

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

**Date of meeting:** 29 March 2018

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

**Title:** Planned Admission Numbers (PANs) for Ninfield CE Primary School and Meridian Community Primary School with effect from September 2019

**Purpose:** To determine a PAN for Ninfield CE Primary School for admissions in 2019 following public consultation and to correct the PAN for Meridian Community Primary School.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) To agree the PAN for Ninfield CE Primary School at 20;**
- 2) To agree the PAN for Meridian Community Primary School at 60 rather than 90.**

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## **1 Background**

1.1 Admission arrangements for East Sussex County Council schools were agreed by the Lead Member at the meeting of 19 February 2018. However, at that meeting it was agreed to defer the decision in respect of the PAN of Ninfield CE Primary School due to the exceptional circumstances set out in section 2 below.

1.2 It also came to light following the meeting on 19 February 2018 that there had been an error in the list of PANs, in that the PAN for Meridian Community Primary School had been listed as 90 rather than the correct figure of 60 which appeared in the consultation document.

## **2 Supporting information**

2.1 Ninfield CE Primary School has for many years had a PAN of 20 based on accommodation of varying quality. Two of its classrooms are in accommodation which only has temporary planning consent and is in poor condition. The temporary classrooms are situated on land owned by Ninfield Parish Council.

2.2 A project to replace the temporary classrooms with permanent accommodation had been planned for completion in December 2017, but for a range of reasons, outside the control of the Council, significant obstacles remained. The Council had no option but to halt the project in the face of rising costs. This decision meant that the accommodation could no longer support a PAN of 20. As a result, it was agreed with the Lead Member that the decision on the PAN for Ninfield CE Primary School should be deferred to this meeting in order to allow for a consultation period regarding the proposed change in PAN.

2.3 A public consultation on the proposed reduction in PAN to 15 therefore commenced on 7 February. At the time of writing the report, 362 responses have been received to the consultation. Of these, ten are in favour of the proposal to reduce the PAN, with 352 against.

2.4 The Lead Member is further advised that the Office of the Schools Adjudicator has already received an objection to the reduction in PAN, despite the fact that this has not yet been determined.

2.5 The Council has listened carefully to concerns raised during the consultation period and has reconsidered the decision previously taken to stop the project. The Council has concluded that as the project was originally agreed under an earlier capital programme that had wider ambitions and supported projects beyond the Council's statutory duties, the project should be completed. This also recognises that significant resources had already been spent completing internal work prior to the extension commencing. The Council remains clear that going forward the only use for the schools capital programme will be to meet our statutory duty of delivering additional pupil places.

2.6 Agreement has been reached with the Parish Council about a number of the outstanding issues; this has enabled the Council to reinstate the project. The school will therefore have sufficient accommodation to support a PAN of 20.

### **3. Meridian Community Primary School**

3.1 The PAN for 2019/20 admissions at Meridian Community Primary School was erroneously agreed at 90 at the previous Lead member Meeting on 19 February 2018 due to a typographical error in the report. The PAN should have been listed as 60 as this was the figure that was consulted upon and the accommodation at the school does not support a PAN of 90. A change is allowed under paragraph 3.6 of the School Admissions Code 2014 which allows for correction of misprints in the determined admission arrangements.

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

4.1 The Lead Member is recommended to agree the PAN for 2019/20 admissions at Ninfield CE Primary School at 20 as in previous years, as the reason for the proposed reduction in the PAN no longer applies.

4.2 The Lead Member is also asked to re-determine the PAN for 2019/20 admissions at Meridian Community Primary School at 60, to correct a misprint in the previously determined arrangements.

**STUART GALLIMORE**  
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### **LOCAL MEMBERS**

Councillor Bill Bentley  
Councillor Andy Smith

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**