

Factors which the Lead Member should consider before reaching a decision on the proposal

1.1	Are the proposals related to other published proposals?	The proposal to establish Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision at Grovelands Community Primary School is not related to other published proposals.
1.2	Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?	No
1.3	Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices?	A 10-week period of consultation was carried out between 6 July and 14 September 2018. 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 2.3 in the main report.
1.5	How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?	<p>Specialist facilities are located within a mainstream school and provide specific support to a limited number of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming a specific primary SEN.</p> <p>The aspiration in East Sussex is that specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion and help to integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. The facility should also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required. The East Sussex model increasingly expects that the expertise of staff within the facility provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all pupils with SEN and create a fully inclusive learning environment. The development of new specialist provision in mainstream schools is facilitating further development of school to school partnerships through a strategic governance group. A revised service level agreement determines the outcomes for all facilities.</p>
1.6	How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?	Pupils within the facility would be on the roll of the mainstream school and would be in addition to the published admission number. Placements are determined by the Council according to clear criteria, and would be drawn from a wider geographical area than the school's usual community area on a needs basis.
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?	<p>An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken to identify any risks and appropriate mitigations. The EqIA is appended to this report.</p> <p>Developing a primary facility in close proximity to the existing secondary school facility would be seen as having a positive impact as it 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.</p> <p>No equality implications have been identified in the report.</p>

1.8	Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?	<p>Current (January 2018) data for Grovelands Community Primary School shows that the percentage of SEN pupils at the school is 16.6% (113 out of 681). This is higher in comparison to the East Sussex Primary schools overall of 12.2%.</p> <p>The proposal will have a positive impact as there will be more places available to address the gap in specialist provision in mainstream primary schools for pupils with a primary need of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the Hailsham and the surrounding area. The specialist facility would principally be for identified pupils with an EHCP naming ASD as their specific primary SEN, although pupils may present with a complex range of needs that would be accommodated by the facility.</p> <p>According to the January 2018 school census the vast majority of pupils (91.5%) at Grovelands Community Primary School are of White British Heritage. This is in line with that of the population across the County (91.7%) based on the 2011 census.</p> <p>8.5% of the pupils who attend the school are from a Black and Ethnic (BME) minority background. Across Wealden district 8.6% of the school population is BME. (13.9% of the population in primary schools in East Sussex are from a BME background.)</p> <p>Data for Grovelands Community Primary School indicates that the percentage of pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) is 3.5% (years R-6). This is lower than the East Sussex primary schools overall of 6.5%.</p> <p>As at the January 2018 School Census, 18.7% of Grovelands Community Primary School pupils are Ever6FSM in comparison to 21.4% of all pupils in East Sussex primary schools. Nationally in primary schools the figure is 24.3%. A pupil who is described as 'Ever6FSM' means that within the last 6 years the pupil has at some point been eligible for receiving Free School Meals (FSM).</p>
1.9	Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?	<p>Although children attending the new facility might be expected to travel from a wider geographical area than the school's usual community area, it is not believed that this will have a significant impact on travel and accessibility as the new facility will cater for up to 8 children at a time, an increase of only 1.2% on the school's current capacity of 630 places.</p>
1.10	Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?	<p>£40,000 has been identified and secured in the Council's capital programme to enable the proposal to be implemented.</p>
1.11	Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal?	<p>By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received.</p>