



## AGENDA

### SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

**Wednesday, 14th November, 2007, at 10.30 am**  
**Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone**

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

Telephone **(01622) 694289/694367**

*Tea/Coffee will be available from 10.00am*

#### **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 of the meeting held on 17 October 2007 (Pages 1 - 6)
4. Ethelbert Road (Community) Infant School Proposed Change to an All-through Primary School - Outcome of Public Consultation (Pages 7 - 28)
5. The Proposed Closure of Danley Middle School as an addition to the previously notified proposed closures of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School, to be replaced with an Academy on the Minster College and Cheyne Middle Schools sites, conditional upon a funding agreement forthcoming from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. (Pages 29 - 30)
6. New School Competitions (Pages 31 - 34)
7. Templar Barracks, Ashford - Proposed New Primary School Provision (Pages 35 - 42)
8. Rowhill School, Wilmington - Proposal to Enlarge and Relocate to the old West Kent Hospital School site and relocate the West Kent Health Needs Education Service and the Phoenix Centre onto the Rowhill Site. (Pages 43 - 50)
9. Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status (Pages 51 - 52)

#### **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

**Tuesday, 6 November 2007**

*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 on Wednesday, 17 October 2007 at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr R B Burgess (Vice-Chairman), Mrs C Angell, Mr C J Capon, Mr A D Crowther, Mrs E Green (substitute for Mr A Poole), Mr M J Northey and Mr M J Vye. Mr R Bristow, Director of Education, Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education was also present.

OFFICERS: Dr I Craig (Director – Operations); Mrs A Osborne, Area Education Officer, Canterbury and Swale; Ms C Lay, Area Education Officer, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells; Mr M Doole, Area Education Officer, Dover and Thanet; Nuala Ryder, Specialist Services, CFE; and Mr G Mills (Legal and Democratic Services).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M C Dance, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education – Operations, Resources and Skills.

**UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**

**1. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 July 2007**  
*(Item 4)*

(1) Mrs Angell referred to the first line of paragraph 4(5) of the Minute relating to Ethelbert Road Infants School which she said needed to be amended in order to clarify its meaning and intent. It was agreed that this line should be amended to read “Dr Craig agreed that this was an unusual case, and did sit within the policies set out in the Primary Strategy”.

(2) Subject to this amendment, the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2007 were agreed as a true record.

**2. Dates of Meetings - 2008**  
*(Item 5)*

The Board agreed its meeting dates for 2008 as follows:-

- 10 January – 10.30am – Darent
- 7 February – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 19 March – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 7 May – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 12 June – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 17 July – 2.00pm – Council Chamber
- 11 September – 2.00pm – Council Chamber
- 9 October – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 5 November – 10.30am – Council Chamber
- 10 December – 2.00pm – Council Chamber

**3. Tunbridge Wells Community High School – Proposed Change of Age Range to Remove the Sixth Form from the School’s Formal Designation**  
*(Item 6 - Report by Director - Operations)*

(1) This report sought the views of the Advisory Board on a proposal to regularise the position regarding the suspension of sixth form provision at Tunbridge Wells Community High School and to change the age range from 11 to 19, to 11 to 16 years only.

(2) Chris Lay said that Tunbridge Wells Community High School was currently designated as a school for students aged 11 to 19 years. The school’s sixth form was suspended from September 2005 on grounds of viability. The School Organisation Regulations do not, however, provide for temporary changes to the age range of a school. This proposal was therefore being brought forward in order to regularise the position and to bring it into line with legislative requirements. There was no prescribed consultation process that needed to be followed in these circumstances, however guidance from the DCSF suggested that it was good practice to seek the views of all stakeholders likely to be affected by the proposal. The school would therefore write to appropriate stakeholders and inform them of the proposal as detailed in the report. The Schools Governing Body had already expressed its full support for the proposal which was also supported by the Tunbridge Wells Cluster Board, the Learning and Skills Council and the local county Member.

(3) During the course of discussion, Members of the Advisory Board asked officers a number of questions during which assurances were given that the proposal would not hamper or reduce the educational opportunities for students attending Tunbridge Wells High School who wished to go on into higher education. There was a close working relationship between Tunbridge Wells High School and other schools within the Tunbridge Wells Cluster and the school had a particularly good working relationships with the Skinners School through which there were exchanges of teachers together with older students from the Skinners School acting as mentors for students at Tunbridge Wells High School. Among her questions, Mrs Angell asked particularly about the Governments ‘September Promise’ and how this would relate to the proposals. Dr Craig said he was unaware of the “September Promise” and would need to undertake further enquiries. He emphasised to Members the close links and support which exists within the area for students at Tunbridge Wells High School and there is already a strong programme in place in order to ensure the smooth transfer of post 16 students to other areas of education. There are excellent links with the West Kent Learning Federation which includes West Kent College and there were ongoing discussions with the aim to look to improve still further the links which the County Council has with schools and colleges in this area.

(4) Following further discussion, the Advisory Board agreed unanimously that a public consultation should be undertaken on revising the designated age range of students educated at Tunbridge Wells Community High School from 11-19, to 11-16 years of age.

#### **4. Unit Review (Including Designated and Specialist Provision and Very Severe and Complex Need Support for Children and Young People with Special Educational Need at Mainstream Schools)**

*(Item 7 – Report by Director – Operations)*

(1) Before discussion on this meeting, a supplementary paper was circulated which set out further information related to proposals for specialist provision and support in mainstream schools for children with special educational needs in the North West Kent Cluster, in Ashford and in Shepway.

(2) This report updated Members on the progress of the review of units and specialist designations and brought to Members attention the possible need for a statutory consultation in relation to some individual proposals. Mr Doole said the objectives of the review were to ensure that the pattern, diversity and organisation of provision reflected the changing needs of the pupil population; supported schools in becoming more inclusive and accessible to all learners; to reduce the long distances travelled by many children on a daily basis, thus eliminating stress for them and their families and reducing expenditure on transport and to ensure complimentary provision to that available in special schools. The proposals were the subject of ongoing close consultation with schools, parents, students and key stakeholders and other interested parties and the overall aim was to develop proposals at a local level which covered the full range of provision and took account of the need to ensure an appropriate range and mix of provision with any given locality.

(3) Some of the changes may require some proposals going through an individual public consultation process and legal advice was currently being sought as to which ones may or may not fall into that category. The legal advice was not available at the meeting but Mr Doole assured Members that any proposals requiring statutory consultation, would be reported to the Board. Any Phase 2 proposals requiring a statutory public notice also be reported to the Advisory Board following consideration by Cabinet of the over package of proposals at its meeting in February 2008.

(4) Members raised a number of questions related to transport, funding, parental choice, staffing implications, where do parents go to get help, support and advice and who will arbitrate if the preference of a parent and child cannot be met. It was also said that it would be important to monitor provision under these new arrangements, and for Members to be kept informed of outcomes.

(5) Dr Craig said that under this process the County Council would be commissioning with Local Children's Trusts, for provision which included health and social care and working with parents in order to identify the most effective choice of delivery for their child. If the child had a statement then it was the responsibility of the County Council to deliver the terms of that statement. If parents were not satisfied with the provision being provided then they could take that up directly with the County Council. Therefore in essence, the processes related to parental choice would not be any different from what they are now. Mr Doole said whilst guarantees could not be given, one aim of the proposals was to reduce the travel time for children and overall these should be fewer pupils travelling long distances. On the issues raised regarding funding, Mr Doole said that this would be monitored and that the Council would be able to demonstrate how resources were being distributed and what outcomes were being achieved. Nuala Ryder said that the funding proposals were detailed in the Appendix to the report to the Advisory Board but said it was proposed that for children with exceptionally high needs part of their funding would be taken into a central pot and kept as a contingency. This funding could be used

for example, to provide support in a mainstream school for a child who needed a high level of support. Mr Doole said that the proposals outlined in the report very much focussed on trying to build capacity and bring about change to parental perceptions. Having cluster lead schools would mean them being able to provide support and expertise to other schools within their cluster so that the children at those schools would be able to benefit from the lead schools expertise. Mr Doole also confirmed that parent groups had been closely involved in the consultations on these proposals and were represented on the Steering Group.

(6) Following further discussion, the Advisory Board noted the progress of the review and that, should it be necessary following legal advice, any individual proposals which required to be subject to a public consultation process, would be reported separately to a future meeting of the Board. The Advisory Board also noted that the Phase 2 proposals would be considered by the County Council's Cabinet at a meeting in February 2008 rather than in January as set out in the report.

**5. Proposed Closure of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School and their replacement with an Academy, conditional upon a Funding Agreement forthcoming from the Department for Children, Schools and Families**  
*(Item 8 – Report by Director – Operations)*

(1) This report informed the Advisory Board of the steps necessary to achieve the secondary phase of education within the two-tier system on the Isle of Sheppey.

(2) Mrs Osborne circulated a supplementary paper together with a letter dated 16 October 2007 from the Project Manager of Mouchel Parkman. The supplementary paper explained that the sponsors and the Minister, Lord Adonis had decided to defer the proposed opening date of the Academy to September 2009. Mrs Osborne explained that despite this the proposed date for the submission of the application for funding arrangement would not change and this still had to be submitted by December 2007. Also, the change of date would not affect the proposed programme for the appointment of a Principle Designate or the programme for the procurement of the design and construction of the new buildings. Mrs Osborne also confirmed that the admission arrangements for year 9 entry to Minster College in September 2008 would be sent out by KCC Admissions Department.

(3) During the course of discussion, Mrs Angel said that she understood the situation and the reasons for the delay but wondered if Members could not have been advised of the delay at an earlier stage. Mrs Osborne said that as the Academy was independent of the local authority, it was its sponsors who undertook all the consultations. The report by Mr Maurice Smith was only available to the County Council in September and as far as it was able to the Council had done its best to ensure that Members and Key Stakeholders had received information at the same time that the County Council had received it. As part of this process, Mrs Osborne said that she had attended a number of meetings of the Swale Local Board and had met with Members of Swale Borough Council.

