

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

**Date of meeting:** 11 December 2017

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

**Title:** Proposed expansion of Polegate School

**Purpose:** To seek the Lead Member's approval to expand Polegate School from 420 places to 630 places with effect from 1 September 2019.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Lead Member is recommended to approve the expansion of Polegate School from 420 places to 630 places effective from 1 September 2019.

This recommendation is contingent upon:

- a) by 28 February 2018 the Lead Member determining an increase to the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 90 effective from 1 September 2019, and
  - b) planning permission for the enlargement of the premises being granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(a).
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### **1. Background**

1.1 In recent years demand for school places in Polegate has increased as a result of new housing developments in the area. Latest birth and GP registration data indicates that in-area demand for places will continue to exceed the number of places available at the school in the coming years. Polegate School is a popular and successful school and has for the last two years admitted bulge Reception intakes to provide more places. For the September 2017 intake, 96 parents/carers selected the school as a first preference. The current PAN of 60 provides limited scope to meet parental preference.

1.2 The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand and is therefore proposing to expand Polegate School to create additional permanent capacity.

### **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 23 June and 21 July 2017 on a proposal to expand Polegate School from 420 places to 630 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 60 to 90 with effect from 1 September 2019.

2.2 On 26 September 2017 the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability considered feedback from the consultation and approved the publication of statutory notices. The Lead Member report can be viewed by following the link under 'background documents' below.

2.3 The statutory notice was published in the Eastbourne Herald on Friday 13 October 2017. The notice was also posted at the entrances to the school. The notice and full proposal were

posted on the Council's website. A copy of the published statutory notice can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

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. By the end of the representation period on 10 November 2017 no comments or objections had been received.

2.5 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.

2.6 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 2**.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

2.7 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) was undertaken as part of the consultation process to identify the equality implications of this proposal and any appropriate mitigation. The EqIA was attached to the Lead Member report on 26 September 2017 (see background documents below). No comments or objections were received during the representation period therefore no changes are required to the EqIA.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 In conclusion the Council has a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places to meet demand and is therefore proposing to expand Polegate School to create additional capacity to serve the new housing developments in the area.

3.2 The majority of respondents to the consultation support the proposal to expand Polegate School. Concerns raised during the consultation relate largely to traffic and parking, loss of playing field and facilities and the requirement to enlarge the school hall. These issues would be addressed through the detailed design process undertaken as part of the planning permission process.

3.3 The Lead Member is recommended to approve the expansion of Polegate School from 420 places to 630 places effective from 1 September 2019.

This recommendation is contingent upon:

a) by 28 February 2018 the Lead Member determining an increase to the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 90 effective from 1 September 2019, and

b) planning permission for the enlargement of the premises being granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(a).

### **STUART GALLIMORE Director of Children's Services**

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LOCAL MEMBERS  
Councillor Daniel Shing

**Background documents**

Report (agenda item 4) and minute from 26 September 2017 Lead Member meeting:

<https://democracy.eastsussex.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=456&MId=3096&Ver=4>

Notice and full proposal Prescribed Information supporting the published statutory notice:

<https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrens-services/proposed-expansion-of-polegate-school/>

Education Commissioning Plan 2015-2019 (page 63):

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

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Copy of the statutory notice published on 13 October 2017

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

**Copy of the statutory notice published on 13 October 2017**

## **EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL AS LOCAL AUTHORITY**

#### **Expansion of Polegate School**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 that East Sussex County Council, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes BN7 1UE is proposing to enlarge Polegate School, Oakleaf Drive, Polegate, East Sussex, BN26 6PT by 1 September 2019 to provide an additional 210 primary school places.

Polegate School is currently a two form entry primary school with a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 and a permanent capacity of 420 places. The proposed capacity following expansion would be 630 places with a PAN of 90. At the May 2017 School Census the school had 455 children on roll. This number has subsequently increased to 484 at the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

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 466886.

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: Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services (FAO: Gary Langford, 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)

**Stuart Gallimore, Director of Children's Services, East Sussex County Council.**

**13 October 2017.**

#### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

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**



**Factors which the Lead Member should consider before reaching a decision on the proposal to expand Polegate School**

1.1	Are the proposals related to other published proposals?	The proposal to expand Polegate School is not related to other published proposals.
1.2	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	Approval should be conditional upon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By 28 February 2018 the Lead Member determining an increase to the school's Published Admission Number (PAN) from 60 to 90 effective from 1 September 2019, and</li> <li>• planning permission for the enlargement of the premises being granted under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(a).</li> </ul>
1.3	Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	A 4-week period of consultation was carried out between 23 June and 21 July 2017. A summary analysis of the consultation is included in the background documents to this report.
1.4	Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?	The notice complied with statutory requirements as set out in 2.1 above.
1.5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	Polegate School was rated 'good' at its last Ofsted inspection in May 2014 with outstanding leadership and management and behaviour and safety of pupils. The school is very popular and has been regularly over-subscribed in recent years.
1.6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	Subject to Lead Member approval by 28 February 2018, Polegate School's Published Admission Number (PAN) will increase from 60 to 90 effective from 1 September 2019.
1.7	Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations?	An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken as part of the consultation process to identify the equality implications of this proposal and any appropriate mitigation. The EqIA was attached to the Lead Member report on 26 September 2017 (see background documents). No comments or objections were received during the representation period therefore no changes are required to the EqIA.
1.8	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	The vast majority of pupils (83.9%) attending Polegate School according to the January 2017 school census are of White British Heritage. This is broadly in line with that of the population across the County (86%) based on the 2017 census. 15.9% of the pupils who attend the school are from a Black and Ethnic (BME) minority backgrounds. Across Wealden District 8.6% of the school population is BME. (13.6% of primary aged pupils in East Sussex overall).  Data for the school indicates that BME children are over represented at Polegate School in comparison with the county wide and district level percentages.  Data for Polegate School indicates that the percentage

		<p>of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) is 2.6% (years R-6). This is lower than the East Sussex primary aged pupils of 6.6%.</p> <p>We believe the proposal will have a positive impact for the local community and therefore local children, as there will be more places available to meet the needs of the children in the local area, including those from different ethnic backgrounds. In future more families will be able to access this popular local school.</p>
1.9	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	The proposal is about providing more school places to serve the local community. It is therefore unlikely that there will be an increase in journey times or transport costs. Any impact on parking and traffic congestion would be addressed through the detailed design and planning process. As part of this process the Council is working closely with the Highways Authority to ensure any risks are mitigated.
1.10	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	Funding has been identified and secured from the Schools Basic Need allocation in the Council's approved capital programme.
1.11	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.