

Committee: **Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness**

Date: **9 December 2013**

By: **Interim Director of Children's Services**

Title of the report: **Proposed expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School**

Purpose of Report: **To seek the Lead Member's conditional approval to expand Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places effective from 1 September 2015.**

**Recommendation:**

**Lead Member is recommended to:**

**Approve the expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places effective from 1 September 2015, conditional upon:**

- **By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase the school's Published Admission Number from 46 to 60 effective from September 2015; and**
- **By 31 July 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of the premises.**

**1. Financial appraisal:**

1.1 Revenue: the proposal will not affect the Schools Funding Formula. The school's budget share will increase in accordance with rising pupil numbers.

1.2 Capital: The estimated capital cost of implementing the proposal is £2.4 million. The actual cost will be determined through the detailed design, statutory planning and contractual processes. The project is already included in the Council's approved capital programme as part of Phase 1 of the School's Basic Need Programme; this together with other resources secured means that the project is fully funded.

**2. Background information:**

2.1 On 10 September 2013 the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness approved the publication of statutory notices in relation to a proposal to permanently enlarge Robsack Wood Community Primary School from September 2015. The school would grow from 322 places to 420 places. This would provide an additional 98 primary places (ages 4-11) in Hastings.

2.2 The proposal is in response to an increase in demand for reception places as a result of a rising birth rate in Hastings. Births in the town have risen from 938 in academic year 2001/02 to 1,239 in 2010/11 (an increase of 32%).

2.3 The Statutory Notice was published in the Hastings Observer on Friday 27 September 2013. In addition, the Notice was posted at the entrances to the school and in the local library. A full copy of the proposal was sent to the school's Governing Body and the Department for Education. The full proposal was also posted on the East Sussex County Council website. A copy of the Statutory Notice as it appeared in the Hastings Observer can be found in **Appendix A**.

2.4 Publication of the Statutory Notice was followed by a 4-week representation period, when comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority.

### **3. Factors to be considered by the decision maker and types of decision:**

3.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006) and The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended), and have regard to the statutory guidance set out in the Department for Education's document 'Making Changes to a Maintained Mainstream School'.

3.2 Before reaching a decision on whether to approve the proposal, the Lead Member should consider a number of factors. These are set out in **Appendix B** of this report, together with the types of decision that can be taken.

### **4. Conclusion and reason for recommendation:**

4.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority believes that expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in Hastings for the foreseeable future.

4.2 For this reason, the Lead Member is recommended to:

Approve the expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School from 322 places to 420 places effective from 1 September 2015, conditional upon:

- By 15 April 2014 approval is given to increase the school's Published Admission Number from 46 to 60 effective from September 2015; and
- By 31 July 2014 planning permission is granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General regulations 1992 for the expansion of the premises.

### **GED ROWNEY**

Interim Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Fiona Wright, Assistant Director (Schools, Youth and Inclusion Support)

Local Members: Councillor Phil Scott

### **Background documents:**

Report (item 6) and minutes from 10 September 2013 Lead Member meeting:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetingpapers/cabinetchildren/2013/10september.htm>

Prescribed Information supporting the published statutory notice:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/robsack-wood-statutory-notice>

School Organisation Plan 2013/14 to 2016/17 (pages 18-20):

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/management/download.htm>

Report (page 149 of Appendix 3) and minutes from 12 February 2013 Full Council meeting:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetingpapers/countycouncil/2013/12february.htm>

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – Statutory notice as published in the Hastings Observer on 27 September 2013

Appendix B – Factors to be considered before reaching a final decision on the proposal

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**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Expansion of St Andrew's CE Infant School and Tollgate Community Junior School**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE is proposing to expand St Andrew's CE Infant School, Winchelsea Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN22 7PP and Tollgate Community Junior School, Winston Crescent, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 6NL by September 2016 to provide an additional 210 primary school places in Eastbourne.

St Andrew's CE Infant School is currently a three form entry infant school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 90 and a permanent capacity of 270 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 360 places with a PAN of 120. The school currently has 300 children on roll.

Tollgate Community Junior School is currently a three form entry junior school with a PAN of 90 and a permanent capacity of 360 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 480 places with a PAN of 120. The school currently has 380 children on roll.

East Sussex County Council will implement the proposals.

This notice is an extract of the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be viewed at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay)

Alternatively you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal from the address below or telephone 01273 481758.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, 4th Floor St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1EP, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Signed: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council

**Explanatory Notes**

1. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to St Andrew's CE Infant School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its Published Admission Number (PAN) increase from 90 to 120.
2. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to Tollgate Community Junior School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its PAN increase from 90 to 120.
3. East Sussex County Council anticipates that building work would begin in summer 2014 and would be completed in phases by summer 2016.
4. East Sussex County Council will determine the Statutory Notice within 2 months of the end of the representation period. If the Council fails to determine the Notice within this time, it will pass all relevant material to the Schools Adjudicator who will determine the Notice.

**Expansion of West Rise Community Infant School and West Rise Junior School**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE is proposing to expand West Rise Community Infant School, Chaffinch Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 7SL and West Rise Junior School, Chaffinch Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN23 7SL by September 2016 to provide an additional 210 primary school places in Eastbourne.

West Rise Community Infant School is currently a two form entry infant school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 and a permanent capacity of 180 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 270 places with a PAN of 90. The school currently has 210 children on roll.

West Rise Junior School is currently a two form entry junior school with a PAN of 60 and a permanent capacity of 240 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 360 places with a PAN of 90. The school currently has 239 children on roll.

