

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 Regis Manor Primary (Academy) School, increasing the capacity from 420 school places to 630 school places and increasing the PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2018

Decision No. 16/00139

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee, Thursday 30 March 2017

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Swale Central – Roger Truelove and Lee Burgess

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation undertaken by Regis Manor Primary School Governing Body and Swale Academies Trust on a proposal to expand the school by 1FE and to permanently increase the PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2018.

Recommendation(s):

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

- a) Allocate £3.3m 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 and Planning Agreement.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21 identified a continuing pressure on primary school places in Sittingbourne. It identified a specific need in North Sittingbourne and named the expansion of Regis Manor Primary School as the school where additional places would be commissioned to support the population growth in the locality.

1.2 A new school will be commissioned for the new housing development at NW Sittingbourne comprising up to 1,100 new dwellings. This is expected to be needed from 2020-21. The expansion of Regis Manor Primary School will also support any demand from the new housing before the new school is established.

1.3 Regis Manor Primary School is a popular and successful school, rated Good by Ofsted. In 2016, 109 families applied for the 60 Year R places.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed to permanently expand Regis Manor Primary School from 420 places to 630 places (3FE). The PAN for the school will increase from 60 to 90 for Reception Year entry in September 2018 and subsequent years.

2.2 A planning application was submitted this month to provide the school with 6 new classrooms and facilities, including a small hall and studio. It also includes a re-location of the main school entrance and reception area into the new accommodation and provision of a new vehicular access and drop-off point for parents in North Road.

2.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 23 January and 6 March 2017. The consultation was carried out by the Governing Body and Swale Academies Trust.

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 £3.3m.

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 North Sittingbourne planning group. The Plan mentioned a specific need to increase capacity at Regis Manor Primary School by permanently expanding the school to 3FE.

5. Consultation Outcomes

5.1 A total of 118 written responses were received by the Governing Body. An analysis of the responses received is provided at Appendix 1.

5.2 A drop-in session was held at the school on 23 February where there was an opportunity to ask questions and view the design boards for the new

accommodation. The session was attended by approximately 30 people, including staff, parents and local residents. Comments and views expressed at the session included:

Concerns about the proposal:

- Additional traffic in North Street will be very dangerous
- Logistics of feeding 600+ children at lunch times and playtimes
- Extra noise and pollution at dropping off and pick up times
- Middletune Avenue is already at breaking point
- Parking is a problem.

In support of the proposal:

- The breakfast club will be able to remain and there will be the opportunity for more after school clubs
- A good design
- All Year 1 and 2 classrooms together
- I found it difficult to get a local place for my children, therefore I more than agree to the extension of Regis Manor Primary School.

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 Members:

Roger Truelove and Lee Burgess

The Local Members have been informed of the proposal.

6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

Regis Manor Primary School, its Governing Body and Swale Academies Trust support the plans to expand the school and build an additional teaching block on the existing Regis Manor site.

The reasons for this include:-

- Moving to 3 form entry, will provide school places for local children, enabling the LA to meet the need for extra school places in the locality.
- Improving access to the school by creating a new entry to the site in North Street.
- Providing a pick-up / drop off zone – thus relieving on street parking issues
- Providing extra parking spaces
- The opportunity to have a second school hall which amongst other things will enable an afterschool club to be set up.

6.3. 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 increased demand in the local area. Regis Manor Primary School is a 'good' school as judged by Ofsted and serves its local community well.

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 proposed expansion of Regis Manor Primary School will provide additional primary places in the North Sittingbourne planning area, where pressure on places continues. The increase is also linked to new housing proposed in Sittingbourne as set out in the Local Plan. This Proposal will add an additional 210 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)

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

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- 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
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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/RegisManor>

11. Contact details

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**Proposal to permanently expand Regis Manor Primary School from 2FE to 3FE,
increasing the PAN from 60 to 90 from September 2018.**

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 780
Responses received: 118

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	43	17	7	67
Governors	1	0	0	1
Members of Staff	37	0	0	37
Residents	6	4	2	12
Other interested party	1	0	0	1
Total	88	21	9	118

A summary of the main points:

In support of the proposal

- Great idea and plans.
- Will meet the needs of the expanding community.
- Sensible solution to a current problem – more school places are needed.
- I have no problem with the school expanding to accommodate more children as long as there are enough staff, facilities and equipment for the extra numbers.
- Will assist with tackling childhood obesity if safe walking routes are offered.
- A crossing in North Street to improve safety for pupils would be great.

Against the proposal

- Parking is a problem now and I am disabled. People park on the pavement outside your houses then you can't get out. Expanding the school will make the problem worse.
- Parking is very bad for residents. Every day our drives are blocked by parents picking up or dropping off.

Undecided/Concerns

- Even with more parking there will still be an issue – maybe starting the walking bus might help?
- I don't want the building work to disturb my child's learning/routine.
- Will KCC pay for additional pedestrian crossings in the local area?