Kent County Council is proposing to expand Westcourt Primary School, Jubilee Crescent, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4JG from 210 places to 420 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 60 for Year R entry in September 2016.

1. Why do we need to expand Westcourt Primary School?

KCC would like to expand Westcourt Primary School to help provide more places for local children. Gravesham is experiencing a shortfall of primary places due to an increase in population. Kent County Council has a statutory duty to provide enough school places and is therefore proposing to provide additional school places by expanding Westcourt Primary School from 1 to 2 forms of entry (from 30 to 60 Reception places each year). The Governing Body of the school and KCC have agreed to carry out a public consultation on the proposal to permanently expand the school, and if it is agreed that the proposal should go ahead, additional accommodation would be provided to enable the school to expand.

Westcourt Primary School is a popular school and for September 2015 entry, 54 applicants selected the school as a preferred choice. There are currently 30 places available, which provides limited scope to meet parental preference.

2. Are there plans to show how this expansion will be delivered on site?

KCC are in the very early stages of consulting on the proposals. Initial scoping of the site has shown there is sufficient space. KCC Property Department has held a pre-planning consultation presentation at the school for staff and governors to see early drafts on how KCC envisage extra provision can be met. Although not finalised, by any means, these drafts would be available for viewing during this public consultation at the drop-in event, or by arrangement with the school. It is KCC’s hope that all stakeholders, including local residents, will have an opportunity to view the plans, ask questions and make comments. This will enable the design team to take into consideration everyone’s views before submitting final plans for approval.

The building work will be part of a separate consultation process and once plans have been drawn up, you will have the opportunity to comment on them.

3. How will the school deal with any possible increased traffic and congestion?

A traffic and parking assessment will be carried out as part of the design and planning process. This expansion is being proposed because of the increase in the pupil population locally to Westcourt Primary School and it is therefore anticipated that a large number of children would walk to school. The school’s travel plan would need to be updated and would be utilised by the school to encourage families to find alternative ways of travelling to school in order to reduce the number of car journeys.

4. Will the school need to close during the building work?

No. All of the building works will be planned carefully and contractors will work with the school to ensure that works are scheduled to keep disruption to an absolute minimum. The building site will be a secure area to ensure the health and safety of the children, staff, parents and visitors to the school.

5. How will the expansion happen and how many children will there be at the school?

It is intended that the expansion would happen gradually, with 30 additional Year R places offered each year, so that the school would grow over a 7 year period until it reached a total of 420 pupils. If there was
a demand for places across all year groups from the start of the expansion, then further classes would be opened if the school agreed that it was feasible. The table below shows how the school would expand each year as 30 additional Reception children are admitted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Classrooms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016/17</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017/18</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018/19</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019/20</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/21</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021/22</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022/23</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Will there be enough playground space?
As part of the feasibility, the design team will focus on providing sufficient playground space for a two form entry school. The school would plan how to use the space to provide sufficient time for lunch and play.

7. The consultation process – indicative timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb 2016</td>
<td>Meeting at the school for parents/carers, staff and governors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 March 2016</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, displayed at the school and available on the school and KCC’s website. During this time, comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 4 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2016</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Permanent expansion of the school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. How can I give my views?
There are a number of ways to give us your views on this proposal:
- A drop-in is being held at the school on 1 Feb 2016 at 3.30pm until 5.30pm, where there will be the opportunity to ask questions and complete a response form.
- By sending the response form to Ian Watts, Area Education Officer – North Kent, Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4AE. Alternatively, you may hand your response form in at the school. All written responses need to be received by midday on 29 Feb 2016.
- By emailing: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

9. What happens next?
This consultation stage closes on 29 Feb 2016. A report summarising the responses received during the consultation period will be submitted to the Education and Young People’s Services Cabinet Committee. The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will then decide whether to proceed with the expansion proposal and publish statutory proposals in the form of a public notice. The public notice would be published in a local newspaper and for a period of four weeks following the publication date, any person can comment on the proposals. Having taken into account any responses, the Cabinet Member will then take a final decision as to whether to proceed with the proposals.

Whether the proposals for expansion go ahead or not will also be dependent on the planning process. The additional accommodation required for the proposals will be subject to separate planning requirements which will include further public consultation.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Watts
Area Education Officer, North Kent
RESPONSE FORM – Westcourt Primary School

Please complete this response and hand it in at the school office or send it to Ian Watts, Area Education Officer – North Kent, Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4AE. Please return no later than midday 29 Feb 2016

Do you agree with the plan to expand the school from 1FE to 2FE? □ Yes □ No □ Undecided

Which of the following best describes you?
* Parent/Carer / Member of Staff / Governor / Pupil
* Please delete as appropriate

OR - Other interested party ……………………………………………………………………………………………………… (please state interest).

Name ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Please provide your comments overleaf:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Kent County Council is a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with the requirements of the Act at all times. KCC will ensure that your personal information is processed fairly and lawfully and in this instance used only for the purpose of validation, which will enable a fair and just consultation.

- KCC has completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
