



AGENDA

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, 12th March, 2009, at 10.30 am

Ask for: **Geoff Mills/ Karen
Manning**

**Council Chamber, Sessions House, County
Hall, Maidstone**

Telephone **(01622)
694289/694367**

*Tea/Coffee will be available from 10.15am **outside the meeting room***

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Substitutes
2. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
3. Minutes - 8 January 2009 (Pages 1 - 4)
4. Proposal to Add a Sixth Form to the North (Community) School, Ashford (Pages 5 - 26)
5. The Proposed Relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School to the Hartsdown Technology College site (Pages 27 - 34)
6. Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status (Pages 35 - 36)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership
(01622) 694002

Wednesday, 4 March 2009

Please note that any background documents referred to in the accompanying papers maybe inspected by arrangement with the officer responsible for preparing the relevant report.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board held in the Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Thursday, 8 January 2009.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr R B Burgess (Vice-Chairman), Mr C J Capon, Mr I S Chittenden (Substitute for Mr M J Vye), Mr A D Crowther, Mr M J Fittock (Substitute for Mrs C Angell), Mr M J Northey and Mr A R Poole

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M C Dance and The Reverend N Genders

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr D Adams (Area Education Officer Ashford & Shepway) and Mr S Webb (Area Education Officer for Dartford & Gravesham)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

5. Minutes - 10 December 2008

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2008 be agreed as a true record.

6. Fleetdown Infant Fleetdown Junior Schools, Dartford - Proposed Amalgamation

(Item 4 - Report by Director, Operations)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a public consultation on the amalgamation of Fleetdown Infant School and Fleetdown Junior School (subject to an exemption under Section 10 of The Education and Inspections Act 2006).

(2) Following discussion of the proposals, the Advisory Board AGREED that the proposal to amalgamate Fleetdown Infant and Fleetdown Junior Schools, Dartford should proceed to public consultation.

7. Proposed Closure of Tunbridge Wells (Community) High School to replace with a Government Funded Academy

(Item 5 - Report by Director, Operations)

(1) This report presented the results of a public consultation exercise undertaken on the proposal to close Tunbridge Wells High School in order that it may be replaced with a Government funded Academy. The report also sought the views of the Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice to close the school.

(2) Mr K G Lynes was present for this item and spoke as the Local County Member. He said he fully supported the proposal and said that one only had to visit

an existing academy and talk to the teachers to discover how good an initiative they were. He spoke about the links between Tunbridge Wells High School and the Skinners School and the successful mentoring scheme which had been established. He said that he hoped that all efforts would be made to ensure that these links continued once the new Academy was in place. He also said he believed the Academy would not only provide a focal point for the Sherwood Park Community but would add to the social cohesion across Tunbridge Wells as a whole.

(3) During the course of discussion, Members of the Advisory Board raised a number of points of detail to which officers responded. Following further discussion, the Advisory Board AGREED to the issuing of a public notice to close Tunbridge Wells High School in order for it to be replaced with a Government funded Academy. Mr A R Poole abstained from taking part in the discussion on this proposal as he is also a Member of the Planning Applications Committee.

8. Proposed Closure of Bradbourne (Foundation) School for Girls and Wildernesse (Foundation) School for Boys, to replace with a Government Funded Academy

(Item 6 - Report by Director, Operations)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a public consultation, in conjunction with the Governing Bodies, on the closure of the Bradbourne School for Girls and the Wildernesse School for Boys, Sevenoaks in order that they may be replaced with a Government funded Academy.

(2) Mr N J Chard was present for this item and spoke as the Local County Member. He is also a Governor at The Bradbourne School. Mr Chard said that he strongly supported this proposal and he paid thanks to the Area Children's Services Officer for Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells for the manner in which she had managed to deal effectively in keeping all concerned informed and advised of these proposals as they had been developed. Mr Chard said that some parents of pupils who attended the Bradbourne School for Girls had expressed the view that they had chosen single sex education for their daughters and that this proposal would remove that choice from them. Therefore this issue needed to be considered carefully and parents who had daughters at the Bradbourne School should be given reassurances that their concerns were understood and would be addressed.

(3) During the course of discussion, Members of the Advisory Board raised a number of issues to which officers responded. Members said they particularly wanted to see the concerns of those parents who had daughters at the Bradbourne School looked into and those concerns needed to be carefully considered as part of the public consultation exercise.

(4) Following discussion, the Advisory Board AGREED that a public consultation exercise, in conjunction with the Governing Bodies be undertaken in respect of this proposal to close the Bradbourne School for Girls and the Wildernesse School for Boys, in order for them to be replaced with a Government funded Academy.

9. Proposed Closure of Linden Grove (Community) Primary School and Ashford Christ Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Maths & Computer Specialist College and their Replacement with an all-age Government Funded Academy

(Item 7 - Report by Director, Operations)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a public consultation on the closure of Linden Grove Primary School and Ashford Christchurch CE Maths and Computer Specialist College and their replacement as an all age Government funded Academy subject to Ministerial Approval.

(2) Mr D Smyth was present for this item and spoke as the Local County Member. He supported the proposal to go out to public consultation as detailed in the report and said because the buildings were in the main constructed during the early part of the 1990's, they needed to be significantly updated. He also said that in the report officers said they believed that standards would rise if the Academy proposals went ahead and therefore would be helpful to have some further detail in the next report which showed the success of academies in other areas. He also said that it would be important to have community representatives appointed to the Trust Board from the existing Governing Bodies. It would be helpful therefore if assurances could be given on that particular aspect when the next report was submitted to the Advisory Board.

(4) During the course of discussion, Members raised a number of issues regarding the detail of the proposal to which officers appropriately responded. Mr Poole questioned the general strategy for having all through schools and said his feeling was that this proposal was not a particularly good idea. Mr Adams said the County Council's policy as set out in the Primary Schools Strategy was all through schools would be developed "where appropriate".

