



KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

AGENDA

**Friday, 20 May 2011, at 10.30 am
in the Darent Room, Sessions House,
County Hall, Maidstone**

Ask for: **Geoff Mills/Karen Mannering**
Telephone: **(01622) 694289/694367**

Membership (8)

Conservative (7): Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon,
Miss S J Carey, Mr M C Dance, Mr M J Northey Mr K Smith

Liberal Democrat (1): Mr M J Vye

Webcasting Notice

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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

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

1. Introduction/Webcasting
2. Substitutes
3. Declarations of Interests by Members in items on the Agenda for this meeting.
4. Minutes - 26 April 2011 (1 - 2)
5. Proposal to Expand Aldington Primary School (3 - 14)
6. Proposal to Expand Challock Primary School (15 - 26)

Peter Sass
Head of Democratic Services

Thursday, 12 May 2011

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

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOL ORGANISATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of a meeting of the School Organisation Advisory Board held in the Darent Room, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Tuesday, 26 April 2011.

PRESENT: Mrs V J Dagger (Chairman), Mr D L Brazier, Mr C J Capon, Miss S J Carey, Mr M C Dance (Vice-Chairman), Mr L B Ridings, MBE (Substitute) (Substitute for Mr M J Northey) Mr K Smith

ALSO PRESENT: Mr M J Vye The Reverend N Genders

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M Doole (Area Education Officer Thanet & Dover) Mr G Mills (Democratic Services Manager (Executive))

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

3. Minutes - 10 December 2010

(Item 4)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2010 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Proposal to Amalgamate Kingsmead (Community) Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE (Voluntary Aided) Primary School by closing both schools and establishing a new 2 FE Primary School, with maintained Nursery Unit, on the current Kingsmead site, as a Voluntary Controlled Church of England School

(Item 5 – report by Interim Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills) (Mr Vye made a declaration of interest in his capacity as Chairman of Governors of Kingsmead Primary School. He therefore spoke on this matter in his capacity as a local member and not as a member of the Advisory Board.

(1) Mr Doole said this report set out the results of the joint public consultation undertaken with the Diocese of Canterbury on the proposal to amalgamate Kingsmead (Community) Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith Church of England (Voluntary Aided) Primary School by the closure of both schools, conditional upon the establishment of a new Church of England Voluntary Controlled school on the current Kingsmead Primary School site, to replace both schools

(2) The Canterbury Diocese had been granted exemption from competition by the Secretary of State and therefore the report sought the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on the issuing of a joint public notice. The Local Authority part of the Public Notice would propose the closure of both schools and the Canterbury Diocese part of the Public Notice would propose the establishment of a new 2 FE Church of England Voluntary Controlled primary school to replace both existing schools.

(3) Mr Doole briefed the Advisory Board on the outcome of the public consultation exercise and also the views expressed at the public meeting as detailed in appendix 5 and appendix 6 of the report respectively.

(4) Mr Vye said that the view taken by the Governing Body of Kingsmead Primary School was that amalgamation would provide better conditions for pupils at both schools and increase the range and breath of teaching skills and opportunities. He said he believed strongly that prospective parents needed to be shown that this was a project worth supporting and he wanted to see a dedicated group of governors established which was representative of both schools who jointly could set the future direction of the new school. He also wanted to see the local authority closely involved in supporting that process. Mr Vye also spoke about the workload placed on the senior Management of both schools and the burden placed on all staff who were teaching children in sometimes difficult circumstances. He was therefore keen to ensure that appropriate measures were taken to ensure that the additional management burden which would naturally arise during the course of the amalgamation process did not in the meantime have an adverse impact on the daily running of each school.

(5) Mr Doole said that a joint Steering Group made up of representatives from both schools would oversee the transition and work to an agreed action plan. Also the two schools would be encouraged to work together as much as possible over the course of the next 12 to 15 months and that would include activities designed to encourage joint staff working, training and development and activities to prepare and support students in adapting to the new school.