(4) As a local Member Mr Crowther said that he had been happy with the consultation process and was happy with the report which had been prepared by Mr Maurice Smith. However, he did have some concerns and felt that in order to give emphasis to the message that this was a new school providing a fresh start no pupils should be transferred to the Academy until the building programme was completed. Mr Crowther also said that rather than refer to these sites as 'Academy East' and 'Academy West', he believed they should be known respectively as Cheyne

Academy and Minster Academy. Mr Crowther also asked whether the Academy would be open to students from communities such as Sittingbourne and Faversham.

(5) Mrs Osborne said that because the design and construction of an Academy always takes a number of years, they always open and operate for a period of time in the existing buildings. However, this Academy would benefit from new leadership and new funding streams from the day it opened. Mrs Osborne also said that the sponsors were keen to signal a change to the education arrangements on the Isle of Sheppey and were intending to run a competition inviting people to put forward their suggested name for the Academy. Dr Craig said those who wished to attend the new Academy would be able to do so, subject to availability of places. Also, the delay in the opening was not something the County Council had any control over. Mr Bristow said that he supported the delay in opening the Academy as he thought it would help address some of the concerns which had been expressed by Mr Crowther. The delay would also give the opportunity for construction of some of the new buildings to be got underway. Mr Burgess said that with the introduction of secondary transfer and the construction of the Academy, this would allow wider parental preference and give an opportunity for there to be a two way flow of students on and off the Island. Mr Burgess said he supported the ethos of the Academy but whilst he welcomed its specialist nature he was concerned that this could be diluted because of the split over two sites. Mrs Green said based on her experience of the Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate, the sooner this new Academy was opened the sooner it would establish its own ethos and own profile within the community.

(6) Following further discussion, the Advisory Board noted that the issue of a Public Notice would now be necessary. The Notice would propose the closure of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School to replace these schools with an Academy now due to open in September 2009 subject to the Department for Children, Schools and Families Funding Agreement.

## **6. Schools Applying for Foundation Status** *(Item 9 – Report by Director – Operations)*

(1) This report informed Members of the Advisory Board of the current situation regarding Trust Status, and recommended a process for responding to and the reporting of those proposals.

(2) Dr Craig said that the original status of “Foundation School” was set out in the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998. Foundations Schools, like Aided Schools employed their own staff and held their own buildings and land “in trust” from the Local Authority. Currently, there were 57 Foundations schools in Kent (13 primary and 44 secondary), and 91 Aided schools (78 primary and 13 secondary). Although the Government was not requiring all schools to become “Foundation”, they are being strongly encouraged. This encouragement sits logically alongside the Government’s (and Kent’s) views that local authorities should divest themselves of much of their day to day operational responsibilities and become more strategic. The DCSF had instituted a “fast track” process, which involved a governing body consulting on a proposal for a minimum four week period. They are required to consult with the host local authority as part of that process, and at the end of the consultation period the governing body can decide whether to publish a Public Notice in accordance with the required legal regulations. Unless there are very good reasons not to do so, the change of status would be agreed by the DCSF.

(3) A number of Kent schools are currently considering foundation status, and more are likely to do so. Two schools, Maidstone Grammar and Broomhill Bank have undertaken consultations which required responses from the local authority. In consultation with the Cabinet Member, the County Council had not submitted any objections. Dr Craig said in general the consultation period did not usually allow to prepare and bring a paper to the Advisory Board for a view on whether to object.

(4) Mr Vye spoke about the admission arrangements currently relating to Maidstone Grammar School, and said generally, at the end of the day, everyone would be dependent on the decisions taken by the adjudicator. What would therefore be significant would be the consistency of those decisions. Mr Northey referred to Recommendation 3(2) and recommended that the local Member should be included in those to be consulted. This was agreed. Mrs Angell said, and it was agreed that a list be prepared of those schools currently considering foundation status and for this to be reported to an appropriate meeting of the Advisory Board. Mr Bristow referred to Recommendation 3(1) and asked that after the word "contrary" in line 1, the words "the presumption will be", be added. This was agreed.

(5) The Advisory Board agreed that:-

- (i) unless there are very good reasons to the contrary, the presumption will be the local authority will not oppose any governing body wishing to move to Foundation or Trust status;
- (ii) the Director (Operations) will consult with the Cabinet Member and appropriate Local County Member(s) before responding to a consultation on Foundation of Trust status;
- (iii) responses will be reported to the next available meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board.
- (iv) a list of those school currently considering a move to Foundation status would be report as appropriate to a future meeting of the Board.

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: ETHELBERT ROAD (COMMUNITY) INFANT SCHOOL PROPOSED  
CHANGE TO AN ALL-THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL –  
OUTCOME OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to change Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through primary school. It seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a public notice to change the age range of Ethelbert Road Infant School.

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## **Introduction**

1. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School is located within urban Faversham and has occupied its site for 100 years. The school draws the vast majority of its pupils from within a 1-mile radius. The school is popular and successful as an infant school although there is no junior school in Faversham to which pupils can automatically transfer. Pupils moving on to Key Stage 2 must therefore find places in primary schools as “casual admissions”. This can be problematic and can break friendship groups. The concern about which primary school their children will transfer to encourages parents in Year 2 to leave early as spaces in primary schools become available.

(2) At its meeting on 11 July 2007 the School Organisation Advisory Board supported the proposal to consult on changing Ethelbert Road from an infant to an all-through primary school (see report attached as Appendix 1). This report sets out the results of the public consultation which was undertaken in September and October 2007.

(3) A consultation document, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 2 was distributed in accordance with County policy. This document contains background information and roll data to inform the consultation process.

## **Background**

2. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School has a published admission number of 37 and a net capacity of 111. There are currently 88 pupils on roll giving a surplus capacity of 20%. There is a pre-school provision on site run by a private provider. This is the lead pre-school for the Rural Swale Cluster.

(2) The school was last inspected in 2003 and was judged to be a good school with some very good features. It was noted that the school provided a safe and friendly environment that strongly supported learning and was totally inclusive so that all pupils were treated as individuals.

(3) In 2003 a disabled care suite, which also comprises additional teaching facilities, was established.

(4) The creation of an ICT suite in 2006 enhanced the facilities at the school which now also includes interactive whiteboards in each classroom.

(5) The playground has recently been redeveloped and provides a holistic experience for the pupils with designated areas for outside learning.

## **The Proposal**

3. (1) The proposal is to extend the age range taught at Ethelbert Road. Currently the school caters for children from Year R to Year 2. It is proposed that the age range be from Year R to Year 6, the school becoming an all-through primary.

(2) Currently the school has a PAN of 37 and a net capacity of 111. It is proposed that the PAN be 15 and the capacity 105.

(3) The proposal if implemented would mean that from September 2008 and in successive years, Year 2 children would stay on at the school instead of having to find alternative places elsewhere.

(4) All children currently attending Ethelbert Road would be guaranteed places from Year 3 through to Year 6.

(5) The new PAN of 15 would apply to entry to Year R from September 2008. Currently approximately 30 children enter at Year R and leave at the end of Year 2. The new arrangement will offer 15 pupils education across all primary key stages (Year R to Year 6).

## **Consultation Process**

4. (1) The consultation document was distributed to staff, governors and parents at the schools, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, Parish Councils, the Diocesan Authorities, local libraries, the Borough Council and others in accordance with the agreed County policy. The document was also posted on the KCC website.

(2) Approximately 400 copies of the document were circulated, which included a form for written responses.

(3) A public meeting was held at Ethelbert Road Infant School on 25 September 2007. Mr Robert Burgess, member of SOAB, chaired the meeting. In attendance were Dr Ian Craig, Director – Operations, Alison Osborne, Area Education Officer and other KCC officers. 152 people attended.

## **Responses to the Public Consultation**

### *Written Responses*

5. (1) A total of 156 written responses were received of which 153 were in favour and 3 opposed.

(2) A summary of written responses is attached as Appendix 3.

### *Public Meeting Responses*

(3) Summaries of points, questions and comments made at the public consultation meeting are attached as Appendix 4.

### **Views of the Local Member**

6. The local member is Mr T Gates who spoke at the public meeting in support of the proposal. He welcomed the idea of an all-through primary school as it would solve the on-going problem of transfer to another school at the end of Year 2 and congratulated the school on the quality of education it has provided for many years.

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

7. Mr Hugh Robertson, the local Member of Parliament is aware of the popularity of the school and their desire to become an all-through primary school. He is fully supportive of the proposal and can report that he has received no adverse letters from constituents in relation to the proposed change.

### **Views of Swale Borough Council**

8. There has been no response from Swale Borough Council.

### **Views of the Governing Body**

9. The governing body believes that the proposal is in the best interests of all. Children could remain in the school for the duration of their primary education. This would benefit parents, staff, local residents and the children themselves. The governing body is of the view that the proposal complies with the Primary Strategy and is also the best proposal for the Cluster.

### **Views of Pupils**

10. The school consulted the children on the proposal and through the school council the children themselves spoke to their peers. The results were shown at the public consultation meeting through a school made video presentation, with the majority of pupils supporting change.

### **Views of the Rural Swale Cluster Board**

11. The Rural Swale Cluster Board, in consultation with the Cluster Headteachers, supports the proposal. A significant majority of local headteachers view the proposed change positively.

### **Views of the Area Education Officer**

12. (1) This proposal has significant support from the education community, parents, governors, staff and pupils.

(2) The retention of the school as a primary school will serve the needs of the local community.

(3) Reduction to an intake of 15 is necessary because the site cannot accommodate any larger primary school.

(4) Other local schools together with Ethelbert Road provide sufficient local school places.

### **Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications**

13. (1) The school will continue to serve the population in its immediate area.

