

Report to: **Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability**
Date: **30 October 2017**
By: **Director of Children's Services**
Title of report: **Proposed expansion of Willingdon Community School**
Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to expand Willingdon Community School**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) Authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of a proposal to expand Willingdon Community School from 1,000 places to 1,200 places with effect from 1 September 2020; and**
 - 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.**
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1. Background

1.1 In the wider Eastbourne area pupil forecasts indicate that Year 7 intakes to secondary schools will begin to exceed the overall Published Admission Number (PAN) from the early 2020s. Additional secondary school capacity will be required to meet the increased demand for places in Eastbourne.

1.2 Demand for school places at Willingdon Community School is predicted to grow as a result of recent and planned housing developments. In excess of 2,000 new dwellings are planned in the area the school serves during the period to 2027/28. In addition, there is an outline planning application for a further 1,100 dwellings at Mornings Mill Farm, Willingdon. At the moment this proposed development is not included within our pupil forecasts as it is a non-allocated site in the emerging Wealden Local Plan.

1.3 There are currently 260 places per year group available in the feeder primary schools served by Willingdon Community School. Pupil numbers in these schools are expected to grow in the coming years and it is planned to increase the number of primary places per year group to 290 through the proposed expansion of Polegate School. At present approximately 77% of the children attending Willingdon Community School live in-area, with the remainder largely coming from Eastbourne. The Council expects the percentage of in-area children to increase in line with recent and planned housing developments. As a result, it is predicted that future Year 7 intakes to Willingdon Community School will be significantly above its current PAN of 200.

1.4 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for places and is therefore proposing to expand this popular and successful school to create additional permanent capacity to serve its community area.

2. Supporting information

2.1 In accordance with the prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 the Council consulted over a 4 week period between 8 September and 6 October 2017 on a proposal to expand Willingdon Community School from 1,000 places to 1,200 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 200 to 240 with effect from 1 September 2020.

2.2 The consultation document was available on the Council's website and interested parties including: pupils, parents and carers, staff, the governing body, local schools, the local member, district town and parish councils, the dioceses and the local MP were sent a link to the consultation. The Council issued a press release and used social media to inform the local community of the consultation. Details of the consultation were also included on Willingdon Community School's website. A paper copy of the consultation document was available on request but no such requests were received. A copy of the consultation document can be viewed within the consultation report at **Appendix 1** of this report (see 2.5 below).

2.3 By the end of the consultation period 119 responses had been received either via the online questionnaire or by email. Of the responses:

- 71 (59.6%) support the proposal
- 27 (22.7%) do not support the proposal

- 17 (14.3%) were undecided
- 4 (3.4%) did not answer this part of the consultation

2.4 In summary the majority of respondents to the consultation support the proposal to expand Willingdon Community School. Those in favour recognise the need for additional capacity at Willingdon Community School linked to recent and planned housing developments in the local area. Those who raised concerns about the proposal did so generally for the following reasons:

- Traffic congestion and parking
- Anti-social behaviour of students
- Loss of playing field space
- The impact on the existing building in particular corridors and circulation
- Potential impact on teaching and learning

2.5 Please refer to the consultation report at **Appendix 1** which sets out the consultation process and provides an analysis of comments received and the Council's response.

3. Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 The Lead Member is required to have 'due regard' to the duties set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the Public Sector Equality Duty, 'PSED') in determining these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify the equality implications of this proposal and to identify any appropriate mitigations. A copy of the EqIA is appended at **Appendix 2**. The Lead Member must read the EqIA and take its findings into consideration when determining these proposals.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet demand for places and is therefore proposing to expand Willingdon Community School to create additional places to serve recent and planned housing developments in the area it serves.

4.2 The majority of people who responded to the consultation support the proposal to expand Willingdon Community School. Concerns raised during the consultation relate largely to traffic and parking, loss of playing field space and the impact on the existing building. These issues would be addressed through the detailed design process undertaken before planning permission for the expansion was granted.

4.3 The Lead Member is therefore recommended to:

- 1) Authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of a proposal to expand Willingdon Community School from 1,000 places to 1,200 places with effect from 1 September 2020; and
- 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to amend the proposals prior to their publication if required.

4.4 Publication of the statutory notice would trigger a further 4 week period of consultation, known as the representation period, when interested parties can comment on, or object, to the proposal. Within two months of the end of the representation period, the Lead Member must make a final decision taking into account the views of all those affected by the proposal or who have an interest in it.

4.5 It is anticipated that a final decision on the proposal would be taken by the Lead Member in January 2018.

STUART GALLIMORE

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Stephen Shing

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Consultation report

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment