

PROPOSAL TO EXPAND DEAL PAROCHIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLADSTONE ROAD, DEAL, CT14 7ER

Introduction

Kent County Council is proposing to permanently expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School to 1FE by September 2018 (an increase of 210 places).

Contact Details

The proposal to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School is being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8XU.

School details and pupil numbers

Deal Parochial CE Primary School, Gladstone Road, Deal, CT14 7ER is a maintained Church of England Primary School. The school is regularly oversubscribed and presently there are 207 pupils on roll.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alteration to Deal Parochial CE Primary School:

- To expand the School to 2FE (420 places).

The pressures in Dover District continue as a consequence of larger Year R cohorts entering primary schools compared to the Year 6 cohorts entering secondary provision. Major new housing is also predicted across Dover District with a significant amount of development in Deal itself. This is leading to localised pressures for places. As pupil numbers have increased in Deal, some schools have restructured to enable pupils to be accommodated. However we are now at a point where schools are reaching capacity and a permanent expansion of school provision, rather than a temporary expansion, will be required.

Deal Parochial Primary School was constructed with the intention that it could be expanded to 2FE (420 pupils) when required. Our forecasts show that there will be a need for the extra 1FE of provision in September 2018; therefore we propose to expand Deal Parochial to 2FE from that point. This will mean the construction of a new block of classrooms with the appropriate toilet and group room facilities. We also intend to increase the size of the school hall in order to give the school the appropriate space to accommodate the increase in pupil numbers.

The expansion will offer up to 210 additional places in the area over a 7 year period which reflects KCC's need to increase the number of school places across the Dover District from 9,057 to 9,373 by 2020-21, as set out in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-21, a copy of which is available at this link:

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

Objectives (and how the wider proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The Dover District section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21 has identified a significant localised pressure for Primary school places in Deal. By expanding Deal Parochial CE Primary School local families will be able to secure places at a local Good school.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The gradual expansion of the School would ensure a minimum impact on other schools and academies in the locality.

Impact on the community

The intention behind this proposal is to minimise travel distances by enabling children to attend a local school. This affords greater opportunity for families to make the journey by means other than car. The forecasts show that there will be a shortfall in primary school places locally even before the expansion of Deal Parochial School takes place. If pupils are unable to attend schools locally they will need to travel to a school further afield, placing greater pressures on the wider road network.

The Local Authority and the Governors at Deal Parochial CE Primary School are aware that the roads around any school site are congested at drop off and pick up times and any expansion would further increase the traffic issues in the locality. With this in mind we have sought the views of colleagues in the KCC Highways team. They have suggested that plans should include the expansion of the drop off and pick up point and extra staff parking. We will continue to consult with Highways colleagues throughout this process.

Special educational needs (SEN) provision

As the roll increases staffing will be increased to provide the support needed by all pupils regardless of their needs.

Travel

The School will revisit their School travel plan as part of the planning process should the matter go ahead.

Consultation

A public consultation was carried out by the Local Authority between 27 January 2017 and 03 March 2017. A public meeting was held at the School on 06 February 2017. The outcome of the consultation was reported to KCC's Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on 30 March 2017. The Report on the outcome of the consultation, including summaries of the public meeting and responses received, is available at this link:

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

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;

The cost of the projects is estimated to be in the region of £2.85m with £0.5m coming from Developer Contributions. Residual funding will come from KCC's Children, Education and Young People's Capital budget.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

Should the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree that the proposal can go ahead, the School will admit up to 60 Year R pupils with effect from 01 September 2018.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments

A public notice was published in a local newspaper on 27 April 2017. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the School, in Dover District Council's reception area and in local libraries. It is also available on KCC's website: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations>

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 11am, 9 June 2017.