

Committee: **Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**
Date: **22 May 2012**
Title of Report: **Disposal of Sidley Community Primary School and associated land**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Purpose of Report: **To seek approval for the disposal of Sidley Community Primary School and associated land following the school's transfer to Gunters Lane in September 2012.**

Recommendation:
The Lead Member is recommended to support the proposal for the disposal of the Sidley Community Primary School site.

1. Financial Appraisal

1.1 Following consultation with the local community and Lead Member approval, Sidley Community Primary School will be expanded and moved to a new site from September 2012.

1.2 The whole site measuring 2.17 acres, at Appendix 1, will become surplus to the needs of the school and the Children's Services Department ('CSD').

1.3 The disposal and sale proceeds will be managed by the Corporate Resources Department.

2. Supporting information

2.1 Based on pupil number projections, Sidley Primary School will be expanded to take another one and a half forms of entry and will move to Gunters Lane. Its new campus will be created by the redevelopment of the former Bexhill High School Year Seven building.

2.2 The need for these extra school places was highlighted in a previous report which indicated that across Bexhill birth rates have risen from 289 in 2004/05 to 368 in 2008/09, an increase of 27%. While longer term forecasts are less certain it is expected that the demand for places in the future will potentially outstrip the number of spaces currently available. However the increase at the new Sidley site will provide sufficient places for the future. Therefore, it is not expected that the current Sidley site will be required in the future.

3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations

3.1 As the land identified is not required by Children's Services, it is recommended that it is declared surplus to CSD needs. The disposal will follow the agreed Corporate Process, such that prior to a recommendation to Lead Member for Corporate Resources that the land be declared surplus to all ESCC requirements, other departments of the County Council will be consulted.

MATT DUNKLEY
Director of Children's Services

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Local Members: Councillor Michael Ensor & Councillor Joy Hughes
Background Documents: None

Appendix 1 – Sidley Community Primary School Site