(6) On behalf of the Canterbury Diocesan Board of Education, the Rev.Genders said he was pleased that an exemption from competition had been granted and he spoke in support of the proposal and the benefits amalgamation would bring to both schools.

(7) The Advisory Board then discussed the proposal in more detail and raised a number of questions to which officers replied accordingly. Following discussion members expressed the view that the proposal to amalgamate these two schools should be supported and that the appropriate public notices should be published.

(8) Resolved that:

(a) the proposal to amalgamate the Kingsmead Primary School and Diocesan & Payne Smith CE Primary School be endorsed; and,

(b) support be given to the issuing of a joint public notice with the Canterbury Diocese to include the closure of both schools and the establishment of a new 2 FE Church of England Voluntary Controlled school on the Kingsmead site.

By: Andy Roberts, Interim Corporate Director - Education, Learning & Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 20 May 2011

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a consultation to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

Introduction

1. (1) Aldington Primary School is a community school, providing for pupils aged 4-11 years. The Published Admission Number is 20, giving a total capacity of 140 places. As at January 2011, the school had 143 pupils on roll.

(2) Ashford is identified as a growth area by the Government and has agreed to provide 25,000 houses between 2001 and 2031.

Background

2. (1) Aldington Primary School is a single storey building of brick and stone construction built in the 1890s and extended in 2004 to replace temporary accommodation. A site plan is attached as Appendix 1.

(2) 64 families applied for year R places at Aldington School for September 2011 (30 first preferences). The school was last inspected in January 2008 and judged by Ofsted to be 'good with outstanding features'. Expansion is, therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

(3) Appendix 2 sets out the forecast school rolls within three miles of Aldington Primary School. These show a steady reduction in the availability of school places up to 2014-15. Of greater significance is Appendix 3 which sets out the forecast year R pupil numbers. The birth rate has increased in recent years resulting in a shortfall of places for four year old children from 2011-12 onwards.

(4) Aldington Primary School has been asked by the Local Authority to admit 25 children into year R in September 2011, to ensure all children from the village had places.

The Proposal

3. The proposal is to expand Aldington Primary School by 10 places per year, bringing the total capacity to 210 places, to provide a one form of entry, with up to 30 places per year group. The expansion of the school will be gradual with the additional

places being created annually. It is proposed that the school formally expands for September 2012. Appendix 4 provides a dot map of the home locations of pupils who currently attend the school.

Site Issues

4. The site is sufficiently large to accommodate a one form entry school (210 pupils).

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

5. (1) Two classrooms will need to be provided, together with additional toilet provision and hard play space. £94,000 is available from Developer Contributions towards the costs of permanent provision; the remainder would be made available from the Capital Budget. The school will not need additional accommodation until September 2012.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually in line with its pupil numbers increase. The school will also receive reorganisation funding, currently £7,041 based on a per class allocation for furnishing.

Views of the Local Members

6. The Local Member, Andrew Wickham is aware of the proposal and supports the expansion of the school to meet local needs.

Views of the Governing Body

7. The Governing Body has been seeking expansion of the school for a number of years to meet the growing needs of the village. It has been consulted and has agreed to support the proposals.

School Improvement Implications

8. Aldington Primary School is a popular, over-subscribed school, which is performing well. It has the leadership capacity to manage the school during the building works, and growth of the school. The gradual growth of the school will help ensure it remains stable. A single age group structure will offer advantages in terms of curriculum delivery, stability of friendship groups and extend the range of skills within the staff group as numbers increase. The breadth of after school activities will increase.

Transport & Environmental Impact, Including Community Implications

9. Any current transport arrangements for pupils will continue. The gradual growth and admission of additional reception aged pupils should ensure that local children are admitted, thereby helping reduce the need for local families to travel to more distant schools.

Proposed Timetable

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 10. | Public Consultation Period | 15 Jun 2011 to 21 Jul 2011 |
| | Public Meeting | 27 Jun 2011 |
| | Report back to SOAB | 12 Oct 2011 |
| | Cabinet Member Decision | 21 Oct 2011 |
| | Public Notice Issued | 4 Nov 2011 |
| | Public Notice Expires | 15 Dec 2011 |
| | Cabinet Member Decision | Jan 2012 |
| | Implementation | 1 Sep 2012 |

Recommendations

11. Members are asked to recommend that a public consultation be conducted on the proposal to expand Aldington Primary School from 140 to 210 places.

