PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO
ROSE STREET (COMMUNITY PRIMARY) SCHOOL
Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1AW

School and Local Authority Details

The proposals to make a prescribed alteration to Rose Street (Community Primary) School, Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 1AW from 1 September 2015 are being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS

Publication Date: 10 September 2014

The Proposal

It is proposed to permanently expand the school from one form of entry to two forms of entry from September 2015. This proposal is subject to obtaining planning agreement for the new accommodation that the school will require in order to expand.

Consultation

A public consultation was carried out by the local authority during the period 2 – 30 June 2014. A public meeting was held at the school on 16 June 2014. Details of the consultation can be found at:
http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/RoseStreet/consultationHome
The outcome of the consultation was reported to Kent County Council’s Education Cabinet Committee on 23 July 2014. The report included a summary of the written responses received, and the views expressed and questions raised at the public meeting. The report can be found at:
http://kent590w3:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=832&MId=5647&Ver=4

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

It is proposed that the school is permanently enlarged from one form of entry to two forms of entry increasing the published admission number of the school from 30 to 60 for Reception Year entry September 2015. The published admission number for subsequent years would be 60 and the school would grow over a seven year period to reach a total capacity of 420. The School has already admitted over its PAN of 30 for Reception Year entry in September 2014 in order to provide sufficient school places in Sheerness. Accommodation is being provided for this temporary expansion and it is now proposed to provide accommodation sufficient to allow the school to continue this expansion permanently.
The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified significant pressure in Reception Year places in Sheerness both current and in the future. The Commissioning Plan can be viewed at: http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision

The school is popular with 155 applications for a Reception place for entry in September 2014. The school is inclusive and its location means it is ideally placed to meet the forecast demand for primary school places in Sheerness.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

Sheerness’s population is increasing with the birth rate rising and families moving into the area. Expanding Rose Street School from one form of entry to two forms of entry will enable the local authority to provide additional primary school places in a popular and inclusive school, judged ‘Good’ by Ofsted. The Ofsted report from December 2012 states that ‘pupils from all backgrounds are warmly welcomed and those who need the most help are well supported’. It is recognised that standards and pupils’ achievement throughout the school have improved over recent years.

The school has a strong ethos making a valuable contribution to supporting parental choice in the area. Therefore this proposal is in line with Kent County Council’s ambition “to ensure every child will go to a ‘Good’ school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’. Bold Steps for Education is available at: https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/Bold%20Steps%20ELS%20Vision.pdf

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area

The gradual expansion of the school would ensure a minimum impact on other schools and academies in the locality. Rose Street School is part of the Isle of Sheppey Collaboration and works closely with the other primary schools on the island who are in support of the expansion of the school.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved;

The total cost of the project is estimated to be in the region of £2.7m. A feasibility study has been completed and a planning application is expected to be submitted later in 2014. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of Kent County Council’s Medium Term Capital Programme.
It is believed that the enlargement of Rose Street School as a two form entry school is not only necessary, but the most cost effective and sustainable solution to the increased demand in the area.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation

The date on which the proposals are planned to be implemented is 1 September 2015. Should the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree that implementation of the proposal can go ahead; the decision would be subject to planning agreement. If planning agreement is obtained, it is proposed to implement the proposal from September 2015. This would mean that up to 60 children would be admitted into the Reception Year in September 2015 and subsequent years, allowing the school to grow to a total capacity of 420 over a seven year period.

The procedure for responses: support, objections and comments

A public notice was published in a local newspaper on 10 September 2014 and is available on the school’s website: http://rose-street.kent.sch.uk/ and Kent County Council’s website: http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/RoseStreet/consultationHome

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to Marisa White, Area Education Officer, Brook House, Reeves Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3SS; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is: 8 October 2014.