(5) Following further discussion the Advisory Board AGREED that a public consultation be undertaken on the proposal for the closure of Linden Grove Primary School and Ashford Christchurch CE Maths and Computer College and their replacement with an all age Government funded Academy, subject to Ministerial Approval.

10. Proposal to Add a Sixth Form to the North (Community) School, Ashford

(Item 8 - Report by Director, Operations)

(Mr M Northey declared an interest in this item on the basis that his daughter was a pupil at the North School and therefore took no part in the discussion)

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on the proposal to undertake a consultation to add a sixth form to the North (Community) School, Ashford.

(2) Mrs E Tweed attended for this item and spoke as the Local County Member. She said she fully supported the proposal as it would be a tragedy if this excellent school could not offer a sixth form. She said the school had a designated Dyslexia Unit and a Learning Support Unit and it would be a lead school for both ASD and Dyslexia. In addition, Ashford over the coming years was likely to see an increase in business re-locations and therefore it was important that local schools had the facility

to offer increasing opportunities with the demand for sixth form places within the Ashford area being at least sustained, if not increased.

(3) Following discussion, the Advisory Board AGREED to a public consultation being undertaken on the proposal to add a sixth form to the North School, Ashford.

11. Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status

(Item 9 - Report by Director, Operations)

The Advisory Board noted that there had been no new schools which had informed the County Council since the Board's last meeting that they intended to consider applying for Foundation/Trust status.

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 12 March 2009

Subject: PROPOSAL TO ADD A SIXTH FORM TO THE NORTH
(COMMUNITY) SCHOOL, ASHFORD.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report presents the results of a public consultation on the proposal to add a sixth form to The North School, Ashford.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to the School Organisation Advisory Board on 8 January 2009.

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 8 January 2009, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposal to add a sixth form to The North (Community) School, Ashford.

(2) This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place in January and February 2009.

The Proposal

2. (1) The proposal is to add sixth form provision to The North School for 185 pupils. It is believed that through extending the age range of the school the quality of provision, for the 11-16 age group will improve. Pupils will have onsite older students to act as role models, and access to new curriculum pathways to keep them engaged in education and training beyond the age of 16 years. The wide range of courses will enhance the learning experiences of pupils and enhance their future employment prospects.

(2) Under the current PFI rebuild of The North School capacity was increased slightly to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate 240 pupils per year. The rebuild has been completed in phases. In September 2008 the published admissions number was 200, accounting for the incomplete building works. The works have recently been completed.

(3) The proposal is to increase the PAN for pupils aged 11-16 to 215, leaving 125 places for post 16 provision. Added to this will be the 60 places in the planned vocational centre (funded by the school – Hadlow College), giving 185 places in total.

(4) There is (19 surplus places) a paucity of places in school sixth forms in Ashford (forecast for the 16 plus age groups can be found in the consultation document attached as appendix 1). These indicate a 539 place deficit by 2014-15. Currently accommodation used for statutory aged pupils and mobile classrooms (for example at Towers School) is to be used to accommodate post 16 pupils.

(5) The North proposes to offer Diploma courses for the 14-19 age range within the following subject areas:

- Environmental and Land Based
- Applied Science
- Technology and ICT
- Retail
- Art & Design
- Creative & Media
- Sport

(6) The school will continue to build on its specialist areas (i.e sports) and continue to deliver Land Based studies (due to its farm) in conjunction with Hadlow College. Both of these areas would complement, rather than compete, with existing provision. It is proposed that the above courses would run in close collaboration with other providers in the Ashford 1 Partnership.

(7) It is proposed that the school will offer 'A' Level Geography, which would link into the Environmental and Land Based framework. Arrangements would be made for those pupils to move to other institutions at age 16 (ie neighbouring school sixth forms, the FE sector or work based learning) as appropriate to access courses and qualifications that meet their needs.

(8) Final decisions about the qualifications and courses offered will be made following discussion with the Learning Skills Council.

The Consultation

3. (1) A consultation document, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1 was circulated according to the County Procedures for Review. This circulation included Local Members, Ashford Borough Council, the Member of Parliament, the Learning and Skills Council, South Kent College and Sixth Form, the Canterbury Diocese and head teachers within a radius of 3 miles. The North School was sent enough copies for all staff, governors, parents and carers to receive one. Attached to the consultation document was a reply form for respondents to express their views. Approximately 2,000 copies of the document were circulated and the document can be viewed on the KCC website.

(2) A public meeting was held at The North School on 24 February 2009. Mrs Valerie Dagger, Chair of School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB), chaired the meeting. In attendance were Mr David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer and the Headteacher and Chair of Governors of The North School. Approximately 25 people attended. A summary of the main issues raised is attached as Appendix 3.

Responses to the Public Consultation

Written Responses

4. (1) The consultation process began on 26 January 2009 and ended on 27 February 2009. As at the close of the consultation 316 responses were received, of which 297 were in favour, 16 were opposed and 3 were undecided.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 2.

Public Meeting Responses

(3) Summaries of the points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting are attached as Appendix 3.

Views of Local Member

5. (1) The Local Member for The North School, Mrs Elizabeth Tweed is supportive of Sixth Form provision at the school, which will give young people in the Ashford district real choice. In these difficult times, it is more important than ever for students to access the courses which will best equip them for their working lives.

(2) In supporting this however, Mrs Tweed would like to be assured that sufficient parking space on site will be provided for any students arriving by car, and they should be encouraged to use the improved public transport.

Views of Local Member of Parliament

6. The Local Member of Parliament, Mr Damien Green has been consulted on the proposal. A response is awaited.

Views of Ashford Borough Council

7. The Chief Executive and Leader of Ashford Borough Council have both been consulted on the proposal. Council officers have sent the consultation document to Ward Members. Their comments are awaited.

Views of the Learning and Skills Council

8. The Learning and Skills Council have been consulted on the proposal. Their comments are awaited.

Views of the Governing Body

9. The Governing Body is supportive of the proposal. It is recognised that there are gaps in the choices available to 16 to 19 year olds in the Ashford area. The North School has the facilities and expertise to provide a number of those required additional curriculum opportunities. The proposal is good for the school, good for Ashford and good for Kent.

Views of the Pupils

10. Pupils of The North School have been consulted on the proposal. Feedback from the Student Council was positive. Details of written responses received are included as appendix 2. 75 year 11 pupils have registered their interest in staying on into the sixth form.

Views of the Partnership Board

11. The Ashford 1 Partnership Board has been consulted on the proposal. Their comments are awaited.

Views of the Area Children's Services Officer

12. (1) Sixth form places in Ashford are under significant pressure. The growth of the Town, together with new legislation to secure post-16 participation will intensify this pressure. The Secretary of State has recently expressed a view that all schools in the National Challenge, like the North School, should have post-16 role models on site. The North School is a good school (Ofsted 2008) and provides significant value added (top 5% statistically). I believe the addition of a sixth form will support the raising of standards across the age range of the school.

(2) The proposal has received a lot of public support, although there are issues concerning sixth form students travelling to school and parking. It will be crucial to ensure that an appropriate school travel plan is in place upon the opening of the sixth form accommodation. Students will be encouraged to travel to school through the most sustainable methods possible, including a good uptake of the Kent Freedom Pass.

(3) The school has committed to work with residents to ensure that the changes proposed will not cause further disruption in neighbouring roads. Parking spaces will be available on site for use by sixth formers. The school will undertake modelling work to ensure these are sufficient.

Resource Implications

Capital & Revenue

13. (1) There are no capital implications for the LA. The school and Hadlow College will fund the vocational block. The vocational centre has received planning approval. Building works started at the end of November 2008.

(2) Revenue funding is provided by the Learning and Skills Council via a formula process.

Human

(3) The proposal may require the school to increase its staffing.

Proposed Timetable

14. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of this proposal, the following timetable is likely to apply:

Issue public notice	23 April 2009
End of representation period	21 May 2009
Decision by Kent County Council	June 2009

Implementation (earliest date)

1 September 2009

Recommendations

15. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the issuing of a public notice to add a sixth form to The North (Community) School, Ashford.

David Adams
Area Children's Services Officer
Ashford and Shepway
Tel: (01233)898559

The Local Member is Mrs Elizabeth Tweed

Background documents:
'Education & Inspection Act' 2006

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Proposal to add a Sixth Form to The North (Community) School, Ashford



Date of Public Meeting:

Tuesday 24 February 2009 at 7pm

Venue for Public Meeting:

The North School, Essella Road, Ashford TN24 8AL

Kent County Council would like to hear your views

This consultation document is available on:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations>



Children, Families & Education Directorate



FOREWARD

Kent County Council is considering adding a sixth form to The North (Community) School in Ashford. We would like to know what you think of this.

Your views as stakeholders are important and will help shape what happens. This document outlines what is being proposed and invites you to share your thoughts. There is a reply form at the back of this consultation document for you to complete and return.

As part of the consultation process you are also invited to attend a public meeting in which you can put forward your questions to a panel made up of representatives from the Local Authority and the school.

We would like to point out that no decision will be made regarding this proposal until the consultation process has come to an end.

Dr Ian Craig
Interim Managing Director, Children Families and Education
Kent County Council
26 January 2009



BACKGROUND

The North (Community) School is a non-selective specialist school for Sport, ICT and The Rural Dimension. The School currently admits 200 (225 from September 2010) boys and girls per year group into Years 7 to 11. The school draws its students mainly from the urban area of Ashford. In Spring 2008, the school had 851 students on roll.

The table on page 6 shows that as at Spring 2008 the post 16 provision in the schools in Ashford was full (19 places spare) and that there is expected to be a growing deficit of provision during the next few years. The continued growth in the number of sixth form students requires action to be taken to increase school sixth form places.

The proposal to add sixth form provision at The North is complemented by the plans to include sixth form provision in the Academy which might replace Ashford Christ Church School.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?

Kent County Council is proposing to add a sixth form to the North School for 185 pupils with effect from 1 September 2009 by increasing the school's upper age limit from 16 to 19 years.

Adding a sixth form to The North School will broaden the curriculum opportunities available to its students, and the young people of Ashford, by introducing progression routes which do not currently exist within Ashford's 14-19 curriculum. It will also contribute toward enhancing student's learning experiences and future employment prospects.

The School intends to offer post-16 opportunities in its specialist areas of Sport, ICT, The Rural Dimension and Science and to continue to work in partnership with Hadlow Further Education College to develop Land Based Studies from the school's premises. Building work has started on the school's vocational centre, which will support the delivery of the 14-19 curriculum.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? Cont/d.

It is proposed that the school would offer Level 2 and 3 Diploma and Applied courses for students aged between 14-19 years of age in the following subject areas:

- Environmental and Land Based
- Applied Science
- Retail
- Art & Design
- Creative & Media
- Sport
- Technology and ICT

It is proposed that the only 'A' Levels which the school will offer will be related to the specialisms and diplomas. The school recognises that it cannot offer the full breadth of post 16 courses its students will want to study. In these cases, students enrolled at The North School will access collaborative courses at other education provisions, while in other cases it may be more appropriate for the students to transfer to another provision at age 16.

Final decisions about the courses offered will be made following discussion with the Learning and Skills Council based upon demand and gaps in the provision across Ashford. Currently the school has a small number of post 16 students on roll who are following courses developed in partnership with Hadlow College.

The School's travel plan will be revisited to reflect the change in age range of the school. Consideration has already been given to how the desire of some young people to drive to school will be managed. The sixth form would have its own entrance along with its own parking spaces adjacent to the vocational centre.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The proposal to add a sixth form to The North School would not only raise the aspiration and motivation of its students, it would contribute toward;

- providing better access to post 16 education for the young people of Ashford and keep them engaged in learning;
- encouraging young people to remain in education by offering a curriculum which is personalised and more relevant to their needs;
- career development opportunities that the school could offer when recruiting new teachers;
- providing good role models to the younger students during their GCSE preparation stage and;
- contribute to raising standards across the whole school.



