

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

Date: **24 January 2019**

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

Title of report: **Proposed SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School**

Purpose of report: **To seek Lead Member approval to publish statutory notices in respect of a proposal to establish a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- 1) authorise the publication of a statutory notice in respect of a proposal to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School with effect from the start of Term 5 in the 2018/19 academic year; 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 On 18 October 2018 the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability considered a report on the proposed establishment of a Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility at Peacehaven Heights Primary School. As described in the report, a recent review of SEN provision in the county identified a gap in specialist provision in mainstream schools for pupils with a primary need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Hailsham area. There is already a specialist facility for pupils at Hailsham Community College. Developing a primary facility in close proximity to the existing secondary school facility would allow progression for pupils and continuity of support to aid the transition of pupils for whom a secondary facility is the most appropriate next stage. This would assist in reducing the increasing trend of transition from mainstream primary school to special secondary schools. For some pupils, providing early intervention at primary phase through a facility place, would address needs and enable transition to mainstream secondary school.

1.2 The Lead Member was advised that due to an issue with accommodation at the school site it was recommended to delay the publication of the statutory notice until the start of Term 5 in the 2018/19 academic year.

2. Updated position

2.1 The accommodation issue at the school site has now been resolved meaning the proposed SEN facility can be established sooner than previously anticipated. As such, we would like to bring forward the publication of the statutory notice to Term 3 in the current academic year in order to implement the proposal by the start of Term 5.

3. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 In conclusion the Council has identified a gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of ASD in the Hailsham area and the Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this.

3.2 The majority of respondents to the consultation support the proposal to establish a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School.

3.3 In accordance with the prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 a statutory notice would need to be published on the Council's website and in the local newspaper in February 2019. Publication of the 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.

3.4 It is anticipated that a final decision on the proposal would be taken at the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability meeting in March 2019.

STUART GALLIMORE

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LOCAL MEMBERS

Councillor Gerard Fox

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report and minute from the 18 October 2018 Lead Member meeting (available online)