East Sussex County Council will implement the proposals.

This notice is an extract of the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be viewed at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay)

Alternatively you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal from the address below or telephone 01273 481758.

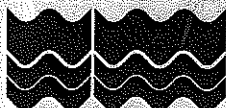
Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, 4th Floor St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1EP, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Signed: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council

**Explanatory Notes**

1. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to West Rise Community Infant School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its Published Admission Number (PAN) increase from 60 to 90.
2. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to West Rise Junior School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its PAN increase from 60 to 90.
3. East Sussex County Council anticipates that building work would begin in summer 2014 and would be completed in phases by summer 2016.
4. East Sussex County Council will determine the Statutory Notice within 2 months of the end of the representation period. If the Council fails to determine the Notice within this time, it will pass all relevant material to the Schools Adjudicator who will determine the Notice.

**East Sussex County Council**



27 September 2013

**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Expansion of Ringmer Primary School**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE is proposing to expand Ringmer Primary School, Harrison's Lane, Ringmer, East Sussex BN8 5LL by September 2015 to provide an additional 105 primary school places.

Ringmer Primary School is currently a one form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 and a permanent capacity of 210 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 315 places with a PAN of 45. The school currently has 247 children on roll.

East Sussex County Council will implement the proposals.

This notice is an extract of the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be viewed at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay)

Alternatively you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal from the address below or telephone 01273 481758.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, 4th Floor St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1EP, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)

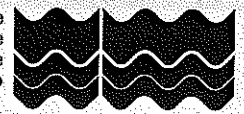
Signed: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council

Date: 27 September 2013

**Explanatory Notes**

1. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to Ringmer Primary School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its Published Admission Number (PAN) increase from 30 to 45.
2. East Sussex County Council anticipates that building work would begin in summer 2014 and would be completed by summer 2015.
3. East Sussex County Council will determine the Statutory Notice within 2 months of the end of the representation period. If the Council fails to determine the Notice within this time, it will pass all relevant material to the Schools Adjudicator who will determine the Notice.

**East Sussex County Council**



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**EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**Expansion of Robsack Wood Community Primary School**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE is proposing to expand Robsack Wood Community Primary School, Whittington Way, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN38 9TE by September 2015 to provide an additional 98 primary school places.

Robsack Wood Community Primary School is currently a one and a half form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 46 and a permanent capacity of 322 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 420 places with a PAN of 60. The school currently has 372 children on roll.

East Sussex County Council will implement the proposals.

This notice is an extract of the complete proposals. Copies of the complete proposals can be viewed at: [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay)

Alternatively you can request a printed copy of the complete proposal from the address below or telephone 01273 481758.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comment upon the proposals, by sending their representations to: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, School Place Planning Manager), East Sussex County Council, 4th Floor St Mark's House, 14 Upperton Road, Eastbourne BN21 1EP, or by emailing: [school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:school.consultations@eastsussex.gov.uk)

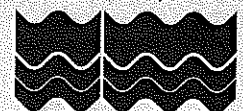
Signed: Ged Rowney, Interim Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council

Date: 27 September 2013

**Explanatory Notes**

1. East Sussex County Council will separately consult on a change to Robsack Wood Community Primary School's admission arrangements from September 2015, which would see its Published Admission Number (PAN) increase from 46 to 60.
2. East Sussex County Council anticipates that building work at the school would begin in summer 2014 and would be completed by summer 2015.
3. East Sussex County Council will determine the Statutory Notice within 2 months of the end of the representation period. If the Council fails to determine the Notice within this time, it will pass all relevant material to the Schools Adjudicator who will determine the Notice.

**East Sussex County Council**



27 September 2013

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## 1. Factors which the decision maker should consider before reaching a decision on the proposals.

1.2.1	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 3.1 above.
1.2.2	Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	A 4-week period of consultation was carried out between 26 <sup>th</sup> June and 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.
1.2.3	Are the proposals related to other published proposals?	The proposal to expand Robsack Wood Community Primary School is not related to other published proposals.
1.2.4	Is there a need to create additional places?	The Local Authority believes there is a need to create additional places at the school to help to address the shortfall of primary school places in Hastings as result of a rising birth rate and planned housing development in the town. This was evidenced in the full proposal to the Statutory Notice and in the School Organisation Plan 2012/13 to 2016/17 (pages 18-20).
1.2.5	Does the school have a religious character, or follow a particular philosophy, and is there satisfactory evidence of sufficient demand for places?	Robsack Wood Community Primary School does not have a religious character or follow a particular philosophy, being a community school.
1.2.6	Is the school considered to be popular and successful?	Robsack Wood Community Primary School is a popular and successful school. It was rated 'outstanding' at its last Ofsted inspection, and has been regularly over-subscribed in recent years.
1.2.7	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	The estimated capital cost of implementing the proposal is £2.4 million. The actual cost will be determined through the detailed design, statutory planning and contractual processes. The project is already included in the Council's approved capital programme as part of Phase 1 of the School's Basic Need Programme; this together with other resources secured means that the project is fully funded (page 149 of Appendix 3 of the 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 Cabinet report refers).
1.2.8	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	By the end of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.

## 2. Types of decision:

2.1 In considering prescribed alteration proposals, the decision maker can decide to:

- Approve the proposals
- Approve the proposals with a modification, or
- Approve the proposals subject to a specific condition

2.2 In this instance, the specific conditions relate to:

- Admission arrangements. Approval will be required to increase the school's Published Admission Number from 46 to 60, effective from September 2015; and
- Planning permission. Planning consent will be required before building work to enlarge the premises can begin.