2008 Projections for Secondary Pupils – Post 16 Ashford One and Ashford Rural Partnerships

School	Current sixth form capacity (summer 2008)	Spring term roll 2008	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Highworth Grammar School for Girls	279	273	286	272	282	301	284	281	292	292	289	289
Towers School, The	267	305	315	316	317	300	279	278	289	287	271	259
North School, The	0	0	15	34	63	88	134	193	214	220	211	199
Norton Knatchbull School, The	311	304	314	321	330	325	329	336	338	338	338	338
Ashford Christ Church School	0	0	22	49	80	118	158	189	188	183	178	173
Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre	331	287	339	331	339	343	344	348	355	359	349	338
Sub-total	1188	1169	1292	1323	1410	1475	1527	1626	1676	1680	1635	1596
Pupil product adjustment	-	-	0	4	11	22	30	37	50	67	84	103
Grand total	1188	1169	1292	1326	1422	1497	1557	1663	1727	1747	1720	1699
Surplus/(deficit) on current PAN capacity	-	-	-104	-138	-234	-309	-369	-475	-539	-569	-532	-511

HOW TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS

We would like to know your views on this proposal. You can respond to the consultation by either:

Completing and returning the attached response form to:

David Adams
Area Children's Services Officer
Mid Kent Office
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
Kent TN24 8XU

Deadline for response forms is 27 February 2009

or

By attending the public meeting in the School Hall at:

The North School

Essella Road

Ashford

TN24 8AL

On Tuesday 24 February 2009 At 7pm

An elected member of Kent County Council will Chair this meeting, at which all interested parties will have an opportunity to put forward their views. Officers from the Local Authority will also be present to clarify points of detail.

or

Sending an Email to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

CONSULTATION TIMETABLE

What Happens Next?

All the views received, either in writing, by email or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the School Organisation Advisory Board of Kent County Council on 12 March 2009. This is a public meeting which anyone can attend.

IF following a Cabinet Member Decision, Kent County Council determines to take the proposal forward, a Public Notice will be published in the local newspaper, on the school gate, and in public places such as a library. The Public Notice will run for four weeks, during which time anyone can make a Statutory Objection or a Representation about the proposal.

NO decisions will be made on this proposal until your views have been made and are known. The following timetable gives indicative dates for the next stages of the process:

Public Consultation begins	26 January 2009
Public Meeting to be held at The North School	24 February 2009
Closing date for responses to consultation	27 February 2009
School Organisation Advisory Board	12 March 2009
Cabinet Member decision to issue a Public Notice	March 2009
Date to issue the public notice	23 April 2009
End of public notice period	21 May 2009
Determination by Local Authority	May 2009
Proposed implementation	1 September 2009

PUBLIC MEETING VENUE



Directions to The North School:

- From Ashford Town Centre join the Hythe Road (A292)
- Turn right at the garage into Mabledon Avenue
- And immediately turn left into Essella Road

*Please use this spare page as you feel appropriate,
perhaps to make notes at the Public Meeting.*

Public Consultation Response Form

Proposal to add a sixth form to The North School, Ashford.

PLEASE RETURN THIS RESPONSE FORM NO LATER THAN 27 FEBRUARY 2009

To: David Adams, Area Children's Services Officer
 Mid Kent Area Office
 Kroner House
 Eurogate Business Park
 Ashford
 Kent TN24 8XU Fax: (01233) 898500

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Undecided	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parent/Carer of a student at The North School	<input type="checkbox"/>	A member of staff at The North School	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
A governor of The North School	<input type="checkbox"/>	A student at The North School	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Other interested Party	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name of other interested party:		

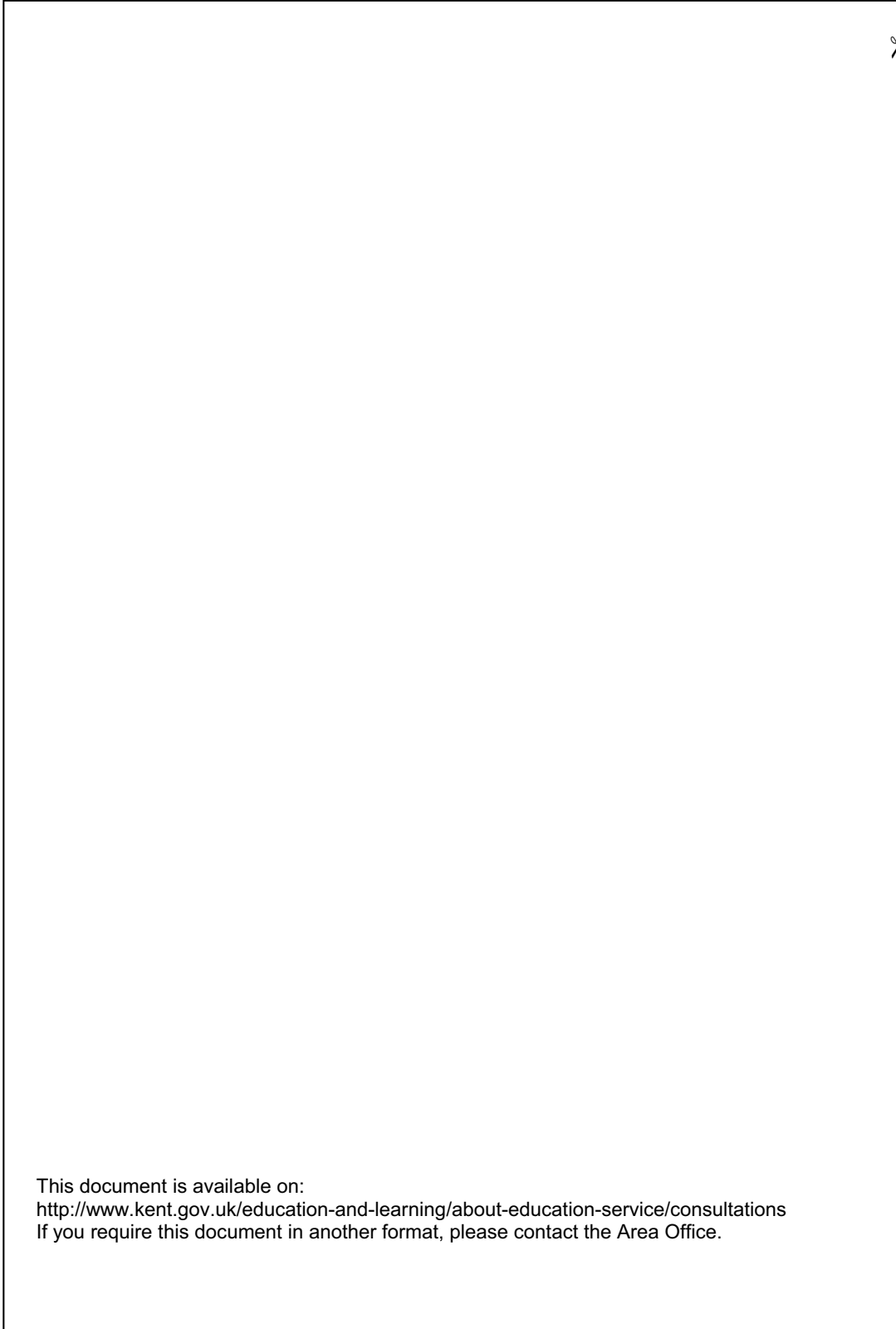
Name:

Address:

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. We 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.

PLEASE WRITE YOUR COMMENTS OVERLEAF

My comments are as follows:



This document is available on:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-learning/about-education-service/consultations>
If you require this document in another format, please contact the Area Office.

PROPOSAL TO ADD A SIXTH FORM TO THE NORTH (COMMUNITY)
SCHOOL, ASHFORD

Summary of Written Responses

Consultation documents distributed 2,000
Consultation documents received as of 27.02.09: 316

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
• Parents of pupil at The North School	65	1		66
• Members of staff at The North School	106			106
• Governors of The North School	3			3
• Pupil of The North School	105	5	2	112
• Other interested party	18	10	1	29
TOTALS	297	16	3	316

In support of the proposal:

- A sixth form would greatly enhance the school by broadening its curriculum and enhancing the future employment prospects of students.
- The students would benefit by being able to continue into further education in familiar surroundings. This is particularly beneficial for children with Additional Educational Needs and those who are not yet mature enough at age 16 for college or work.
- It will provide more access for post-16 students and more choice to the Ashford area.
- It will encourage the students to aim toward higher education.
- With the growth of Ashford there is a definite need for additional resources for education.
- It will raise aspirations across the whole school and will, in turn, contribute toward an improvement in standards.
- It will provide students with more A level options
- The sixth formers could mentor the Year 7 pupils like at Norton Knatchbull

- North School is unique among the schools in Ashford in the quality of the sport and land-based activities.
- There will be more teachers and more choice on what to do.
- It would give the school a much more professional outlook and a better reputation.
- It would reduce the pressure on other schools to increase the subjects they offer with their restricted facilities.
- The subjects the school propose offering will provide interesting and innovative paths of study to an ever-increasing student population.
- Would benefit 14-19 year olds in the area who may not be able to travel further afield.
- Would enhance Continuous Professional Development prospects of staff as teaching at a higher level can only enhance and reinforce subject knowledge.
- Ashford schools working collaboratively will reduce the NEETs and the drift of students post 16 to Canterbury. The enhanced provision and capacity would also support lifelong learning for the local community.

Against the proposal:

- The school should really focus on improving its GCSE results before embarking on the addition of a sixth form.
- The school is already large enough without adding a sixth form.
- The 6th form provision will impact on all residents in the Essella Road area with increased traffic in an already busy narrow and poorly constructed road.
- Parking in Essella Road and Mabledon Avenue will be an issue with only 40 spaces available in the school.
- More children walking to school will add to an already disruptive amount of students walking to and from school each day.

Neither for nor against:

- There are other schools and colleges in Ashford which could offer the courses which are being proposed.

PROPOSAL TO ADD A SIXTH FORM TO THE NORTH (COMMUNITY)
SCHOOL, ASHFORD

**Summary of points raised during the Public Meeting
held on 24 February 2009 at The North School**

Issue or Comment	Response
The North School website is already advertising that the sixth form is going ahead. The prospectus can be accessed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the moment the school has courses run by Hadlow College and students go on to the roll at Hadlow. If this proposal does not go ahead and the age range is therefore not changed, Hadlow, or any other Further Education provider, could continue to offer courses at post-16. • The prospectus shows the courses that the school currently offers in conjunction with Hadlow. • If the change of age range is agreed the school could offer courses to students aged 16-19. The school would then receive funding for the post-16 courses.
Are there any plans for Christ Church for post-16? If so, what could they offer that would not then compete with a wider range bring offered in the area?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no proposal for post-16 provision at Christ Church. However, there is a proposal (which has yet to receive formal agreement for us to move to the next stage) for the possible closure of Linden Grove Primary School and Christ Church Secondary School and to replace those two schools with an all age academy, which would be for pupils from age 4-18. So we are suggesting that post-16 be added to that provision. • In terms of the courses they may offer that debate has not taken place. We would, however, want to ensure that courses are geared to subject areas supported by the specialisms of that Academy once that's finally decided. • We have a lack of Level 2 post-16 access routes so if pupils are not achieving GCSEs then they struggle to find a pathway post-16 unless they go into the FE sector and that is not always the most appropriate environment for some young people. It would be about broadening choice.
What clashes does your prospectus have with South Kent College? Looking at the College's brochure they offer Creative Art & Media, ICT, Technology and Art & Design – all in Ashford.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Ashford there is a group called the Ashford Curriculum Development Committee who discuss courses running post-16 to ensure that they are viable. The courses that will be on offer at the North School will not be the same as those at the College. For example, Landscape Design, Graphic Design are different courses. There is a demand for two centres to run a Creative Art & Media course at Diploma Level. It might be that the North would deliver Level 2 and that the College would deliver Level 3. • At the moment there is a possibility that South Kent College will merge with West Kent College so we do not really know what courses will be available from September 2009. • We need to ensure that the courses that we can offer

