PROPOSALS TO MAKE A PRESCRIBED ALTERATION TO HARRIETSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND (VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

Introduction
The proposals to make a prescribed alteration to Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, for 1 September 2018 are being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer (West Kent), Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ. Tel: 03000 412209.

Publication Date: 6 January 2017

School Details and Pupil Numbers
Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is judged by Ofsted as a ‘good’ school. The current capacity of the school is 210 (1 form of entry) and the current admission number of the school is 30.

Pupils on roll at Harrietsham CE Primary School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 6 10+</th>
<th>Year 6 10+</th>
<th>Year 5 9+</th>
<th>Year 5 9+</th>
<th>Year 4 8+</th>
<th>Year 4 8+</th>
<th>Year 3 7+</th>
<th>Year 3 7+</th>
<th>Year 2 6+</th>
<th>Year 2 6+</th>
<th>Year 1 5+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
<td>Girls</td>
<td>Boys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year R 4+ FT Total Boys</th>
<th>Year R 4+ FT Total Girls</th>
<th>Total Roll Boys</th>
<th>Total Roll Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: KCC Management Information – October 2016 Autumn School Census

Ethnicity: KCC Management Information Unit : May 2016 School Census – Ethnicity data recorded (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English (%)</th>
<th>French (%)</th>
<th>Panjabi (%)</th>
<th>Russian (%)</th>
<th>Not Stated (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of alteration and evidence of demand
In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council with the support of the Governing Body intends to make the following prescribed alterations to:

- Expand Harrietsham Church of England (VC) Primary School from 210 to 420 places for 1 September 2018.

The proposed project is for the additional accommodation to be built on the existing school site and adjacent land thereby expanding the school from 210 to 420 school places. If the proposal goes ahead the school would permanently admit up to 60 children into Year R from September 2018 and subsequent years.

Planning Permission for the new school
This proposal is subject to securing planning permission for the new school building. The application for the new school building would be considered by KCC’s planning committee under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; Maidstone Borough Council will be a consultee to the proposals but will not be the decision making body.

This proposal to expand the school is subject to Regulation 3 application for a new building providing 6 classrooms with associated ancillary facilities and a small group room, additional soft and hard play areas and the provision of additional car parking. The new building will also provide enhanced administration facilities for the School, with the current office space refurbished to provide the second Reception Class. The design of the new buildings will be sympathetic to their setting and the configuration of the school site. KCC is in discussions to secure additional land adjacent to the existing school, on which the new school building would be built.

Evidence of Demand
Maidstone Borough Council has recently submitted their proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate, setting out the quantity and location of housing development up to 2031. Within the Plan both Harrietsham and Lenham have been designated as Rural Service Centres, regarded as sustainable locations away from the town with infrastructure to support further growth.

Within the Local Plan 242 new dwellings are proposed for Harrietsham across three sites up to 2031. In reality 220 have homes already been consented with a further 141 in the planning system. Approximately 360 new houses would be anticipated to result in more than 100 additional pupils requiring primary aged school provision. This pressure could not be met locally without an increase in the capacity of existing primary schools. KCC’s preference is to expand Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, which would necessitate the provision of additional land adjacent to the existing school buildings.

To inform the process of forecasting primary school pupil numbers KCC receives information from the Kent Primary Care Agency to track the number of births and locations of pre-school age children. The pre-school age population is forecast into Primary school rolls according to trend-base intake patterns and ward area. Pupil forecasts are compared with school capacities to give the projected surplus or deficit places in each area.
For provision planning purposes KCC’s forecasting methodology produces forecasts according to planning groups. These planning groups are nationally recognised by central Government. The Maidstone district consists of 12 planning groups of schools. Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School falls within the Lenham and Harrietsham planning group of schools.

The forecast data outlined in the tables above highlights the increasing demand for primary school places, which cannot be met locally without increasing provision within the local area. However, it must be noted that the forecast data outlined above does not account for pressures arising from new housing developments.

Objectives
This proposal will create an additional 210 places at Harrietsham Church of England (VC) Primary School is for primary aged children in line with the ‘Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent’ (2016 – 2020). This Commissioning Plan can be viewed at: [www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision). This proposal would enable the school to operate as a two form entry school and make class organisation easier in the future. Increasing the pupil numbers at the school will mean that the school will receive more funding helping it remain viable for the future.

Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School is a popular school judged ‘Good’ school by Ofsted in November 2013. For September 2016 reception year intake the school received a total of 72 preferences for a PAN of 30. The school’s students are the heart of a vibrant and creative learning environment with a Christian ethos. Every child is valued and expected to reach their full potential as a confident and independent learner. This would secure Kent’s ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020) [http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes](http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes)

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area
KCC does not anticipate any adverse impact on neighbouring schools or the local community. Although it is proposed that the school will commence admitting 60 Reception year places in September 2018 it will grow incrementally over a period of 7 years. This will ensure that the school will increase in size in a careful, managed way that allows staff numbers to increase in line with the additional pupils each year.
Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved:

Capital
The expansion of Harrietsham Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School would require additional land to be secured to provide appropriate facilities. KCC is seeking to acquire land adjacent to the school to facilitate this. The proposal is for a new building providing 6 classrooms with associated ancillary facilities and a small group room, additional soft and hard play areas and the provision of additional car parking. The new building will also provide enhanced administration facilities for the School, with the current office space refurbished to provide the second Reception Class. Currently the School Hall and Kitchen are undersized and will be increased to accommodate the 1FE expansion.

The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3 million. The costs of the project are to be allocated from the Basic Needs Capital Budget which will be offset by substantial Developer Contributions. The costs are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed.

Revenue
i. The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a ‘per pupil’ basis.

ii. Growth funding will be provided annually for the new Reception Year class for three years. This will include a £6,000 contribution towards the set up costs of each class.

Human
Harrietsham Church of England (VC) Primary School will appoint additional teachers and support staff, as the school size increases and the need arises.

The new accommodation and better facilities will have a positive impact on students and staff through the improvement of the learning environment.

Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation
Following the end of the public notice period, should the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform confirm his Decision No 16/0100 taken on 30/11/16 that the proposal can go ahead the expansion will take effect from 1 September 2018.

Travel
Traffic and parking assessments have been carried out as part of the design and planning process. If the proposal goes ahead the school’s travel plan would 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.

Consultation
KCC recognises the significant importance given to parent/carer views. All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with. A public consultation was carried out by the Local Authority from 19 September 2016 until 17 October 2016. The Consultation documentation was produced together with an Equality Impact Assessment. These documents can be obtained from KCC’s school consultation website:

https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations

The consultation documents were distributed to statutory stakeholders, including but not limited to the following groups:
The parents/carers of all pupils attending Harrietsham Church of England (VC) Primary School via their pupil’s, school staff and governors and the local nursery.

- The Department for Education
- The Dioceses
- Chief Executive and Leader of Maidstone Borough Council (MBC)
- Elected Members (Kent County Council, MBC)
- Maidstone Parish Councils
- Local MP
- Schools in Maidstone area
- Special schools in Kent
- Local Libraries in the Maidstone area
- All stakeholders were able to access copies of these documents on the KCC website.

An information drop-in session for parents was held at Harrietsham Church of England (VC) Primary School on 5 October between 4.00 and 5.30pm, the session was open to the general public. The outcome of the consultation was discussed at the Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee on 23 November 2016 whom resolved to endorse the recommendations. The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform took the decision to proceed with the proposals on 30 November 2016.

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments
A public notice was published in a local newspaper on 6 January 2017. The notice is available on KCC’s website: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer (West Kent), Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ. Tel: 03000 412209 or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 3 February 2017.