budget.
- c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

## **4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement**

- 4.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child can go to a good school where they can make good progress and every child can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2015-2018’.
- 4.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-20 identified the need to commission the equivalent of 0.5FE provision in Sellindge.

## **5. Consultation Outcomes**

- 5.1 A total of 3 written responses were received, each supported the proposal to expand. A summary of the comments received is provided at Appendix 1.
- 5.2 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.3 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.

## **6. Views**

### **6.1 The view of the Local Members:**

Cllr S Carey: I strongly support the expansion of this popular and oversubscribed school.

### **6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:**

Val Walton, Chair of Governors: The Governors of Sellindge Primary School believe that children should have the opportunity to attend their local school. With the planned building of 250 new homes in the village, it will be necessary to expand the School to one form entry to accommodate this. The expansion will be carefully managed over time enabling the School to continue to deliver high standards of education. The Governors fully support the proposed expansion of the School.

Helen Baxter, Headteacher: As Headteacher of Sellindge Primary School I have always felt that children should have the opportunity to attend their local school. It will be necessary to expand the School to one form entry to accommodate the pupils from the proposed new houses in the village. I am confident that the team at Sellindge Primary School can raise standards further in a one form entry School.

### **6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:**

Sellindge Primary School is a popular school, currently catering for 116 pupils. This proposal will provide much needed additional primary places as the village expands and will reduced the need for pupils to travel several miles to their nearest school.

## **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 The expansion of Sellindge Primary School will provide the additional primary places needed due to the expansion of Sellindge Village. This will allow pupils to access places in and outstanding local school.

## **9. Recommendation(s)**

**Recommendation(s): 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:**

Allocate funds from the Education and Young People's Basic Needs budget so that the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE can go ahead.

## **10. Background Documents**

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

[http://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf)

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-12

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Summary of Written Responses

Appendix 2 – Consultation

Appendix 3 – Record of Decision

## **12 Contact details**

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Relevant Director:

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## Proposal to Expand Sellindge Primary School

### Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 200  
 Consultation responses received: 3  
 A summary of the responses received showed:

#### Question 1: Do you agree with the proposal to expand Sellindge Primary school

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors				
Staff				
Parents	3			3
Pupils				
Resident				
<b>Totals</b>				

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

The expansion should provide a stable pupil roll/income for the school in years ahead.

#### Concerns raised:

- My only worry would be a lack of outside space when the school is increased and space during lunchtime for the whole school to eat together. Many schools make children with packed lunches eat in the classrooms and I don't agree with that.
- I am unclear on the site that the new classrooms. If they are opposite the school careful thought needs to be given to how the children will cross safely. *NB- For clarity the new classrooms will be constructed on the present school site. Plans were shared before and during the public meeting on 28 April 2016.*

**Governing Body Consultation on a Proposal to Expand Sellindge Primary School to a one form entry primary school**

**Thursday 28 April 2016**

**5.30pm at Sellindge Primary School, Main Road, Sellindge TN25 6JY**

In Attendance:	Miss Helen Baxter	HB	Headteacher
	Mrs Val Walton	VW	Chair of Governors
	Lee Round	LR	Area Schools Organisation Officer – South Kent
	Ms Jo Wren	JW	New Headteacher from September 2016

**Purpose of the Meeting**

To explain the above proposal in detail and answer questions.

Val Walton, Chair of Governors welcomed everyone to the meeting. The proposed expansion was being led by the Governing Body with the support of KCC. Sellindge Primary School was an outstanding school and it was important that local children should be able to attend their local school. The proposal was explained in detail. Plans of the proposed buildings were available for public viewing.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Response</b>
Gerry Worthy Parent Governor	I have a question regarding safety around the proposed building. How do you propose to keep the children away from this area? Parents use this area as a main access.	LR – the main compound will be where the present Belvedere Cottage is now and will be fenced off. Pupils will not be able to access this area HB – when we had previous building work at the school we used alternative entrances. We are used to this and will work our way around the issues to ensure the children are safe.

**Approximately 11 people attended the meeting.**

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

**16/00034**

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to expand Sellindge Primary School by 0.5 FE.**

Decision:

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

Allocate funds from the Education and Young People's Basic Needs budget so that the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE can go ahead.

Should objections, not already considered by me when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and allow for a proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

- A new housing development of 250 homes is planned for the site opposite the School. The new housing is likely to generate some 70 additional primary aged children and the School cannot accommodate these pupils without additional teaching space.
- The School, with a capacity of 105 places, currently has 116 pupils on roll. Without the new housing, the roll is forecast to grow to 137 during the next four years.
- Sellindge Primary School is a popular and successful school, rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is regularly oversubscribed. The majority of the applications have come from Sellindge and the surrounding locality with the furthest first preference application being 3 miles from the School.
- Village children need to be able to attend their local school and not having to travel some miles to an alternative school.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 28 April 2018, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillors; Headteacher and Governing Body of Sellindge Primary School and the Area Education Officer.
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- **the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below**

**Financial Implications**

- a. a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of three additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. The total estimated cost of the expansion is likely to be in the region of £836,000, and will be covered by the developer contributions which will be

received.

b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the delegated budget.

c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

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

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**Signed**

**Date**