	<p>in all the schools in Ashford are sustainable and we work with the College to make sure that the courses they offer do in fact run.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the number of car parking spaces available for the sixth form students. How many spaces are you allocating for these 185 pupils because they all need to be in the school and not on Essella Road.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of the students that attend the North School will be walking. This is a community school and the majority hopefully will stay on locally. • There is already parking available (at the left hand side as you come through the gate), plus there will be additional spaces by the Technology Block. • Whilst there may be more sixth formers arriving by car, overall it is hoped that the traffic problem during the morning and afternoon will be alleviated by the fact that a lot of the students who are currently dropped off by parents, will take advantage of the Freedom Pass from June 2009 when they will be able to travel free on public transport. • We will need to have a School Travel Plan that will reflect the fact that the circumstances of the school have changed. The Plan will need to address the post-16 parking issue. • We also need to provide residents with information about the possible numbers of post-16 students who might be driving. Using an age profile some of the students will not be driving until they are in year 13. We can work with Highworth School, Norton Knatchbull School and others to provide residents with some statistical information – showing the proportionate number of students who have cars.
<p>The school traffic creates problems for residents in trying to exit from Essella Road and Mabledon Avenue onto Hythe Road. Turning right into Hythe Road can mean a wait of up to 20 minutes while a stream of cars turns from Hythe Road into Essella Road. Parking by parents causes problems both in reducing visibility and in blocking residents' driveways etc. Increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) at age 7-11 by 25 places per year, as well as the increase in the sixth form numbers, will make the situation worse.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historically the North School had a PAN of 235. Due to taking some of the buildings out of use that number was reduced. In terms of the rebuild, when we admitted pupils in one academic year not all of the buildings were complete hence the school published an admission number of 200. The original plan was to increase the PAN to 235/240 following the building works. However, the school has not been full for a number of years so a sensible PAN would be 215. In real terms, the only additional pupils will be the 60 pupils in the Vocational Block.
<p>Will any further construction take place? Will there be extra traffic?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The construction going on at the moment is the Vocational Block. There will need to be some tarmac lorries coming on site to build the car park. These works should be completed by September 2009.

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 12 March 2009

Subject: The proposed relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School to the Hartsdown Technology College site

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report proposes the relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School in Broadstairs to be co-located with Hartsdown (Community) Technology College on the Hartsdown site in Margate. The report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on undertaking a public consultation on the possible relocation of the school.

Introduction

1. (1) Thanet is an early beneficiary of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Under Wave 4 of the programme, secondary and special schools in Thanet will benefit from substantial capital investment, with the potential to deliver exciting and innovative design solutions to meet current and future learning needs.

(2) Foreland School already has well established thriving links with Hartsdown Technology College. Both schools are in need of improved facilities and accommodation. Co-location of the schools on the existing Hartsdown campus would deliver a cost effective solution with substantial learning benefits for all students. The proposal is strongly supported by the headteachers and chairs of governors of both schools who have been actively involved in formulating and developing this proposal.

(3) A proposal to transfer The Foreland School to the Hartsdown Technology College site requires the publication of statutory proposals as the school is more than two miles (3.20 miles) 'as the crow flies' from Hartsdown Technology College.

(4) A map showing the current location of the schools is attached as Appendix 1.

Background

2.

The Foreland School

(1) The Foreland School is a mixed day special school which was redesignated under the Special School Review in 2005 to provide for 134 pupils aged 5 to 16 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs, with additional provision for pupils with learning difficulties with communication and/or interaction needs. The designated number for Post 16 pupils is 26 and the school also has a specialist maintained nursery unit with 6 fte places.

(2) The majority of pupils attending The Foreland School have Severe Learning Difficulties and in addition a significant proportion of pupils also have either Autistic Spectrum Disorder or communication and interaction needs. All pupils from Year R to Year 13 have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Not all the pupils attending the nursery will be in receipt of a statement, however following a period of assessment and observation, requests may be submitted to the Local Authority for a statutory assessment to be carried out. Some of the pupils within the nursery transfer to the infant department of the school whilst others may transfer to alternative local specialist provision or mainstream schools.

(3) There are currently 144 pupils on roll aged 2 to 19 years. Nineteen pupils are in local authority care. English is a second language for a very small number of pupils. The pupils come from a wide catchment area with many living in the Thanet area and others living in the surrounding areas, including Canterbury and Dover.

(4) The Foreland School already has established provision at Hartsdown Technology College which enables pupils to experience education in a mainstream setting. The pupils spend social times (break and lunch) with their mainstream peers and some carefully planned and supported lesson times. Twenty one pupils attend the inclusion class at Hartsdown Technology College for either two or three days each week.

Hartsdown Technology College

(5) Hartsdown is a large specialist Technology College with a sixth form that is part of a local consortium. Currently the school has a PAN of 210. This will reduce to 180 with effect from September 2010.

(6) There are currently 895 pupils on roll in Years 7 to 11 and 180 pupils in the sixth form. Twenty seven pupils are in local authority care. The college has a significant and increasing number of pupils from migrant families and 7.3% of pupils have English as a second language (Kent average 4.2%).

(7) Almost half the pupils have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The college has a designated hearing impaired unit for 12 pupils.

The Proposal

3. (1) The Building Schools for the Future programme will enable the complete rebuilding of both establishments to a design of the highest quality that will provide outstanding facilities for all the pupils. It is proposed that the two schools should share the same single building, creating a fully inclusive learning community for pupils aged 2 to 19 years with all the necessary safeguards built in. Evidence suggests that campus arrangements where pupils and staff have to travel some distance between the schools makes inclusion and the sharing of facilities and expertise much more difficult.

(2) Although collaborative working between The Foreland School and Hartsdown Technology College is well established and successful at present, the benefits are available only to a minority of students. This proposal is based on the desire of the schools to make available to all their pupils the widest possible range of educational opportunities and create a fully inclusive learning community.

(3) The co-location will make available a range of specialist facilities and equipment to pupils from the schools to which they otherwise would not have access. For instance, theatre, internet café, dance studios, gymnasium, hydrotherapy pool as well as specialist facilities for art, music, science and food technology will be available for all. It is hoped there will be areas designed and managed specifically in order for pupils from the schools to share time and space for socialisation and learning.

(4) In addition, the arrangement will provide outstanding opportunities for collaborative working and professional development between the staff of both schools. Collaborative planning is already taking place between senior staff and governors of the schools to ensure that the individual character and priorities of each is retained and that the opportunities for sharing are maximised.

(5) Discussions are at an early stage with the East Kent PCT and others about locating health and other agency services within the complex, thereby making available specialist facilities to pupils and their families.

Accommodation & Site Issues

4.

The Foreland School

(1) Currently the school is accommodated in two old single storey SEAC type buildings (Heath House and Viking House) and Saxon House which was added in 1995. The nursery is accommodated in a timber demountable building.

(2) The Foreland School's buildings have evolved over the last 40 years and are now too small, outdated and largely unsuitable for meeting their current purpose. The reason for this is that the designation of the school has changed several times in this period, the demands of the curriculum have moved forward with the introduction of the National Curriculum and the pupil population has increased from its previous designation of 107 to its current roll of 144, with 165 pupils being the target for the new build. The current school roll of 144 cannot increase to the designated number of 160 plus nursery pupils within the confines of the current accommodation. Any changes to the school accommodation on its current site would be difficult because of the constraints of the site.

(3) At the school's Ofsted Inspection in December 2004 the Inspector noted "It [the school] is constrained in its ability to meet their [the pupil's] wide ranging needs by the grossly inadequate classroom space and facilities". Since that time many small improvements have been made, e.g. converting any available area (including toilets and cupboards) into small pupil work rooms and the provision of two double room mobile classroom blocks by the Local Authority. These additions have made only marginal improvements to the current situation however and the majority of issues remain.

(4) A new building remains essential to enable the school to fully meet the needs of all the pupils it now caters for under its most recent designation (2005), which is for pupils who have Profound, Severe or Complex Learning Difficulties, in addition many of the pupils have either Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Communication and Interaction Difficulties.

Hartsdown Technology College

(5) The main building was built in 1958 in a SEAC type building and many of the classrooms are undersized by today's standards. The school was enlarged in the mid 1970's with the addition of accommodation in SEAC type buildings for Technology, Humanities, Modern Languages/Art and Design, and social and dining facilities. The school was further extended in 2001 with the addition of a two-storey Science block and a linked Sports Hall to the Technology and Gymnasium building. The school has a number of mobiles and timber demountable buildings.

(6) The Hartsdown site can accommodate the state of the art new building as envisaged under the BSF scheme. The new building would accommodate both schools

but with discrete areas for each. There would also be shared spaces combining general and specialist areas.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

5. (1) Both the schools are within Wave 4 of Kent's Building Schools for the Future Programme and are expected to be provided by way of a PFI agreement.

(2) The new building would be a PFI project with a lifespan of 25 years. Trillium would be the Local Education Partnership (LEP) partner with Kent County Council leading on the PFI project. MITIE would be the PFI partner providing managed services.

(3) The anticipated funding available from Government for the two schools is the equivalent of in excess of £25m.

(4) Any affordability gap on the PFI scheme would be funded by way of a top-slice off the DSG.

Human

(5) As The Foreland School would be located in relative proximity to its existing site and the new building would meet the requirements for the school's designated number, there would be minimal implications for teaching staff. There may be some implications for non-teaching posts that are specifically premises related.

Views of the Local Members

6. (1) The Local Members are Mr Robert Burgess, Mr Bill Hayton and Mr John Fullarton and their views on the proposal are being sought. Their responses will be tabled at the meeting.

Views of the Governing Body

7. The proposal is strongly supported by the chairs of governors of both schools.

Views of the Partnership Boards

8. Members of both Thanet 1 and 2 Partnership Boards have indicated their support for the proposal in principle and see it as a great opportunity for both schools.

School Improvement Implications

9. The two schools co-located in one state of the art building, working and planning together and with other partners, developing a shared vision, would greatly enhance the learning opportunities for all pupils.

Equality Issues

10. One of the key elements of this proposal is the opportunity to build on the collaboration that already exists between the two schools ensuring that the learning community is accessible to all. The co-location of the schools will help to develop understanding and empathy by recognising and celebrating diversity.

Transport & Environmental Impact, Including Community Implications

11. (1) A full traffic assessment will be carried out and appropriate access arrangements made. Health and safety issues will have the highest priority.

(2) It is envisaged that the new building would be open to the community, not only through adult learning but community use of the facilities, which could include a theatre, café and sports facilities.

Proposed Timetable

12. (1) The following timetable would apply, subject to the proposal going forward to public consultation.

Report to SOAB seeking views on public consultation	12 March 2009
Public consultation period	19 March to 14 May 2009
Public meeting	week commencing 30 March 2009
Report back to SOAB	16 July 2009
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	3 September 2009
Public Notice Expires	15 October 2009
Determination by Local Authority	November 2009
Adjudication (if required)	January 2010
Building work commences (earliest)	September 2010
Implementation (earliest)	September 2012

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to give their views on whether there should be a public consultation on the proposed relocation of The Foreland School from its existing site at Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, to be co-located with Hartsdown Technology College on the Hartsdown site.

Name Martyn Doole

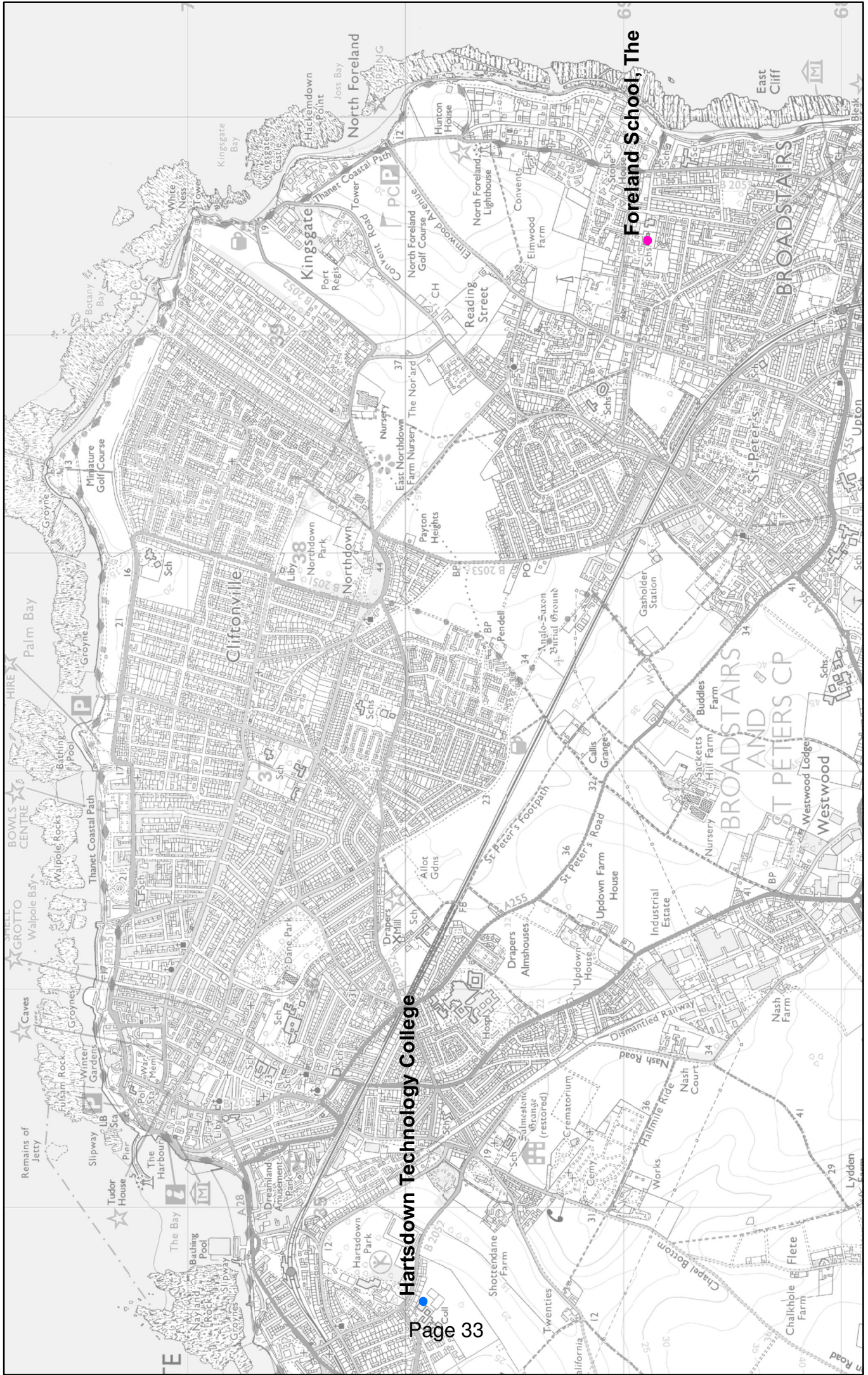
Title Area Children's Services Officer
Area Dover & Thanet
Tel: (01227) 284407

The Local Members are:

Mr Robert Burgess, Mr Bill Hayton and Mr John Fullarton

Background Documents:

Location of Hartsdown Technology College and The Foreland School



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By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 12 March 2008

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION/TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To inform Members of SOAB of the current situation regarding Foundation/Trust proposals

FOR INFORMATION

Background

1. (1) A paper was presented to SOAB on 17 October 2007 informing Members of the Government's encouragement of all schools to consider Foundation/Trust status, and of the 'fast track' procedures to achieve it. These procedures require a governing body to consult 'interested parties' (including the LA) over a minimum of a four week period, before determining themselves.

Determinations

2. (1) Since the last report to the Board there has been two new determination reported to the local authority.

(2) On 6 January a letter was received from the **Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynsford**, advising us that following full consultation, including a Public Notice process, the governors had decided to change category from Community to Foundation with effect from January 2009. The Local Member for Anthony Roper Primary School is Roger Gough was informed.

(3) On 26 November a letter was received from **Folkestone School for Girls, Folkestone**, advising us that following full consultation, including a Public Notice process, the governors had decided to change category from Foundation to Trust Status with effect from January 2009. The local Member for Folkestone School for Girls is Robert Bliss.

(4) There are now 62 Foundation schools in Kent (14 Primary, 47 Secondary and 1 Special) and 91 Aided schools (78 Primary and 13 Secondary) – a total of 150 and in addition, 8 Academies = 157 (91 Primary, 64 Secondary, 1 Special).

(5) For the sake of simplicity, Aided schools should be considered as having the same status as Foundation/Trust schools.

Consultations

3. Since the last report no new schools have informed us that they have begun consultations

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the report.

David Adams
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Background Documents:

- School Standards and Framework Act; DFES 1998
- Education and Inspection Act; DFES 2006
- Changing Category to Foundation; DCSF 2007
- School Organisation; Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools in England Regulations; DCSF 2007
- Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status;
SOAB - 17 October 2007/14 November 2007/
10 January 2008/7 February 2008/2 April 2008/
7 May 2008/17 July 2008/ 5 November 2008 / 10 December
2008, 8 January 2009