

By: Grahame Ward, Children, Families and education Director - Resources

To: Sarah Hohler – Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education

Subject: THE PROPOSED RELOCATION OF THE FORELAND (COMMUNITY SPECIAL) SCHOOL, BROADSTAIRS TO THE HARTSDOWN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, MARGATE SITE

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to relocate Foreland School. It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice to relocate the school to purpose built accommodation on the site of Hartsdown Technology College.

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## **Introduction**

1. The School Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting on 12 March 2009, supported a recommendation to consult on the proposal to relocate the Forelands (Community Special) School, Broadstairs to the Hartsdown Technology College, Margate site. Results of this consultation were reported back to the board on 16 July, this report is set out as appendix 1 and available at the following link [http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Published/C00000136/M00002486/AI00009198/\\$Item5RelocationofForelandSchooltoHartsdownTech.docA.ps.pdf](http://democracy.kent.gov.uk/Published/C00000136/M00002486/AI00009198/$Item5RelocationofForelandSchooltoHartsdownTech.docA.ps.pdf)

## **The Proposal**

2. (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 to all students a range of specialist facilities and equipment to which they would not otherwise 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.

## **Responses to the Public Consultation**

### *Written Responses*

3. 52 responses have been received, of which 23 are in favour, and 29 are opposed.

## **Views of Local Members**

4. (1) Mr. W. Hayton wishes to declare a personal interest, and therefore will make no further comment on the proposal.

(2) Mr. J. Fullarton is fully supportive of the proposal.

(3) Mr. R. Burgess is in favour of the proposed co-location of the schools, which he sees as building on the existing close working relationships between Foreland and Hartsdown. He believes it important that both schools retain their independence and that an appropriate travel plan be in place to ensure a smooth transition.

[4] At the local council elections in June 2009, Mr R Bayford was elected to represent the division previously represented by Mr Fullarton. Mr Bayford was consulted about his views but declined to comment on the proposal

## **Views of Local Member of Parliament**

5. The following comments have been received from Mr. Roger Gale MP on 15 July 2009:

“I have been well briefed on the proposals by officers, to whom I am most grateful, have studied the implications with care and observe as follows.

- (a) Foreland School is, as it stands, no longer fit for purpose and to do nothing is not an option.
- (b) I saw great merit in the original proposition to merge the Foreland Senior Form with a mainstream secondary school and to re-build and accommodate more junior forms on the Foreland site. That would still be my preferred option.
- (c) The removal of the Garlinge schools from the equation may facilitate the merger of Foreland and Hartsdown on the Hartsdown site but it leaves the Garlinge requirements for structural improvement unresolved. That is an issue that must be addressed.

- (d) It is important that Hartsdown retains sufficient playing field and playground space to meet the needs of a large and important College. Turning green fields into school buildings without compensatory provision is not acceptable.
- (e) If the project is to proceed then an appropriate degree of educational separation must be maintained between the special needs element of the school and the mainstream secondary school.
- (f) Attention might usefully be given to creating a new entrance to the school off Hartsdown Road (below the housing) to relieve the pressure on the existing frontage and to re-align the schools so that the new "front" overlooks the valley. This would possibly also allow good access for the emergency vehicles that from time to time are needed to attend on Foreland School pupils.
- (g) If the latter proves to be impracticable then serious attention must be given to the traffic issues that will arise in George V Avenue as a result of an increased use of larger vehicles of the kind needed to transport mobility aids. Without this the proposals should be rejected on Highways grounds alone.”

### **Views of the Governing Bodies**

6. (1) The Governors of The Foreland School believe this is a once in a life time opportunity to make a real difference for their pupils.

(2) The Hartsdown governing body supports the initiative and wants to involve the community. Parents in partnership with the school can contribute to the success of the project. Collaboration with Foreland is already strong with all having the interests of the students at heart.

### **Views of the Partnership Board**

7. 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.

### **Resource Issues**

#### *Capital & Revenue*

8. (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 in excess of £25m.

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

*Human*

(5) As the Foreland School would be located relatively close 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. Non teaching facilities staff transferring to the new site would be employed by the new Facilities Management contractor for LEP1 of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

### **Views of the School Organisation Advisory Board**

9. At its meeting on 16 July 2009 the School Organisation Advisory Board unanimously supported the proposal to issue a public notice for the relocation of the Forelands (Community Special) School, Broadstairs to the Hartsdown Technology College, Margate site.

#### **Recommendation**

10. The Cabinet Member is requested to AGREE:
- (1) to the issuing of a public notice to relocate The Foreland School from its existing site to the proposed site at Hartsdown Technology College.
  - (2) subject to approval of the proposal following the end of the objection period, the resources necessary to implement the scheme being provided on the basis identified in the report

Martyn Doole  
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At the time of the public consultation the Local Members were: Mr. W. Hayton, Mr. J. Fullarton and Mr R. Burgess. At the County Council elections on 4 June, Mr Fullarton stood down and was replaced by Mr R Bayford.

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Previous Committee Reports:*

School Organisation Advisory Board – 12 March 2009  
School Organisation Advisory Board – 16 July 2009