

Committee: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**

Date: **12 September 2016**

Title of the report: **Proposed enlargement of Meridian Community Primary School**

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

Purpose of Report: **To seek the Lead Member's conditional approval to enlarge Meridian Community Primary School from 420 places to 630 places effective from 1 September 2018.**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the enlargement of Meridian Community Primary School from 420 places to 630 places for the 2018/19 academic year, conditional upon planning permission being granted by 31 December 2016 for the enlargement of the premises under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.

1. Background:

1.1 On 11 July 2016 the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability ('the Lead Member') approved the publication of statutory notices in relation to a proposal to permanently enlarge Meridian Community Primary School from 1 September 2018. The school would grow from 420 places to 630 places. This would provide an additional 210 primary places (ages 4-11) in the Peacehaven area.

1.2 The proposal is in response to an increase in demand for school places in Peacehaven and the surrounding area. In recent years births in the Peacehaven area have risen from 175 in academic year 2003/04 to 254 in 2013/14. There are also plans to build around 900 new homes in Peacehaven and Telscombe between 2015 and 2030. As a result, a significant ongoing shortfall of school places is forecast in Peacehaven.

1.3 The Statutory Notice was published in the Sussex Express on Friday 22 July 2016. In addition, the Notice was posted at the entrances to the school. The full proposal was also posted on the East Sussex County Council website. A copy of the Statutory Notice as it appeared in the Sussex Express can be found in **Appendix 1**.

1.4 Publication of the Statutory Notice was followed by a 4-week representation period, when comments or objections could be made to the Local Authority. By the end of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.

2. Supporting information:

2.1 Proposed changes to the organisation of maintained schools have to follow a prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013. This process complied with these requirements.

2.2 Before reaching a decision on whether to approve the proposal, the Lead Member should consider a number of factors relating to the proposal. These are set out in **Appendix 2** of this report.

3. Conclusion and reason for recommendation:

3.1 In conclusion, the Local Authority believes that the enlargement of Meridian Community Primary School from 420 places to 630 places will help the Local Authority to fulfil its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places in the Peacehaven area for the foreseeable future.

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

Approve the enlargement of Meridian Community Primary School from 420 places to 630 places for the 2018/19 academic year, conditional upon planning permission being granted by 31 December 2016 for the enlargement of the premises under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992.

STUART GALLIMORE

Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Gary Langford, Place Planning Manager

Local Members: Ian Buchanan and Philip Howson

Background documents:

Report (item 12) and minutes from 11 July 2016 Lead Member meeting:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MIId=2871&Ver=4>

Prescribed Information supporting the published statutory notice:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/expansion-of-meridian-community-primary-school>

Education Commissioning Plan 2015-2019 (pages 42-43):

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

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Statutory notice as published in the Sussex Express on 22 April 2016

Appendix 2 – Factors to be considered before reaching a final decision on the proposal

Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment