

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

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

Subject: Proposal to expand Minster-in-Sheppey Primary (Academy) School, increasing the capacity from 540 school places to 630 school places and increasing the PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2017

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision (16/00140)

Electoral Division: Sheppey (Adrian Crowther)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation undertaken by Minster-in-Sheppey Primary (Academy) School and the Island Learning Trust on a proposal to increase the number of places available at the school and to permanently increase the PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2017.

Recommendation(s):

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

- a) Allocate £1.3m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- b) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel (Interim) to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- c) 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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

This proposal is also subject to agreement from the Secretary of State for Education.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identified a continuing pressure on primary school places on Sheppey. Eight temporary bulge classes have been added over the last five years in Eastchurch CE Primary School (3), Queenborough Primary School (1) and Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School (4). Rose Street School, West Minster Primary School Queenborough School and Nursery and Halfway Houses Primary School have all been permanently expanded, adding an additional 3.5FE. A new 2FE primary school has been built at Thistle Hill and although a phased opening of this school

had been planned, the pressure on places has resulted in classes being opened across all year groups.

- 1.2 There is increasing pressure on the Eastern side of the island and this is likely to be met by the establishment of a new Free School. Wave 12 applications were submitted and the outcome is awaited.
- 1.3 A new school will be commissioned for the new housing development at Rushenden. This is expected to be needed from 2020-21.
- 1.4 Swale housing trajectory indicates a further 385 houses could be built in the Minster locality during the period up to 2021.
- 1.5 Inward migration onto the Isle of Sheppey has not decreased and the local authority has worked with all the primary schools on the island in order to provide sufficient places. Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School has assisted by agreeing to provide bulge classes. The school originally operated as a 4FE first school (600 school places) and had the accommodation to take these bulge classes. The school is currently designated as a 2FE primary school but operates with two classes per year group in Years R, 1, 2 and 6 and has three classes per year group in Years 3, 4 and 5, plus a bulge Year 4/5 class. Operating 3 classes across all year groups would help the school organisationally and also relieve pupil pressures local to the school.
- 1.6 Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School is a popular and successful school, rated Good by Ofsted. It is regularly oversubscribed. In 2016, 202 families applied for the 60 Year R places, 66 of these were first preferences.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to permanently increase the capacity of Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School from 540 places to 630 places (3FE). The PAN for the school will increase from 60 to 90 for Reception Year entry in September 2017 and subsequent years.
- 2.2 Planning agreement has been confirmed to provide the school with additional facilities, including new intervention rooms, a meeting room and a new learning resource facility which will free up teaching space within the school.
- 2.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 14 November and 12 December 2016. The consultation was carried out by the Island Learning Trust, which consists of Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School and Halfway Houses Primary School. Both schools converted to Academy status on 1 November 2016.

3. Financial Implications

- a. Capital – A feasibility study has been completed and the design has been developed. Planning agreement has been confirmed. The estimated cost of the expansion is £1.3m.
- b. Revenue – The School will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. The rising rolls will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource new classrooms which at present is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- c. Human – The School will appoint additional staff as the need arises.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 4.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition that “Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve”, as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2016-2019.
- 4.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21 identified the need to commission the extra provision in the Halfway and Minster planning group. The Plan mentioned a specific need to increase capacity at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School by permanently expanding the school to 3FE.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 A total of 117 written responses were received by the Island Learning Trust. An analysis of the responses received is provided at Appendix 1.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed by the Local Authority 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 Member:
Cllr Adrian Crowther - Member for Sheppey
- 6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
- 6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School is a very popular and over-subscribed school. It is judged as ‘Good’ by Ofsted. Over the last four to five years the Local Authority had had to work closely, with the headteachers and governing bodies of schools on the Island in order to meet the increasing demand for school places. The Headteacher and Governing Body of Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School have come to the assistance of the Local Authority several times, agreeing to open additional classes to accommodate children from families moving on to the Island. This means that the school is already operating as a 3FE school for Years 3, 4 and 5, plus agreeing to run an additional mixed Year 4/5 class. Although the school has sufficient classrooms, it required additional teaching and intervention spaces to operate fully at 3FE and to meet the needs of the additional pupils it had already admitted for the Local Authority. It would seem a logical solution to the continuing pressure to permanently expand the school to 3FE across all year groups and ensure the school has the accommodation it requires.

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 increase in capacity at Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School will provide additional primary places in the Halfway and Minster planning area, where pressure on places continues. The increase is also linked to new housing in Minster. This

Proposal will add an additional 90 places to the school's capacity and is in line with our vision to ensure that children and young people in Kent get the best start in life as set out in KCC's Strategic Statement 2015-20 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2017 – 2021).

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to endorse the decision to:

- d) Allocate £1.3m from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- e) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel (Interim) to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- f) 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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

This proposal is also subject to agreement from the Secretary of State for Education.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

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

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment.

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

11. Contact details

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The Island
Learning Trust

Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on Making Changes to Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School

The attached Consultation Paper was sent to:

- parents of 510 pupils,
- 100 parents at Minster Nursery, 31 local providers
- The Local Authorities
- Surveys were available in the staffroom
- The survey was available on our website for any casual visitors

The consultation ran for 4 weeks between Monday 14th November & Monday 12th December and a total of 117 responses were received, including two from local schools.

Other responses appear to have been responses from parents/carers from school or nursery, 17 staff responses were received.

A summary of responses is detailed below:

We Asked:	YES	NO	NOT SURE
Should we increase PAN from 60 to 90?	67 responses 57%	40 responses 34%	10 responses 9%
Comments received:	<p>48/67 without comment</p> <p>13/67 highly positive about the educational provision at Minster and the quality of care provided and feel that the more children in our care the better</p> <p>1/67 said 3 forms of entry was the norm historically so why the fuss</p> <p>1/67 yes but concerns over additional traffic</p> <p>1/67 yes but expand breakfast club, after school club to ease traffic at peak times</p> <p>2/67 yes but ensure permanent classrooms and improved facilities i.e. a larger hall</p> <p>1/67 yes but in Sept</p>	<p>12/40 without comment</p> <p>6/40 the school is successful with a community feel, why change something that is working. 2/6 of these feel additional spaces should be found in the new schools on the Island.</p> <p>9/40 purely raised parking as an issue</p> <p>9/40 raised 2 or more comments all around parking and other comments re class size, hall space. 1/9 said increased numbers means increased illness and head lice</p> <p>1/40 felt fewer than 90 children needed in R-Y2</p> <p>1/40 said Yr group</p>	<p>2/10 without comment</p> <p>4/10 of these said supportive if class sizes did not increase</p> <p>3/10 raised comments around parking and class size, space.</p> <p>1/10 purely raised parking as an issue</p> <p>7/10 were positive about increased PAN if class sizes did not increase and parking did not get worse.</p> <p>3/10 remain unsure</p>

	2017 will there be too many EYFS places (local school response)	currently struggles so how will this work.	
Notes:	<p>It appears that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several respondents had missed the information about the building being expanded ahead of the changes • several respondents appeared to think that the additional pupils would be squeezed in to existing classes, hence increased class sizes and less individual attention comments • the very low number of responses received would suggest that there is a much higher level of acceptance of expansion than the positive responses would suggest, any stakeholder with a strong view either way would have responded to the survey <p>Genuine concerns include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking in streets around the school • Size of the school hall 		
Considerations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending breakfast club hours, numbers, alleviating peak flow traffic • Providing Afterschool child care alleviating peak flow traffic • Provide a drive in, drive out dropping off solution: Brecon Chase & Bellevue? • Application for funding to provide an additional a school hall 		