David Adams
Area Education Officer
Mid Kent
01233 898559

The Local Member is Andrew Wickham.

Background Documents:

None

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ALDINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL
HYTHE ROAD
ALDINGTON

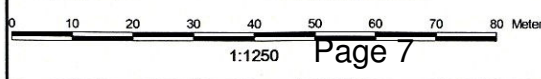
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Total primary projected pupil numbers in the area of Aldington Primary School

| School name | Status | Sub-type | PAN Capacity 2010-11 | Year groups | 2010-11 (A) | 2011-12 (F) | 2012-13 (F) | 2013-14 (F) | 2014-15 (F) |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Aldington Primary School | Community | Primary | 140 | 7 | | | | | |
| Mersham Primary School | Community | Primary | 196 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total pupils within 2 miles | | | 336 | | 336 | 348 | 359 | 384 | 401 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | 0 | -12 | -23 | -48 | -65 |
| Sellindge Primary School | Community | Primary | 105 | 7 | | | | | |
| Smeeth CPS | Community | Primary | 140 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total pupils within 3 miles | | | 581 | | 576 | 625 | 645 | 679 | 707 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | 5 | -44 | -64 | -98 | -126 |

Notes:

Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010

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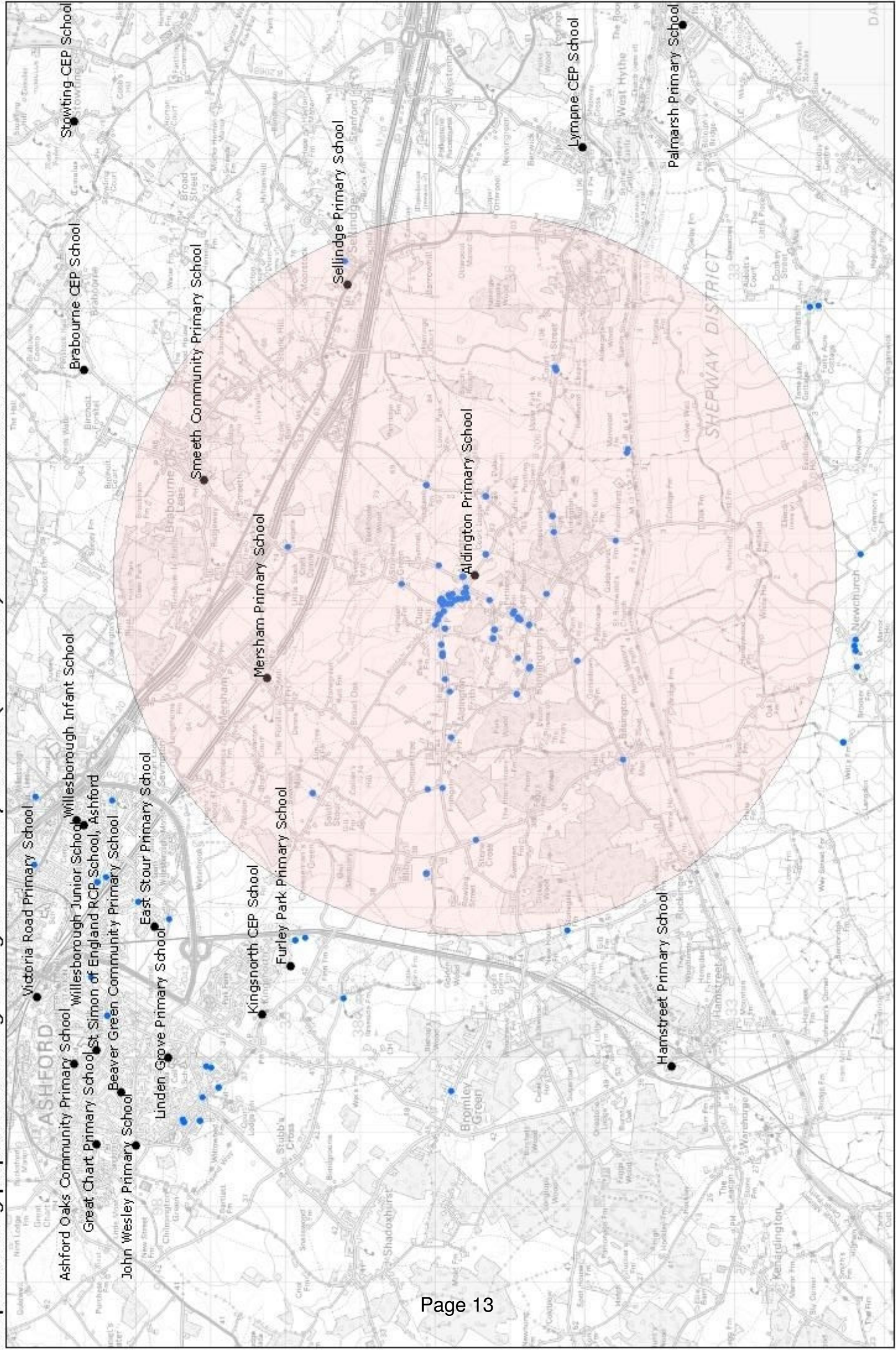
Year R primary projected pupil numbers in the area of Aldington Primary School

| School name | Status | Sub-type | Year R PAN 2010-11 | Year groups | 2010-11 (A) | 2011-12 (F) | 2012-13 (F) | 2013-14 (F) | 2014-15 (F) |
|---|-----------|----------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Aldington Primary School | Community | Primary | 20 | 7 | | | | | |
| Mersham Primary School | Community | Primary | 28 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total Year R pupils within 2 miles | | | 48 | | 48 | 61 | 58 | 65 | 65 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | 0 | -13 | -10 | -17 | -17 |
| Sellindge Primary School | Community | Primary | 15 | 7 | | | | | |
| Smeeth CPS | Community | Primary | 20 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total Year R pupils within 3 miles | | | 83 | | 83 | 99 | 94 | 107 | 107 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | 0 | -16 | -11 | -24 | -24 |

Notes:

Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010

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By: Andy Roberts, Interim Corporate Director - Education, Learning and Skills

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 20 May 2011

Subject: PROPOSAL TO EXPAND CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on a proposal to undertake a consultation to expand Challock Primary School from 140 places to 210 places.

Introduction

1. (1) Challock Primary School is a community school, providing for pupils aged 4-11 years. The Published Admission Number is 20, giving a total capacity of 140 places. As at January 2011, the school had 148 pupils on roll.

(2) Ashford is identified as a growth area by the Government and has agreed to provide 25,000 houses between 2001 and 2031.

Background

2. (1) Challock School is a single storey modular building dating from 1952 and extended in 2003 and 2006 to replace temporary accommodation and provide a library, ICT suite, staffroom, small group room and care suite. A site plan is attached as Appendix 1.

(2) 73 families applied for the 20 year R places at Challock Primary School for September 2011 (28 first preferences). The school was last inspected by Ofsted in February 2009 and found to be 'good with outstanding features'. Expansion is therefore in line with the expectation of expanding popular, successful schools.

(3) Appendix 2 sets out the forecast school rolls within four miles of Challock Primary School. These show a steady reduction in the availability of school places up to 2014-15. In September 2012 the new school at Goat Lees is due to open, providing a further 210 places over the course of the following seven years. However, it is expected that these places will steadily fill and a shortfall will remain in the area without further accommodation being made available. Of greater significance is Appendix 3 which sets out the year R pupil numbers. The birth rate has increased in recent years resulting in a shortfall of places for four year old children from 2011 – 2012 onwards.

(4) Challock Primary School has been asked by the Local Authority to admit 30 pupils into year R in September 2011, to help address pressures in Ashford Town and its surrounding villages.

