Kent County Council is proposing to permanently expand Sellindge Primary School to a one form entry primary school (intake of 30 children into the Reception Year) from September 2018.

Contact Details
The proposal to expand Sellindge Primary School is being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU

School details and pupil numbers
Sellindge Primary School, Main Road, Sellindge, Ashford TN25 6JY is a community school with a Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of 15. The school have taken over PAN in the last two year to ensure local pupils could attend a local school. At present there are 116 pupils on role.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand
In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alteration:

To permanently expand Sellindge Primary School to a one form entry primary school (intake of 30 children into the Reception Year) from September 2018.

A new housing development of 250 homes is planned for the site opposite the School. Building is anticipated to commence in 2016, possibly taking some four years to complete. The developer is providing additional land for the School to enable the building to expand without loss of outside space.

Sellindge Primary School is a popular and successful School, rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is regularly oversubscribed. In 2016, 58 families have applied for the 15 Year R places, 20 of these were first preferences. The majority of the applications have come from Sellindge and the surrounding locality with the furthest first preference application being 3 miles from the School.

The School, with a capacity of 105 places, currently has 116 pupils on roll. Without the new housing, the roll is forecast growing to grow to 137 during the next four years. The new housing is likely to generate some 70 additional primary aged children and the School cannot accommodate these pupils without additional teaching space.

We wish to see village children able to attend their local school and not having to travel some miles to an alternative school. Expanding Sellindge School to enable local children to attend is the logical option and is also in line with our expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

Objectives (and how the wider proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)
The expansion of Sellindge Primary School will provide more local parents with the opportunity to educate their children at an outstanding local school.
The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area
This proposal will help alleviate pressure for places in the Lympne and Sellindge planning areas that the proposed 250 new homes will bring.

Impact on the community
The proposed expansion will allow pupils from the new development to attend the village School thus reducing journeys in and out of Sellindge.

The School will appoint additional staff as required. Additional parking spaces will be provided on the present School site. The developer has agreed to expand the Village Hall car part opposite the School. This is used for parent drop off.

Special educational needs (SEN) provision
This proposal will offer more local parents the opportunity to educate their children at an outstanding local School, regardless of their needs. The expansion will include permanent accommodation that is accessible to mainstream pupils with a variety of needs. Children currently attending the School will not be adversely affected by the proposed changes.

Travel
The School will revisit their travel plan as part of the planning process should the matter go ahead.

Consultation
A public consultation was carried out by the Governing Body from 18 April 2016 to 16 May 2016. A public meeting was held at the School on 28 April 2016. The outcome of the consultation was reported to the Governing body who decided to continue with the proposal. The report on the outcome of the consultation, including summaries of the public meeting and responses received by the Governing Body was reviewed by the County Council’s Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee on 1 July 2016. The Cabinet Committee decided to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to allocate £836,000 from the Basic Needs budget to enable the project to go ahead.

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 £836,000. The housing developer is providing additional land and this funding to mitigate the impact of his development. The project is therefore at no cost to the taxpayer. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of KCC’s Medium Term Capital Programme. The new buildings will be fit for purpose and will be easy to maintain going forward.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation
It is proposed that the growth of the School is gradual with up to 15 additional children entering Reception each year. It would take up to seven years for the School to become a 1FE school. Although we can make no guarantees, we want local children, including families moving into the new housing development, to have easy access to a school place.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments
A public notice was published in a The Kentish Express on the 8th September 2016. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the School, in Shepway District
Council’s reception area and in local libraries. It is also available on KCC’s website: http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to David Adams, Area Education Officer, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 11am on the 6th October 2016.