

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

Date: **25 March 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 establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility at Grovelands Community Primary School.**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Lead Member is recommended to:

- **authorise the establishment of a 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.**
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1. Background

1.1 On 24 January 2019 the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability considered a report on the proposed establishment of a SEN facility at Grovelands Community Primary School, Hailsham. 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 For these reasons, the Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School. The facility would provide for pupils with a primary need of ASD, although pupils may present with a complex range of need that would be accommodated by the facility.

2. Consultation

2.1 The Council consulted with key stakeholders and interested parties on the proposal between 6 July and 14 September 2018. The majority of respondents to the consultation (89.7%) supported the proposal.

2.2 On 24 January 2019 the Lead Member approved the publication of statutory notices in respect of the proposal. The report can be viewed online with the meeting papers for the 24 January 2019 Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability meeting available on the East Sussex County Council website. .

2.3 In accordance with the prescribed process established by the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 a statutory notice was published in the Sussex Express on Friday 1 February 2019 and posted at the entrances to the school. The notice and full proposal were also posted on the Council's website.

2.4 Publication of the statutory notice was followed by a 4-week representation period, when comments or objections could be made to the Council. By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.

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) in determining these proposals. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify any risks and appropriate mitigations. The findings of the EqIA can be viewed in **Appendix 1**.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 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. The Council would like to establish a facility for up to 8 pupils at Grovelands Community Primary School to address this need.

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

4.3 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**.

4.4 It is proposed that the new facility would be established with effect from the start of Term 5 in the 2018/19 academic year.

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LOCAL MEMBERS Councillor Gerard Fox

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
Report and minute from the Lead Member meeting on 24 January 2019 (available online on the East Sussex County Council website)

APPENDICES
Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Factors to be considered by the decision maker