

From: Richard Long, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 January 2020

Subject: Proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary school, Pilgrims Way, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1XU by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places from September 2021.

Decision No: 20/00007

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Canterbury City South – Ida Linfield

Summary: This report informs members of a proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary School from 45 place to 60 places in September 2021.

Recommendation(s):

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary School, Pilgrims Way, Canterbury CT1 1XU increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places from September 2021.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's commissioning plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-2023 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

- 1.2. The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2019-2023 identifies a need for additional places in the Canterbury City Planning Area from 2021 this is due to pressures from new housing developments in Canterbury City and specifically the private development on the former Howe Barracks Site. This development will produce a total of 500 new homes. In addition to this, the refurbishment of former army houses by Redbridge Council is resulting in 38 new families moving in from November 2019. To mitigate the need for places, it is proposed that Pilgrims Way will expand by 0.5 forms of entry (FE) to become a 2FE

Primary school. Pilgrims Way is the nearest primary school to these developments and was named for any developer contributions linked to the development of private housing on the former barracks site

- 1.3. Canterbury City Council Local Plan identifies 16,000 new homes over the plan period to 2031. 8,737 are planned for the Canterbury area, with 6,533 in the Canterbury City Primary planning area where Pilgrims Way Primary School is located.
- 1.4. Pilgrims' Way Primary School was registered as a new school on 1st May 2018 and is part of the Veritas Academy Trust. They are awaiting their first Ofsted inspection. Currently Pilgrims Way has 261 on the school roll with 31 on the nursery roll totalling 292 (May school census 2019)

2. Proposal

- 2.1. It is proposed to permanently expand Pilgrims Way Primary School from 315 places (1.5FE) to 420 places (3FE). The PAN for the school will increase from 45 to 60 for Reception Year entry in September 2021 and subsequent years.
- 2.2. A planning application is expected to be submitted in January 2020 and will provide the school with 2 new classrooms, refurbishment of current classes and facilities and an extension to the main hall. It also includes relocation of the reception area to enable the creation of a community/meeting room. This work would be completed before September 2021 and will enable the school to offer 60 Year R places for September 2021.
- 2.3. This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 4 October 2019 and 22 November 2019. The consultation was carried out by the Governing Body and Veritas Academy Trust.

3. Alternative Proposals

- 3.1. Pilgrims Way Primary School has the capacity on its current site to expand by 0.5FE and meet the needs of the planned housing in the Primary Planning Area. Other schools in the planning area do not have the capacity to expand.
- 3.2. Pilgrims Way is the nearest primary school to the Howe Barracks developments and was named for any developer contributions linked to the development of private housing on the former barracks site

4. Financial Implications

4.1. Capital

- 4.1.1. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the costs for this proposal to be £1.9m. funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget and Developer Contributions.
- 4.1.2. £81,473.63 in developer contributions has been collected by Canterbury City Council towards the 0.5FE expansion of Pilgrims Way Primary School. A further £843,560 is expected but not received and £4,986 has been requested but not agreed. A total of £930,019.63 is therefore expected from developer contributions towards the expansion.

4.1.3. Up to £2,500 is provided for each newly provided learning space for ICT equipment from the Capital budget. Totalling £10,000 for this project.

4.1.4. In line with the agreement of the Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure here is an estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to the Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made.

4.2. Revenue

Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided to the school from the DSG revenue budget towards the cost of furniture and equipment. For this proposal it is estimated that a total of £24,000 will be provided.

4.3. Human

The school will appoint staff as appropriate as it grows over the years.

5. Vision and Priority for Improvement

This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’.

6. Consultation

6.1. An education consultation was held undertaken from 4 October 2019 to 22 November 2019, with a drop-in event was held on the 18 November and included the pre planning consultation.

6.2. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, schools in the Canterbury District, County Councillors, Local MP, Diocesan Authorities, Canterbury City Council and other interested parties. The consultation document was posted on the School’s website and on KCC’s website and the link to the website was widely circulated.

6.3. A total of 5 written response were received by Vertitas Academy Trust during the consultation period. All were supportive of the proposal and a summary and analysis of the responses is provided in appendix 1

6.4. A total of 28 local residents attended the drop-in session on 18 November with 8 written responses received. A summary of the responses received at the drop-in session is provided in appendix 2.

7. Views

7.1. The Local Member

The Local Member supports the proposed expansion of Pilgrims Way Primary School on condition a Road Crossing is provided to ensure the safety of pupils crossing the A257.

7.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

Pilgrims Way Primary School its Governing Body and Veritas Academy Trust support the plans to expand the school and build two additional classrooms Moving to 2 form entry, will provide school places for local children, enabling the LA to meet the need for extra school places in the locality and will secure the long- term financial viability of the school.

7.3. 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.

8. Conclusions

The proposed expansion of Pilgrims Way Primary School will provide additional primary places in the Canterbury City planning area, where pressure on places has been identified. The increase is also linked to new housing proposed at the former Howe Barracks Site. This Proposal will add an additional 105 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' (2019 – 2023).

9. Recommendations

The Children's, Young People and Education Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills on the proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary School, Pilgrims Way, Canterbury CT1 1XU increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places from September 2021.

10. Background Documents (plus links to document)

- 10.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020
https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/29786/Kent-County-Council-Strategic-Statement.pdf
- 10.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>
- 10.3. Equality Impact Assessment – Attached
- 10.4. DPIA Screening Assessment – Attached

11. Contact Details

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