(2) Those children who currently leave at the end of Year 2 and travel to schools elsewhere would be able to continue their education at Ethelbert Road thus reducing the distances children would have to travel to school.

(3) The school is updating its travel plan which also includes the establishment of a walking bus. The plan would need to be adapted to take into consideration the wider age range of the pupils attending the school.

(4) Highways have been consulted and will work with the school to develop a revised travel plan.

### **Resource Implications**

14. In the SOAB paper of 11 July it was reported that toilets would need to be upgraded and that a feasibility study was being undertaken. This has now been completed and it is estimated that the required work would cost £75k including fees. This cost is included in the Capital Programme.

### **Proposed Timetable**

15. If it is decided that a public notice should be issued in respect of the proposal, the following timetable could apply:

Issue public notice	3 January 2008
End of representation period	15 February 2008
Decision by Kent County Council	March 2008
Implementation	1 September 2008

16. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on:
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- (a) changing Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through primary school.
- (b) if agreed, the issuing of a public notice to change the age range of Ethelbert Road Infant School; and
- (c) 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 this report.

Alison Osborne  
Area Education Officer  
(Canterbury & Swale)  
Tel: (01227) 284461

The Local Member is Mr Tom Gates

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*Background Documents:*

None

*Previous Committee Reports:*

Report to School Organisation Advisory Board 11 July 2007

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 11 July 2007

Subject: ETHELBERT ROAD INFANT SCHOOL - PROPOSED CHANGE TO AN ALL-THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on changing Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through Primary school.

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## **Introduction**

1. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School is located within urban Faversham and has occupied its site for 100 years. The school is popular and successful as an infant school although there is no junior school in Faversham to which pupils can automatically transfer. Pupils moving on to Key Stage 2 must therefore find places in primary schools as “casual admissions”. This can be problematic and can break friendship groups. The concern about which primary school their children will transfer to often encourages parents in Year 2 to leave early as spaces in primary schools become available.

(2) Attached as Appendix 1 is a map showing the home locations of the pupils attending the school in September 2006. Ethelbert Road Infant has a published admission number of 37 and a net capacity of 111.

(3) The school draws the vast majority of its pupils from within a 1-mile radius of the school. There were 85 pupils on roll at Ethelbert Road Infant (January 2007) and therefore 23% surplus capacity. The September 2007 intake of Year R pupils is expected to be 30.

(4) Table 1 shows the distances from Ethelbert Road Infant School to the other local schools.

**Table 1:** Distance from Ethelbert Road Infant School to other local schools

Distance as the crow flies	School	Distance by road
Within 1 mile	Ospringe CE Primary School	0.7 mile
	St Mary of Charity CE Primary School	0.7 mile
Within 2 miles	Bysing Wood Primary School	1.1 miles
	Davington Primary School	1.0 mile
Within 3 miles	Luddenham School	2.1 miles

(5) Table 2 shows the historic roll data for Ethelbert Road Infant School over the last 6 years.

**Table 2:** Historic roll data (January count)

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ethelbert Road	100	91	91	79	87	85

(6) Table 3 shows the pupil numbers by Year group in Ethelbert Road Infant School. In January 2007 there were 85 pupils on roll (therefore 23.42% surplus capacity). The current roll has fallen to 81 (June 2007).

**Table 3:** Numbers in Ethelbert Road Infant School as at January 2007

Year group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
	30	30	25	-	-	-	-	85

(7) Table 4 lists primary schools located within 3 miles of Ethelbert Road Infant School, and shows actual rolls as of January 2007. Schools are not recruiting to capacity and the current surplus is 265 places (18.28%). This will diminish as Childrens Centres are completed at Bysing Wood and St Mary of Charity CE.

**Table 4:** Numbers in schools within 3 miles of Ethelbert Road as at January 2007

School	PAN*	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Net Capacity
Bysing Wood	30	12	6	6	10	15	19	20	92	171
Davington	60	52	56	60	60	67	62	61	418	420
Luddenham	30	30	30	30	32	31	31	32	216	198
Ospringe CE	30	22	22	30	29	32	45	18	198	241
St Mary of Charity CE	60	28	27	31	43	44	36	52	261	420

\*Published Admission Number

(8) Table 5 gives current and future PAN information for the locality in and around Faversham town.

**Table 5:** Changing PANs in the Faversham area

Year	2007	2008	2010
PAN	396	354	317

(9) There are 320 Year R pupils on roll in the locality which includes a considerable number from the Whitstable area who send their children to Swale schools. In future it is expected that this trend will diminish. Ethelbert Road School is required as a primary to serve local need. The latest forecasts indicate that in 2010 there will be 320 Year R children living in the locality.

## Background Information

2. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School has a capacity for 111 pupils and a published admission number of 37.

(2) The school was last inspected in 2003 and was judged to be a good school with some very good features. It was noted that the school provided a safe and friendly environment that strongly supported learning and was totally inclusive so that all pupils were treated as individuals.

(3) In 2003 a disabled care suite, which also comprises additional teaching facilities, was established.

(4) The creation of an ICT suite in 2006 enhanced the facilities at the school which now also includes interactive whiteboards in each classroom.

(5) The playground has recently been redeveloped and provides a holistic experience for the pupils with designated areas for outside learning.

(6) There is a private pre-school (Berties) on site which is the lead pre-school for the Rural Swale Cluster.

## **School Buildings**

3. (1) Ethelbert Road is a Victorian building with solid brick walls and a Kent peg tile roof. During the last three years, the major maintenance issues of the boiler and tarpaving have been resolved.

(2) The school is well equipped as an infant school. It has a small hall and no playing field. However, the governors are entering into an agreement to use the sports hall and playing fields at the nearby secondary school.

## **The Proposal**

4. (1) The proposal is to extend the age range taught at Ethelbert Road. Currently the school caters for children from Year R to Year 2. It is proposed that the age range be from Year R to Year 6, the school becoming an all-through primary.

(2) Currently the school has a PAN of 37 and a net capacity of 111. It is proposed that the PAN be 15 and the capacity 105.

(3) The proposal if implemented would mean that from September 2008 and in successive years, Year 2 children would stay on at the school instead of having to find alternative places elsewhere.

(4) All children currently attending Ethelbert Road would be guaranteed places from Year 3 through to Year 6.

(5) The new PAN of 15 would apply to entry to Year R from September 2008. Currently approximately 30 children enter at Year R and leave at the end of Year 2. The new arrangement will offer 15 pupils education across all primary key stages (Year R to Year 6).

(6) It is proving increasingly difficult to absorb pupils leaving Ethelbert Road Infant School in local primary schools. Lowering the intake number will mean that in the future families will choose at Year R from a range of provision in Faversham and will be able to complete primary schooling at one establishment.

## **Views of the Governing Body**

5. The governors are in favour of the proposal and see the extending of the age range as a solution to the problem the school has at the end of Year 2, there being no local Junior school to which the children can transfer.

## **Views of the Local Member**

6. Mr T Gates, the local member, is aware of the issues and is in favour of proceeding to public consultation on a proposal to change Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through primary.

## **Views of the Cluster Board**

7. The Rural Swale Cluster Board in consultation with the cluster headteachers fully supports the proposal to redesignate Ethelbert Road Infant School as a primary school with effect from September 2008.

## **Resource Implications**

### *Capital*

8. (1) The school is of sufficient size to accommodate a primary school of 105 pupils. Toilets would need to be improved to separate Foundation/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children; a feasibility study is currently being carried out. It is unlikely that temporary accommodation will be needed to house the larger year groups as they pass through the school.

### *Revenue*

(2) Reorganisation Funding - The reorganisation of Ethelbert Road will attract one off funding of £6,728 for each additional class (2 x £6,728 = £13,456.)

(3) Revenue Funding – The school will also get ongoing revenue funding to reflect the increased numbers of pupils attending the school.

(4) At present, as a 3-class infant school, the annual cost per pupil is £3650 against a Kent average of £2819. Other local all through primary schools with a PAN of 15 operate at about the Kent average

### *Human*

(5) At Ethelbert Road Infant there are 4.6 full time equivalent teaching staff, 6 Learning Support Assistants and the equivalent of 1 clerical and cleaning staff.

(6) The proposal will have no impact on the numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff needed in the school.

(7) As the school starts to teach children in Key Stage 2 staff will need professional development to meet the responsibilities of the wider age range.

## Equality issues

9. (1) Of the 85 pupils at Ethelbert Road Infant 34 are on the Special Needs Register (with 3 statemented).

(2) A benefit of a change to an all-through primary is that pupils do not need to transfer at Key Stage 2, which can be a barrier to pupil progress.

(3) 9.4% of pupils at the school receive free school meals; 4.7% do not have English as their first language; 5.9% are ethnic minorities.

(4) There is no specific group within the community which is disproportionately disadvantaged by this proposal.

## Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications

10. (1) The school will continue to serve the population in its immediate area.

(2) Those children who currently leave at the end of Year 2 and travel to schools elsewhere would be able to continue their education at Ethelbert Road thus reducing the distances children would have to travel to school.

(3) The school is updating its travel plan which also includes the establishment of a walking bus. The plan would need to be adapted to take into consideration the wider age range of the pupils attending the school.

(4) Highways have been consulted and will work with the school to develop a revised travel plan.

## School Improvement Implications

11. (1) Results at Key Stage 1 have been consistently good. In 2006 the Average Points Score was 13.6 across all areas, which was lower than the norm for the school. This was due in part because of the large number of children with special needs in the cohort, including 5 with statements.

(2) It is difficult to operate in a context where transfer to the junior stage cannot be organised because pupils must transfer to any school with vacancies. Planning coherent transfer to Key Stage 2 is therefore very difficult.

(3) Table 6 shows the schools to which the current Year 2 children will transfer in September.

**Table 6:** Destination schools for Year 2 children currently in Ethelbert Road.

Eastling Primary School	4
Luddenham School*	3
Selling CE Primary School*	5
Davington Primary School*	2
Ospringe CE Primary School*	3
St Mary of Charity CE Primary School	2
Graveney Primary School*	2
Lynsted & Norton School*	1
(going to appeal)	3

Note: Those schools marked \* are going over their published admission number to accommodate the children.

### **Links to the Primary Strategy**

12. The Local Authority is required to ensure that schools are financially viable and delivering a good standard of education. Kent County Council recognises that small schools can have a significant role in their communities. This proposal does not alter the overall capacity of the school by a significant amount but would eliminate an anomaly where one infant school exists in isolation surrounded by other all-through primary schools, and with no corresponding junior school where children could transfer at the end of the infant phase. This proposal is in line with the Kent Primary Strategy recommendations 14, 17, 22, 23, and 29.

### **Proposed Timetable**

13. Should public consultation be agreed, the proposed timetable is as follows:

Report to School Organisation Advisory Board	11 July 2007
Publication of consultation document	10 September 2007
Public meeting	25 September 2007
Last date for responses	22 October 2007
Report to School Organisation Advisory Board	14 November 2007
Cabinet Member decision	December 2007
Issue public notice	3 January 2008
End of public notice period	15 February 2008
Determination decision	March 2008
Implementation	September 2008

14. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on the change to an all-through primary school of Ethelbert Road Infant School with effect from September 2008.

Alison Osborne  
Area Education Officer  
(Canterbury & Swale)  
Tel: (01227) 772992

The Local Member is Mr T. Gates

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*Background Documents:*

None

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF ETHELBERT ROAD INFANT SCHOOL TO AN ALL-THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Summary of written responses**

Consultation documents distributed: 400

Responses received: 156

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers of pupils at Ethelbert Road School	64	0	0	64
Members of staff at Ethelbert Road School	7	0	0	7
Governors of Ethelbert Road	7	0	0	7
Members of staff at other schools	17	1	0	18
Interested party	58	2	0	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>156</b>

In support of the proposal

- Children would benefit by staying in one school rather than moving to an unfamiliar school
- Children need stability
- Children will receive a good education at Ethelbert Road where the staff value every child including those with additional needs. This is an opportunity to build on the exemplary work undertaken at the school
- The school as it is provides a welcoming and happy environment. The children enjoy their education and it would be advantageous for them to continue their education at the school
- Small schools should be preserved particularly in an urban environment. The proposal will also remove the difficulty the school has throughout Year 2 when parents start looking for an alternative school
- The proposal makes complete sense for the school, pupils and the local area.
- This proposal would benefit the local community as it would reduce vehicle usage transporting children to different schools
- The benefits of no disruption to children's primary education would be an advantage to Ethelbert Road pupils
- It would be ideal if the excellent foundation the children of Ethelbert Road receive could be built on with no break at the age of seven. This proposal would ensure valuable continuity
- The current arrangements result in children losing friendships and transfers to other schools where peer groups had already formed make it difficult for Ethelbert Road pupils to join without some feelings of insecurity
- This is an excellent opportunity for this thriving school to build on their established reputation

Against the proposal

- Concern about older children having enough recreational facilities for football, netball etc.
- This proposal will create an elite village type school for those people living closest to the school

- Current arrangements ensure that schools outside Faversham receive extra pupils at the start of Year 3, who attract extra funds for the receiving school

**PROPOSED CHANGE OF ETHELBERT ROAD INFANT SCHOOL TO AN ALL-THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Summary of the Public Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at Ethelbert Road Infant School**

- Alison Osborne, Area Education Officer for Canterbury and Swale explained the current arrangement. Ethelbert Road is the only Infant school in the area and all the other schools are primaries. This leads to difficulties at the end of Year 2 when parents have to transfer their children as casual admissions to other schools. Friendship groups are broken, parents do not always get a place in the school of their choice and there is disruption to the education of the children.
- Headteacher Samantha Fenn welcomed the proposal and outlined the reasons why the school supported the proposed change and the opportunities that becoming a primary school would offer the children and local community. The current arrangements were described and in particular the difficulties that Year 2 children had in securing Year 3 places at schools of their choice. The establishment of Ethelbert Road as an all through primary would enable the school to provide continuity and progression in the children's education. To achieve the aim of creating an all-through primary would necessitate the reduction of the PAN to 15. All children currently in the school would be guaranteed a place following the change. It would still be possible for parents to transfer children as before if they so wished. The staff are passionate about being a primary school, not because it is an easy option but because it is the right option. In summary she said that the proposal was better for the children, better for the environment and better for the local community.
- Headteacher of a local school: Most local heads have voiced support for the proposal and highlighted the different strengths a small school such as Ethelbert Road can have.
- Parent: Ethelbert Road School is a unique choice and is very much like being part of a family.
- Parent: She nearly did not choose the school because of the compulsory transfer at the end of Year 2. From her point of view the school is wonderful.
- Parent: As a parent of many children she would welcome the opportunity to walk them to the same school for the next 9 years.
- Headteacher of another school: Something has to change and the proposal makes sense.
- Parent: A choice of different schools is important and Faversham town centre will have a small primary school if the proposal is adopted which would be welcomed.
- Parent: Personalised approach of the school is a success.
- Parent: Many children leave Year 2 early. Diversity and choice are important.
- Governor: The proposal was discussed and debated following which it received the full support of governors.
- Member of staff: Speaking on behalf of the staff who are fully behind the proposal. They welcome the opportunity to finish the job they currently start. Early years education is important in developing happy confident children.
- Teacher at another school: Ethelbert Road is held in high esteem and ex pupils speak well of their experience at the school.
- Governor: The proposal is the best proposal; it best meets the Primary strategy, best proposal for the cluster, best for the residents, best for the parents and above all best for the children.

- Teacher at another school: The proposal would mean that only 15 children would join the school in Year R in future years whereas 30 join now.
- Dr Ian Craig – Director Operations: The overall size of the school would remain the same. Expansion is not possible due to site constraints and with 7 year groups the intake number would have to reduce to 15.
- Governor: Confident that the transition will be seamless.
- Parent: The school really works. Speculated that transfer from a small primary to a large secondary might be difficult for children.
- Vivienne Barrett Chair of Governors: Thanked everyone for the phenomenal turnout and the excellent support. She believes the proposal to be in the best interests of all and encouraged people to submit written responses to the consultation.

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By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 11 July 2007

Subject: ETHELBERT ROAD INFANT SCHOOL - PROPOSED CHANGE TO AN ALL-THROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on changing Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through Primary school.

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## **Introduction**

1. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School is located within urban Faversham and has occupied its site for 100 years. The school is popular and successful as an infant school although there is no junior school in Faversham to which pupils can automatically transfer. Pupils moving on to Key Stage 2 must therefore find places in primary schools as “casual admissions”. This can be problematic and can break friendship groups. The concern about which primary school their children will transfer to often encourages parents in Year 2 to leave early as spaces in primary schools become available.

(2) Attached as Appendix 1 is a map showing the home locations of the pupils attending the school in September 2006. Ethelbert Road Infant has a published admission number of 37 and a net capacity of 111.

(3) The school draws the vast majority of its pupils from within a 1-mile radius of the school. There were 85 pupils on roll at Ethelbert Road Infant (January 2007) and therefore 23% surplus capacity. The September 2007 intake of Year R pupils is expected to be 30.

(4) Table 1 shows the distances from Ethelbert Road Infant School to the other local schools.

**Table 1:** Distance from Ethelbert Road Infant School to other local schools

Distance as the crow flies	School	Distance by road
Within 1 mile	Ospringe CE Primary School	0.7 mile
	St Mary of Charity CE Primary School	0.7 mile
Within 2 miles	Bysing Wood Primary School	1.1 miles
	Davington Primary School	1.0 mile
Within 3 miles	Luddenham School	2.1 miles

(5) Table 2 shows the historic roll data for Ethelbert Road Infant School over the last 6 years.

**Table 2:** Historic roll data (January count)

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Ethelbert Road	100	91	91	79	87	85

(6) Table 3 shows the pupil numbers by Year group in Ethelbert Road Infant School. In January 2007 there were 85 pupils on roll (therefore 23.42% surplus capacity). The current roll has fallen to 81 (June 2007).

**Table 3:** Numbers in Ethelbert Road Infant School as at January 2007

Year group	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
	30	30	25	-	-	-	-	85

(7) Table 4 lists primary schools located within 3 miles of Ethelbert Road Infant School, and shows actual rolls as of January 2007. Schools are not recruiting to capacity and the current surplus is 265 places (18.28%). This will diminish as Childrens Centres are completed at Bysing Wood and St Mary of Charity CE.

**Table 4:** Numbers in schools within 3 miles of Ethelbert Road as at January 2007

School	PAN*	R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Net Capacity
Bysing Wood	30	12	6	6	10	15	19	20	92	171
Davington	60	52	56	60	60	67	62	61	418	420
Luddenham	30	30	30	30	32	31	31	32	216	198
Ospringe CE	30	22	22	30	29	32	45	18	198	241
St Mary of Charity CE	60	28	27	31	43	44	36	52	261	420

\*Published Admission Number

(8) Table 5 gives current and future PAN information for the locality in and around Faversham town.

**Table 5:** Changing PANs in the Faversham area

Year	2007	2008	2010
PAN	396	354	317

(9) There are 320 Year R pupils on roll in the locality which includes a considerable number from the Whitstable area who send their children to Swale schools. In future it is expected that this trend will diminish. Ethelbert Road School is required as a primary to serve local need. The latest forecasts indicate that in 2010 there will be 320 Year R children living in the locality.

## Background Information

2. (1) Ethelbert Road Infant School has a capacity for 111 pupils and a published admission number of 37.

(2) The school was last inspected in 2003 and was judged to be a good school with some very good features. It was noted that the school provided a safe and friendly environment that strongly supported learning and was totally inclusive so that all pupils were treated as individuals.

(3) In 2003 a disabled care suite, which also comprises additional teaching facilities, was established.

(4) The creation of an ICT suite in 2006 enhanced the facilities at the school which now also includes interactive whiteboards in each classroom.

(5) The playground has recently been redeveloped and provides a holistic experience for the pupils with designated areas for outside learning.

(6) There is a private pre-school (Berties) on site which is the lead pre-school for the Rural Swale Cluster.

## **School Buildings**

3. (1) Ethelbert Road is a Victorian building with solid brick walls and a Kent peg tile roof. During the last three years, the major maintenance issues of the boiler and tarpaving have been resolved.

(2) The school is well equipped as an infant school. It has a small hall and no playing field. However, the governors are entering into an agreement to use the sports hall and playing fields at the nearby secondary school.

## **The Proposal**

4. (1) The proposal is to extend the age range taught at Ethelbert Road. Currently the school caters for children from Year R to Year 2. It is proposed that the age range be from Year R to Year 6, the school becoming an all-through primary.

(2) Currently the school has a PAN of 37 and a net capacity of 111. It is proposed that the PAN be 15 and the capacity 105.

(3) The proposal if implemented would mean that from September 2008 and in successive years, Year 2 children would stay on at the school instead of having to find alternative places elsewhere.

(4) All children currently attending Ethelbert Road would be guaranteed places from Year 3 through to Year 6.

(5) The new PAN of 15 would apply to entry to Year R from September 2008. Currently approximately 30 children enter at Year R and leave at the end of Year 2. The new arrangement will offer 15 pupils education across all primary key stages (Year R to Year 6).

(6) It is proving increasingly difficult to absorb pupils leaving Ethelbert Road Infant School in local primary schools. Lowering the intake number will mean that in the future families will choose at Year R from a range of provision in Faversham and will be able to complete primary schooling at one establishment.

## **Views of the Governing Body**

5. The governors are in favour of the proposal and see the extending of the age range as a solution to the problem the school has at the end of Year 2, there being no local Junior school to which the children can transfer.

## **Views of the Local Member**

6. Mr T Gates, the local member, is aware of the issues and is in favour of proceeding to public consultation on a proposal to change Ethelbert Road Infant School to an all-through primary.

## **Views of the Cluster Board**

7. The Rural Swale Cluster Board in consultation with the cluster headteachers fully supports the proposal to redesignate Ethelbert Road Infant School as a primary school with effect from September 2008.

## **Resource Implications**

### *Capital*

8. (1) The school is of sufficient size to accommodate a primary school of 105 pupils. Toilets would need to be improved to separate Foundation/Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children; a feasibility study is currently being carried out. It is unlikely that temporary accommodation will be needed to house the larger year groups as they pass through the school.

### *Revenue*

(2) Reorganisation Funding - The reorganisation of Ethelbert Road will attract one off funding of £6,728 for each additional class (2 x £6,728 = £13,456.)

(3) Revenue Funding – The school will also get ongoing revenue funding to reflect the increased numbers of pupils attending the school.

(4) At present, as a 3-class infant school, the annual cost per pupil is £3650 against a Kent average of £2819. Other local all through primary schools with a PAN of 15 operate at about the Kent average

### *Human*

(5) At Ethelbert Road Infant there are 4.6 full time equivalent teaching staff, 6 Learning Support Assistants and the equivalent of 1 clerical and cleaning staff.

(6) The proposal will have no impact on the numbers of teaching and non-teaching staff needed in the school.

(7) As the school starts to teach children in Key Stage 2 staff will need professional development to meet the responsibilities of the wider age range.

## Equality issues

9. (1) Of the 85 pupils at Ethelbert Road Infant 34 are on the Special Needs Register (with 3 statemented).

(2) A benefit of a change to an all-through primary is that pupils do not need to transfer at Key Stage 2, which can be a barrier to pupil progress.

(3) 9.4% of pupils at the school receive free school meals; 4.7% do not have English as their first language; 5.9% are ethnic minorities.

(4) There is no specific group within the community which is disproportionately disadvantaged by this proposal.

## Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications

10. (1) The school will continue to serve the population in its immediate area.

(2) Those children who currently leave at the end of Year 2 and travel to schools elsewhere would be able to continue their education at Ethelbert Road thus reducing the distances children would have to travel to school.

(3) The school is updating its travel plan which also includes the establishment of a walking bus. The plan would need to be adapted to take into consideration the wider age range of the pupils attending the school.

(4) Highways have been consulted and will work with the school to develop a revised travel plan.

## School Improvement Implications

11. (1) Results at Key Stage 1 have been consistently good. In 2006 the Average Points Score was 13.6 across all areas, which was lower than the norm for the school. This was due in part because of the large number of children with special needs in the cohort, including 5 with statements.

(2) It is difficult to operate in a context where transfer to the junior stage cannot be organised because pupils must transfer to any school with vacancies. Planning coherent transfer to Key Stage 2 is therefore very difficult.

(3) Table 6 shows the schools to which the current Year 2 children will transfer in September.

**Table 6:** Destination schools for Year 2 children currently in Ethelbert Road.

Eastling Primary School	4
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Graveney Primary School*	2
Lynsted & Norton School*	1
(going to appeal)	3

Note: Those schools marked \* are going over their published admission number to accommodate the children.

### **Links to the Primary Strategy**

12. The Local Authority is required to ensure that schools are financially viable and delivering a good standard of education. Kent County Council recognises that small schools can have a significant role in their communities. This proposal does not alter the overall capacity of the school by a significant amount but would eliminate an anomaly where one infant school exists in isolation surrounded by other all-through primary schools, and with no corresponding junior school where children could transfer at the end of the infant phase. This proposal is in line with the Kent Primary Strategy recommendations 14, 17, 22, 23, and 29.

### **Proposed Timetable**

13. Should public consultation be agreed, the proposed timetable is as follows:

Report to School Organisation Advisory Board	11 July 2007
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End of public notice period	15 February 2008
Determination decision	March 2008
Implementation	September 2008

14. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on the change to an all-through primary school of Ethelbert Road Infant School with effect from September 2008.

Alison Osborne  
Area Education Officer  
(Canterbury & Swale)  
Tel: (01227) 772992

The Local Member is Mr T. Gates

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*Background Documents:*

None

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DANLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL AS AN ADDITION TO THE PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED PROPOSED CLOSURES OF MINSTER COLLEGE AND CHEYNE MIDDLE SCHOOL, TO BE REPLACED WITH AN ACADEMY ON THE MINSTER COLLEGE AND CHEYNE MIDDLE SCHOOLS SITES, CONDITIONAL UPON A FUNDING AGREEMENT FORTHCOMING FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report informs the School Organisation Advisory Board of a necessary revision to steps, as set out in the report to the School Organisation Advisory Board at its meeting on 17 October 2007, to achieve the secondary phase of education within the two-tier system on the Isle of Sheppey

## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **Introduction**

1. (1) At its meeting on 17 October 2007 the School Organisation Advisory Board noted the need to issue a Public Notice proposing the closure of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School to replace these schools with an Academy in September 2008 subject to the Department for Children, Schools and Families Funding Agreement.

(2) Consequent upon the decision by the Sponsors, the Local Authority and the Department for Children, Schools and Families to open the academy in September 2009 rather than 2008 it is now necessary to bring forward a revised schedule to the Public Notice.

(3) The decision to defer the opening of the Academy until September 2009 was a response to representations from islanders and educators.

### **Revised Schedule**

2. (1) It is proposed that in September 2009 pupils aged 11-18 in Minster College, Cheyne Middle School and Danley Middle School will transfer into the new Academy.

(2) In September 2009 it is proposed that pupils aged 11+ at St George's CE Middle School will transfer into the new Academy. From September 2009 the age range will change at St George's CE Middle School from 9-13 to 4-11 as detailed in the Public Notice for the Primary Phase of education published on 6 September 2007 and determined on 1 November 2007.

## **Conclusion**

3. Members are asked to note that issue of a Public Notice is now necessary. The Notice will propose the closure of Minster College, Cheyne Middle School and Danley Middle School to be replaced by an Academy on the Minster College and Cheyne Middle School sites, subject to the Funding Agreement.

Alison Osborne  
Area Education Officer  
(Canterbury & Swale)  
Tel: (01227) 284461

The Local Members are Mr Adrian Crowther and Mrs Angela Harrison

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*Background Papers:*

None

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: NEW SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To seek Members agreement to the proposed procedure for opening new schools via a competition process.

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## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **Introduction**

1. The Education Act 2004 placed a requirement on Local Authorities (LAs) to undertake a competition to seek a promoter when it considers there is a need for a new secondary school. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 extended these provisions to cover primary schools also. This report explains the legislation, its implications, and sets out the LA's proposed process and indicative timeline (in flow chart form). Some elements of the timeline are prescribed in statute or statutory guidance.

### **The Purpose of the Legislation**

2. The Government wishes to see LAs adopt a strategic commissioning role and to step back from being a direct provider of education services. Accordingly, LAs can no longer assume that a new school will be a community school. LAs are required to advertise in the local press, asking for interested promoters to come forward to run any new school. The LA can submit its own proposal in response to a competition, but only if it has "Excellent" authority status under the Corporate Performance Assessment, or it has permission from the Secretary of State. Failing authorities will not be able to promote a new school.

### **Recommended Process**

3. (1) Appendix 1 sets out the proposed LA process in flow chart form. Once a LA concludes that a new school might be required, it must undertake a public consultation to test out this view. This consultation should run for at least 6 weeks. The difference between this consultation and our current process is that it relates solely to the perceived need for the school. It may propose a specification for the school, for example two forms of entry, on an identified site, with nursery provision. It will not make any reference to what type of school would be created (i.e. community, foundation, voluntary).

(2) It is proposed that the School Organisation Advisory Board (SOAB) considers Officer suggestions that a new school is required and advises Officers and Mark Dance (Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills [CFE]) on whether or not a consultation should be undertaken. If consultation is undertaken, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) will appoint parent engagement consultants to support and encourage responses.

(3) It is also proposed that the outcome of the consultation is reported back to SOAB, which will advise the Cabinet Member as to whether or not to proceed to publish

a competition notice. Either the Cabinet Member or Cabinet will make the decision. This is considered to be a key decision.

(4) The invitation to bid (known as the first public notice) will be published in a local newspaper. There is a four month period during which bids can be submitted. The DCSF will bring the opportunity to bid to the attention of possible promoters.

(5) At the end of the four month bid period, the LA has three weeks to issue a second public notice which “publishes” the proposals received and the LA comments on these. This notice triggers a 6 week representation period (2 months for special schools).

(6) Following the representation period, the LA has two months to determine the competition. However, if the LA has submitted a proposal, it cannot determine the consultation, instead the Schools Adjudicator is the decision maker. The decision maker can accept, reject or modify the proposals. Any modification requires further consultation before the decision is made. It is proposed, therefore, that when the LA is the decision maker, the SOAB considers the proposals received, and LA comments on these, to advise the Cabinet /Cabinet Member’s decision.

(7) There is no opportunity to appeal against the decision made in respect of a competition, regardless of whether the LA or the Schools Adjudicator is the decision maker.

## **Recommendation**

4. Members are asked to agree the proposed procedure (Appendix 1) for operating a “New School” competition and to note the indicative timeline.

David Adams  
Area Education Officer  
Ashford & Shepway  
Tel 01233 898559

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### *Background documents:*

Education Act 2004  
Education and Inspections Act 2006

### New School - Competition Timeline

Time Line

Week 1 - To agree proposals, specification, funding availability, whether KCC will promote and apply for an exemption

Weeks 2 to 10 - Allow time for SOAB briefing etc. Add proposal to forward planner.

Weeks 10 to 12 - Sign off decision to proceed. Await decision on scrutiny.

Weeks 14-20 - Issue document. Hold public

Week 24

Week 25 -30 - Allow 3 weeks for scrutiny and 2 weeks to get notice in paper.

Week 30- 45 - 4 months for bids

Week 46

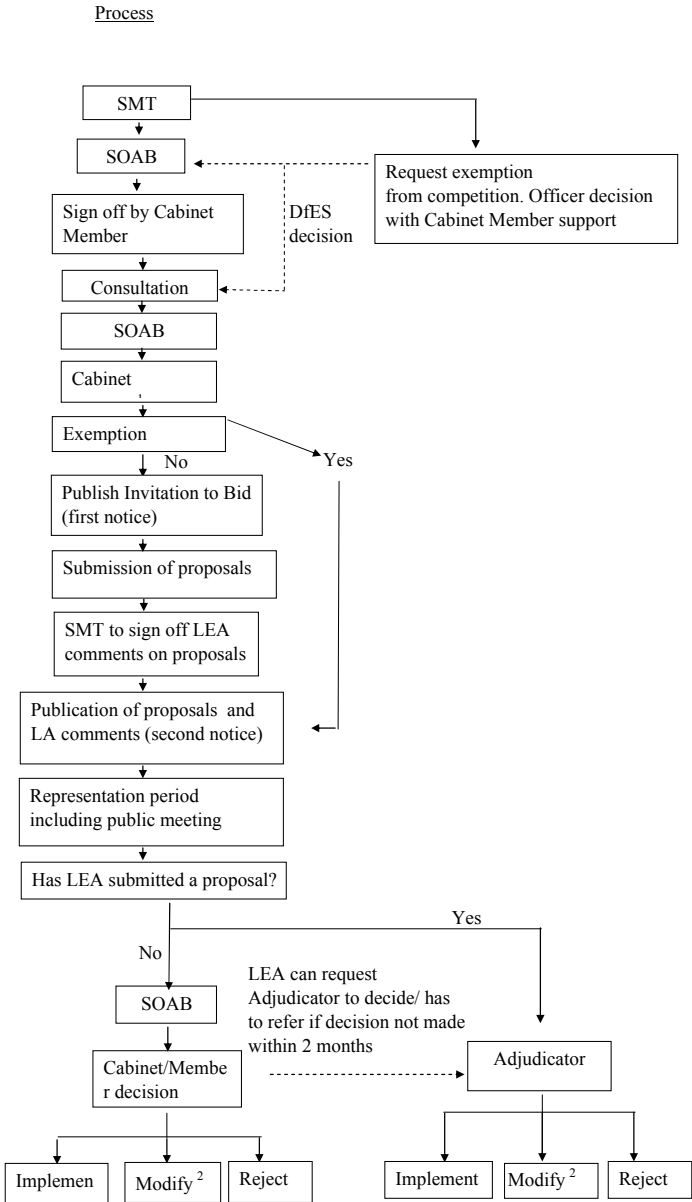
Week 48

Week 49

Week 49 - 55 - Must have public meeting within 2 weeks. 6 week representation period mainstream, 2 months for special schools.

Week 60 (mainstream) - Report to include views of statutory applicants. Decision must be made within 2 months of close of representaion period.

Week 63 - To allow for scrutiny



<sup>1</sup> Key decision:

- a) Invite bids, commits to expenditure etc
- b) Determine whether KCC will also promote
- c) Agreeing specification

<sup>2</sup> Modification requires decision maker to undertake supplementary consultation

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By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: **TEMPLAR BARRACKS, ASHFORD – PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To seek the views of Members on consulting on the need for a new school in Ashford.

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## **Introduction**

1. Ashford is a designated growth area with 30,000 new houses planned for the period up to 2030. One major site is Templar Barracks where 83 replacement dwellings have been built and planning permission granted for 1250 new homes on the site. The developer contribution (S106) agreement has recently been signed off. This provides the County Council with contributions for various services including primary school education. A site for a two form entry school and nursery class, and £4.08M is being provided.

## **Background Information**

2. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 now requires the Local Authority (LA) to undertake a competition to find a promoter for any new primary school. However, before we undertake a competition we are required by statutory guidance to undertake a public consultation. This should ask whether or not the community feels a new school is needed. This report sets out the case for a new school and requests Members' views on whether or not a public consultation should be conducted. Full details of the competition process is set out in the report on New School Competitions, also on this agenda to the Board.

## **School Capacity in Ashford**

3. (1) The Templar Barracks development is likely to commence early in 2008. The school site is available to the LA after the 150<sup>th</sup> occupation. The anticipated pupil product from the development (approximately 284 in total) is included in Appendix 1.

(2) Appendix 1 sets out the capacities and rolls of the schools within 1, 2 and 3 miles of the development. It also sets out the forecasts for the next 5 years. For primary school aged pupils, we strive to ensure that adequate provision exists within 2 miles of their homes.

(3) Appendix 1 indicates that currently there are sufficient places within 3 miles of Templar Barracks. These places are in schools situated between one and three miles away. However, there are no places within one mile of the development. Within two miles of the development there are currently 3.4% surplus places and this is forecast to fall to 2.7% by 2012. The corresponding figures for a 3 mile radius are 4.6% reducing to 1.9%.

(4) The map attached as Appendix 2 shows the location of the development site, together with the locations of schools within the 1, 2 and 3 miles radius.

(5) The forecasts indicate that there is a need for new provision to cater for the Templar Barracks development specifically (i.e. make provision within one mile), and more generally to ensure that the additional pupils generated by the development do not inhibit access to local schools by other families moving into other areas of the Town.

## **The Proposal**

4. The forecasts indicate there is a need for additional provision on the Templar Barracks site. This could currently be accommodated by a 1FE school. This should be built with the infrastructure to enable it to expand to 2FE with minimal disruption (i.e. enlarged hall and staffroom), known as a hybrid school. In line with current policy a nursery may be provided to meet the need for additional capacity in the locality (currently a 55 place deficit).

## **Views of the Local Member**

5. Mrs Tweed supports the undertaking of a public consultation on the need for a new school.

## **Views of the Cluster Board**

6. The Cluster Board will be consulted at its meeting on 7 November. The views will be reported orally to the meeting.

## **Resource Implications**

### *Capital*

7. (1) The site and the capital costs of this development are available via developer contributions. The anticipated costs for a 1FE hybrid school with nursery is £3M. The remaining developer contributions may be used at a later date to enable expansion to 2FE subject to demand.

### *Revenue*

(2) The school will be funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant according to KCC's funding formula. The LA's allocation from Central Government is increased according to rising pupil numbers.

(3) KCC's current policy is to provide reorganisation fund money to new schools. The current allocation is £47,100 lump sum plus £6,728 per class. An existing budget exists to meet this cost. The exact allocation made available to this new school would be derived according to the policy and rates that apply in the year of opening.

## **Equality Issues**

8. (1) The proposal to consult on the need for a school does not in itself present any equalities issues, provided adequate consolidation is given to ensuring the consultation process is accessible to all members of the community.

(2) The school will be fully accessible, thereby increasing the range of provision available to pupils with a physical disability.

(3) If it is decided to proceed with creating a new school, an assessment will be made of the equalities issues arising from any proposal received.

## **Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications**

9. The creation of a school should reduce the risk of the LA needing to transport primary aged pupils to access education.

## **Community Impact**

10. The creation of a school early in the development of the Templar Barracks site will have a positive impact on generating a sustainable community in this locality. It will enable the community to gel, and create a heart which is essential for community well being. This fits with the LA's vision of schools at the heart of their community.

## **School Effectiveness**

11. The ambition to create a new school early in the building of the development aims to avoid the negative impact on neighbouring schools of children being admitted due to a lack of on-site provision, only to leave when the new school opens.

## **Links to Primary Strategy**

12. The proposal complies with recommendations 14 (all through primary schools), 18 (organised as 1FE or 2FE), and 19 (new schools built with infrastructure to enable expansion).

## Proposed Timetable

13. If it is decided that a public consultation should be undertaken in respect of the proposal, the following timeline could apply:

Report to SOAB	14 November 2007
Consultation document issued	4 January 2008
Public Meeting	Mid January 2008
End of Public Consultation period	15 February 2008
Report back to SOAB	19 March 2008
Cabinet Member Decision	by end of March 2008
Scrutiny Committee (if required)	23 April 2008
Issue Public Notice	30 April 2008
Close of Invitation to bid period	31 August 2008
Report to CFE Senior Management Team	week commencing 1 September 2008
Publication of proposals (Public Notice)	week commencing 15 September 2008
Public Consultation Meeting	week commencing 29 September 2008
Close of Representation period	31 October 2008
Report to SOAB	10 December 2008
Cabinet Member Decision	10 December 2008
Scrutiny Committee (if required)	by 31 December 2008
Implementation date	1 September 2010

14. The views of the School Organisation Board are sought on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on the need for a new school on the Templar Barracks site in Ashford.

David Adams  
Area Education Officer  
Ashford & Shepway  
Tel 01233 898559

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*Background documents:*

Education & Inspection Act 2006

**School Planning data – area of Templar Barracks development**

School name	Status	Type	Published admission number 2008 (1)	No. of year groups	School capacity (2)	Actual roll	Forecast roll (3)				
						Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09	Jan-10	Jan-11	Jan-12
Godinton PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	418	-	-	-	-	-
St Mary's CEPS	Voluntary aided	Primary	60	7	420	426	-	-	-	-	-
St Teresa's Catholic PS	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	215	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total pupils - within 1 mile</b>		-	<b>150</b>	-	<b>1050</b>	<b>1059</b>	<b>1064</b>	<b>1068</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1076</b>	<b>1085</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 1 mile (4)</b>		-	-	-	-	<b>-9</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-22</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>-35</b>
Victoria Road PS	Community	Primary	30	7	210	205	-	-	-	-	-
Great Chart PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	428	-	-	-	-	-
Downs View IS	Community	Infant	90	3	270	264	-	-	-	-	-
Linden Grove PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	388	-	-	-	-	-
Ashford South/Oak Tree CPS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	405	-	-	-	-	-
Kennington CEJS	Voluntary controlled	Junior	90	4	360	351	-	-	-	-	-
John Wesley	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	0	-	-	-	-	-
St Simon of England RCPS	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	204	-	-	-	-	-
Phoenix School	Community	Primary	30	7	210	214	-	-	-	-	-
Beaver Green PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	543	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total pupils - within 2 miles</b>		-	<b>600</b>	-	<b>4200</b>	<b>4061</b>	<b>4087</b>	<b>4057</b>	<b>4050</b>	<b>4063</b>	<b>4089</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 2 miles (4)</b>		-	-	-	-	<b>139</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>111</b>
East Stour PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	293	-	-	-	-	-
Willesborough IS	Community	Infant	120	3	360	341	-	-	-	-	-
Furley Park PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	409	-	-	-	-	-
Kingsnorth CEPS	Voluntary controlled	Primary	60	7	420	378	-	-	-	-	-
Willesborough JS	Foundation	Junior	120	4	480	542	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total pupils - within 3 miles</b>		-	<b>900</b>	-	<b>6300</b>	<b>6024</b>	<b>6081</b>	<b>6074</b>	<b>6079</b>	<b>6111</b>	<b>6181</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 3 miles (4)</b>		-	-	-	-	<b>276</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>119</b>

Notes:

(1) Maximum number admitted for entry in September 2008

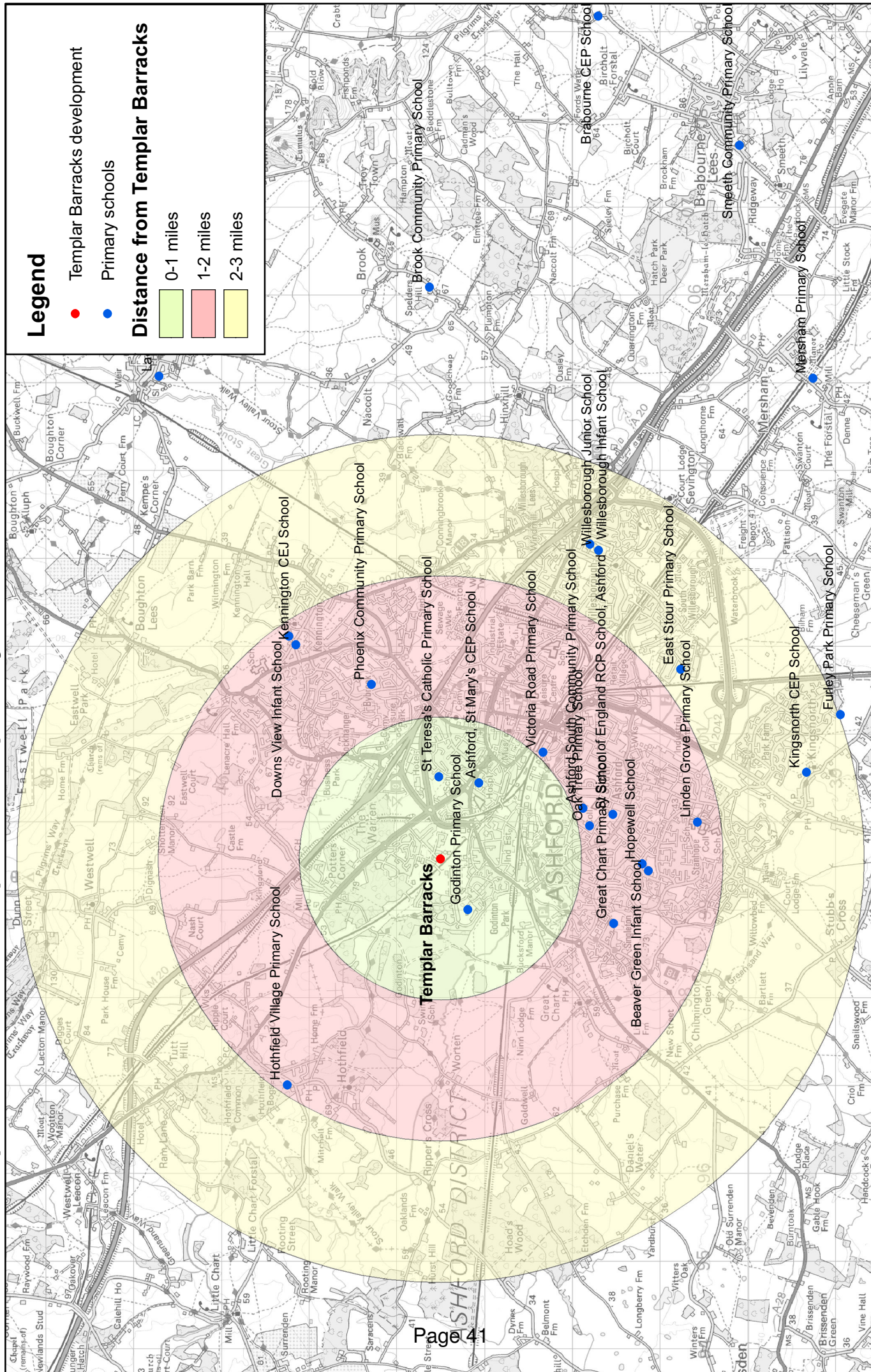
(2) This is the assessed net capacity of the school as yet at Summer 2007 (or the amalgamated net capacity for school reorganisations)

(3) Forecast roll data is based on projections made in Summer 2007.

(4) A negative number indicates that there may not be sufficient places available to meet demand. A positive number indicates that there may be surplus school places.

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# Location of Templar Barracks development and primary schools within 1, 2 and 3 miles radius



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By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: ROWHILL SCHOOL, WILMINGTON – PROPOSAL TO ENLARGE AND RELOCATE TO THE OLD WEST KENT HOSPITAL SCHOOL SITE AND RELOCATE THE WEST KENT HEALTH NEEDS EDUCATION SERVICE AND THE PHOENIX CENTRE ONTO THE ROWHILL SITE.

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on a proposal to relocate Rowhill School onto the old West Kent Hospital School site, enlarge Rowhill School to 120 places and relocate the West Kent Health Needs Education Service and The Phoenix Centre onto the old Rowhill site.

This report also asks for SOAB approval to initiate a Public Consultation on the proposal.

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## **Introduction**

1. (1) Rowhill School is a school for boys and girls aged five to sixteen years who have Behaviour and Learning (B & L) Difficulties. Attached as Appendix 1 is a map showing the current pupil distribution.

(2) The West Kent Health Needs Education Service (Formerly the West Kent Hospital School Service) is an education service provision run by Kent County Council for children who are unable to attend their home school because of illness.

(3) The Phoenix Centre is a Pupil Referral Unit for 14–16 year old boys and girls excluded from mainstream schooling.

(4) The current site at Main Road, Longfield which currently holds the Phoenix centre, and prior to the fire, the West Kent Health Needs Education Service, was the site of the old Woodview School.

(5) The Milestone Special School Nursery provision which is sited separately to the Phoenix Centre and West Kent Health Needs Education Service, is to remain on site.

## **The Proposal**

2. (1) To relocate Rowhill School to the old site of the West Kent Hospital School at Main Road, Longfield, Dartford (site plan attached as Appendix 2).

(2) To enlarge the school buildings to increase capacity from 96 places to 120 places.

(3) Relocate the West Kent Health Needs Education Service onto the old Rowhill site in Stock Lane, Wilmington (site plan attached as Appendix 3).

(4) Relocate The Phoenix Centre onto the old Rowhill site in Stock Lane, Wilmington (appendix 3).

### **Background and Accommodation Issues**

3. (1) (a) Rowhill is a Special School, currently situated in Stock Lane, Dartford, Kent, DA2 7BZ and is a member of the Dartford West Cluster. It was to be re-housed in new purpose built accommodation on the present site.
- (b) The local authority has endeavoured over the last 18 months to extend the Rowhill Special School footprint. However due to the restrictions placed on the school site by its Green Belt status, this has not proved possible. The local authority has therefore been active in seeking an alternative site appropriate to the needs of the school.
- (c) The current designated pupil number is 96 and they have 105 children on the roll, although this number fluctuates. There are three times as many boys as girls, and very few pupils are from minority ethnic backgrounds. The overwhelming majority of pupils come from areas of social deprivation.
- (d) Rowhill Special School was re-designated in September 2004 as a consequence of the outcome of the Special School review to provide for pupils with Behaviour and Learning difficulties from across the whole of West Kent. During the transition stage, the school's pupil numbers were planned to fall to 96 by 2008.
- (e) There has been considerable pressure on places for Behaviour and Learning (B & L) provision in the West Kent area. The local authority considers it more likely that the pressure will increase from its current designation and therefore seek this opportunity to increase the provision from 96 to 120 by relocating Rowhill School.
- (f) Rowhill Special School received its last Ofsted inspection on 20 January 2006. The report awarded the school the overall status of "Good" with two "Outstandings".
- (2) (a) The West Kent Health Needs Education Service at one time occupied a site adjacent to the Phoenix centre on Main Road, Longfield. The school buildings were severely damaged in a fire in November 2005 and the school was decamped in its entirety to Raynehurst Primary School site in Gravesham.
- (b) The provision may include education at home (home tuition), education at a base or education in hospital depending on the illness or needs of the child.
- (c) The current capacity is 40 on site and an undefined amount on home tuition. Currently they have 19 children on the roll, although due to the nature of the service they provide, this number fluctuates.
- (d) The building at Main Road has now been rebuilt. The rebuild was funded by the insurance settlement.

- (3) (a) The Phoenix Centre PRU currently occupies the Woodview Site, Main Road, Longfield. The Centre is currently using some of the newly rebuilt facilities.
- (b) The Centre has a capacity of 32 and also caters for a number of children on home tuition. Currently they have 22 children on the roll with 8 being tutored at home.
- (c) The Centre provides an education for children who have been excluded from mainstream education. The Centre will provide the education service for any exclusions that continue for more than the 6<sup>th</sup> day.
- (d) The Phoenix Centre received its last Ofsted inspection on 17 October 2006. The report was very positive and awarded the school the overall status of "Good".

## **Resource Implications**

### *4. Capital*

(1) The existing West Kent Hospital School site has been rebuilt but it is not sufficient to accommodate the Rowhill School and its enlargement. The funding to construct the buildings will come from within the existing Special School Review Fund. The estimated cost for the outfit and enlargement is £5,455k.

(2) The existing Rowhill site is of an acceptable standard. To ensure that the buildings are fit for purpose for the Phoenix Centre and the West Kent Health Needs Education Service, we will allocate a further £80k. This funding will also come out of the Special School Review Fund.

(3) There are no capital receipts, as both sites will remain in Children, Families and Education use.

### *Revenue*

- (4) There are no anticipated immediate increases in revenue costs.

### *Human*

(5) There are no anticipated immediate increases in staffing costs, however once the Rowhill School has been enlarged, there will be an increase in staffing. This will be met through the schools delegated budget.

## **Views of the Governing Body**

5. (1) The Governing Body of Rowhill is supportive of the proposal and has approved the plans for the enlarged building in Longfield.

(2) The West Kent Health Needs Education Service and the Phoenix Centre are KCC PRUs and do not have governing bodies.

(3) The Governing Body of Raynehurst Primary School is supportive of the proposal.

### **Views of Local Member(s)**

6. (1) The Local Member of the ward where the school is currently sited is Mrs Ann Allen. Cllr Allen has been informed of the proposal. No response has yet been received.

(2) The Local Member of the ward where it is proposed to re-site the school is Mr Bertie Bassam. Cllr Bassam has been informed of the proposal. No response has yet been received.

### **Views of the Health Authority**

7. The Health Authority has not yet been consulted. There will of course be extensive dialogue during the consultation period to ensure that the level of provision at the school and PRUs is sufficient.

### **Equality Issues**

8. (1) Rowhill and West Kent Health Needs Education Service are special schools that provide a service for pupils who cannot easily enter mainstream education.

(2) PLASC 2006 for Rowhill records a low percentage of pupils with an ethnicity that is not White English or Other White British. *Assessment: Low.*

(3) The Phoenix Centre has a low amount of pupils with an ethnicity that is not White English or Other White British. *Assessment: Low.*

(4) The West Kent Health Needs Education Service has a fluctuating roll and ethnicity is primarily White English or Other White British. *Assessment: Low.*

### **Views of Cluster Board**

9. The Cluster board has been informed of the proposal and are supportive.

### **Views of District Council**

10. Dartford Borough Council has not yet been informed of the proposal, but will be fully informed if the proposal does go out to public consultation.

### **Views of the Area Education Officer**

11. I fully support this proposal. It provides a robust and cost effective solution to some of the location and capacity issues facing two schools and two PRUs.

### **School Improvement Implications**

12. The schools have very specialised roles with a very small tranche of special needs children. Significant improvements to performance are difficult to quantify, although it is hoped that with purpose built facilities, the performance of all three provisions will show some improvement.

## **Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications**

13. (1) (a) Rowhill has the largest roll and is therefore the school that is most affected. In addition, most of the children are transported to the school by hired minibus or taxi. It is impossible to supply an exact breakdown of potential travel costs, as this would require a complete tender process to be done.
- (b) The breakdown of location at Appendix 4, shows that the majority of pupils come from the North West Kent area, specifically the Dartford and Gravesham areas. The pupils that travel from further afield (Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Edenbridge, Maidstone or Rochester) might have slightly reduced transport costs.
- (c) Overall, it is not envisaged that there will be a huge increase in transport costs for Rowhill pupils.
- (2) (a) The West Kent Health Needs Education Service is in a similar transport situation to Rowhill in that they take in pupils from all over West Kent.
- (b) Therefore the transportation issues and cost expectations are likely to be similar.
- (3) The Phoenix Centre has less reliance on KCC funded transport. Moving the centre to Dartford might make it considerably easier for pupils from Dartford.
- (4) All three provisions will receive advice and support from KCC to produce a new travel plan prior to the relocation.
- (5) The distance between the two sites is five miles. Due to the special nature of all three provisions admission issues are not a factor.
- (6) On balance, although more remote, the Woodview site is more easily accessible for large numbers of hired KCC transport. The residents of Stock Lane would benefit from the reduced amount of traffic in their area during schools peak hours.

## **Links to the School Organisation Plan**

14. This proposal is consistent with the aims, principles, policies and priorities within the School Organisation Plan.

## **Proposed Timetable**

15. It is proposed that building work will commence after a decision has been reached.

Nov 2007	SOAB
Dec 2007	Start of Consultation
Dec 2007	Public Meeting
Jan 2008	Close of Consultation

Feb 2008	SOAB
Feb 2008	Cabinet Member Decision
Feb 2008	Public Notice issued, if agreed by Cabinet Member
Apr 2008	End of Statutory Representation Period
	Enlargement work begins at Longfield site
Sep 2009	Rowhill opens on Longfield site
	The Phoenix Centre moves to Stock Lane
	West Kent Health Needs Education Service decamps from Raynehurst and moves to Stock Lane

### **Recommendation**

16. The views of the School Organisation Advisory Board are sought on going out to public consultation:

- (a) to approve in principle the enlargement of Rowhill Special School to its pre-2004 size;
- (b) to approve in principle the relocation of Rowhill Special School to the West Kent Hospital Site on Main Road Longfield;
- (c) to approve in principle the relocation of The Phoenix Centre to the Stock Lane site; and
- (d) to approve in principle the relocation of The West Kent Health Needs Education Service to the Stock Lane site.

Simon Webb  
Area Education Officer  
Dartford & Gravesham  
Tel: 01732 525110

Colin Feltham  
Head of AEN & Resources  
Additional Educational Needs &  
Resources  
Tel: 01622 605729

The Local Members are Ann Allen and Bertie Bassam

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*Background documents:*

None

**Appendix 4**

Table showing the home locations of Rowhill School Pupils

GEOGRAPHICAL AREA	NUMBER OF PUPILS
Dartford	27
Gravesend	23
Swanley	10
Swanscombe	9
Tunbridge Wells	8
Tonbridge	7
Greenhithe	4
Longfield	2
Sevenoaks	2
Snodland	1
Rochester	1
Maidstone	1
Edenbridge	1
Cranbrook	1

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By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION / TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

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

## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **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.

(2) Unless there are very good reasons not to do so, the change of status will be approved.

(3) At SOAB, it was agreed that as the consultation period will not normally allow the LA time to prepare paperwork for SOAB for a view, that:

- (a) Unless there are very good reasons to the contrary the presumption will be that the LA will not oppose any governing body wishing to move to foundation or trust status;
- (b) The Director (Operations) will consult with the Cabinet Member and local Member(s) before responding to a consultation on foundation or trust status;
- (c) Responses will be reported to the next available SOAB.

### **Determinations**

2. (1) Currently there are 57 foundation schools in Kent (13 primary and 44 Secondary) and 91 Aided schools (73 primary and 13 Secondary) – a total of 148.

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

## Consultations

3. The LA was informed on 2 November 2007 that **King Ethelbert's School, Birchington**, has begun a consultation on Foundation status, running from 1 November to 10 December 2007. The Cabinet Member, Mr Dance, and the local Member, Mr Hibberd have been informed (on 2 November 2007) with a view that we should not oppose.

## Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the report.

Ian Craig  
Director (Operations)  
01622 694173  
ian.craig@kent.gov.uk

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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 Status; SOAB, 17 October 2007