The Proposal

3. To expand Challock Primary School by 10 places per year group, bringing the total capacity to 210 places to provide a one form of entry structure, with up to 30 places per year group. It is proposed that the school formally expands for September 2012. Appendix 4 provides a dot map of the home locations of all pupils who currently attend the school.

Site Issues

4. The site is compact. The Authority will work closely with the school to ensure new accommodation impacts minimally on usable parts of the site, and in particular does not affect the playing pitch provision.

Resource Issues

Capital & Revenue

5. (1) Two classrooms will need to be provided, together with additional toilet provision and hard play space. While the first classroom is required for September 2011 to facilitate the agreed additional pupils, it is sensible to provide both at this point. The estimated costs are £160k and provision can be made in the current Capital Budget from funding to be set aside to meet the urgent need for pupil places.

Human

(2) Additional teaching and support staff will be required. The school's budget will increase annually in line with its pupil numbers. To address the lag in funding, the school will receive additional funding for September to January for each of the first three years. The school will also receive reorganisation funding, currently £7,041 based on a per class allocation for furnishing.

Views of the Local Members

6. The Local Member, Richard King, supports the proposal. He feels it makes sense for the school to be 1fe as, apart from the shortage of places in Ashford, it will help establish the long-term viability of the school.

Views of the Governing Body

7. The Governing Body has been seeking expansion of the school for a number of years. It has been consulted and has agreed to support the proposals.

School Improvement Implications

8. Challock Primary School is a popular, over-subscribed school, which is performing well. It has the leadership capacity to manage the school during the building works, and growth of the school. A single age group structure will offer advantages in terms of curriculum delivery, stability of friendship groups and extend the range of skills within the staff group as numbers increase. The breadth of after school activities will increase.

Transport & Environmental Impact, Including Community Implications

9. Any current transport arrangements for pupils will continue. The additional pupils are likely to be brought to school via car. The school currently operates two walking buses, and utilises the village hall car park to reduce vehicle movements outside the school. The school actively works to address any reported issues of inconsiderate parking. Additional staff vehicles can be accommodated on site.

Proposed Timetable

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12. Public Consultation Period | 15 Jun 2011 to 21 Jul 2011 |
| Public Meeting | 4 July 2011 |
| Report back to SOAB | 12 Oct 2011 |
| Cabinet Member Decision | 21 Oct 2011 |
| Public Notice Issued | 4 Nov 2011 |
| Public Notice Expires | 15 Dec 2011 |
| Cabinet Member Decision | Jan 2012 |
| Implementation | 1 Sep 2012 |

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to recommend that a public consultation be conducted on the proposal to expand Challock Primary School from 140 to 210 places.

Simon Webb
Area Education Officer
West Kent
01233 898547

The Local Member is Richard King.

Background Documents:

None

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CHALLOCK PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHURCH LANE
CHALLOCK

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on behalf of

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Total primary projected pupil numbers in the area of Challock Primary School

| School name | Status | Sub-type | PAN Capacity 2010-11 | Year groups | 2010-11 (A) | 2011-12 (F) | 2012-13 (F) | 2013-14 (F) | 2014-15 (F) |
|--|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Challock Primary School | Community | Primary | 140 | 7 | | | | | |
| Charing CE Primary School | Voluntary Aided | Primary | 105 | 7 | | | | | |
| Downs View Infant School | Community | Infant | 270 | 3 | | | | | |
| Kennington CE Junior School | Voluntary Controlled | Junior | 360 | 4 | | | | | |
| Lady Joanna Thornhill PS | Voluntary Controlled | Primary | 420 | 7 | | | | | |
| Phoenix CPS | Community | Primary | 210 | 7 | | | | | |
| Sheldwich Primary School | Community | Primary | 210 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total pupils within 4 miles | | | | | 1694 | 1720 | 1761 | 1761 | 1781 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | 21 | -5 | -46 | -46 | -66 |

Notes:

Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010

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Year R primary projected pupil numbers in the area of Challock Primary School

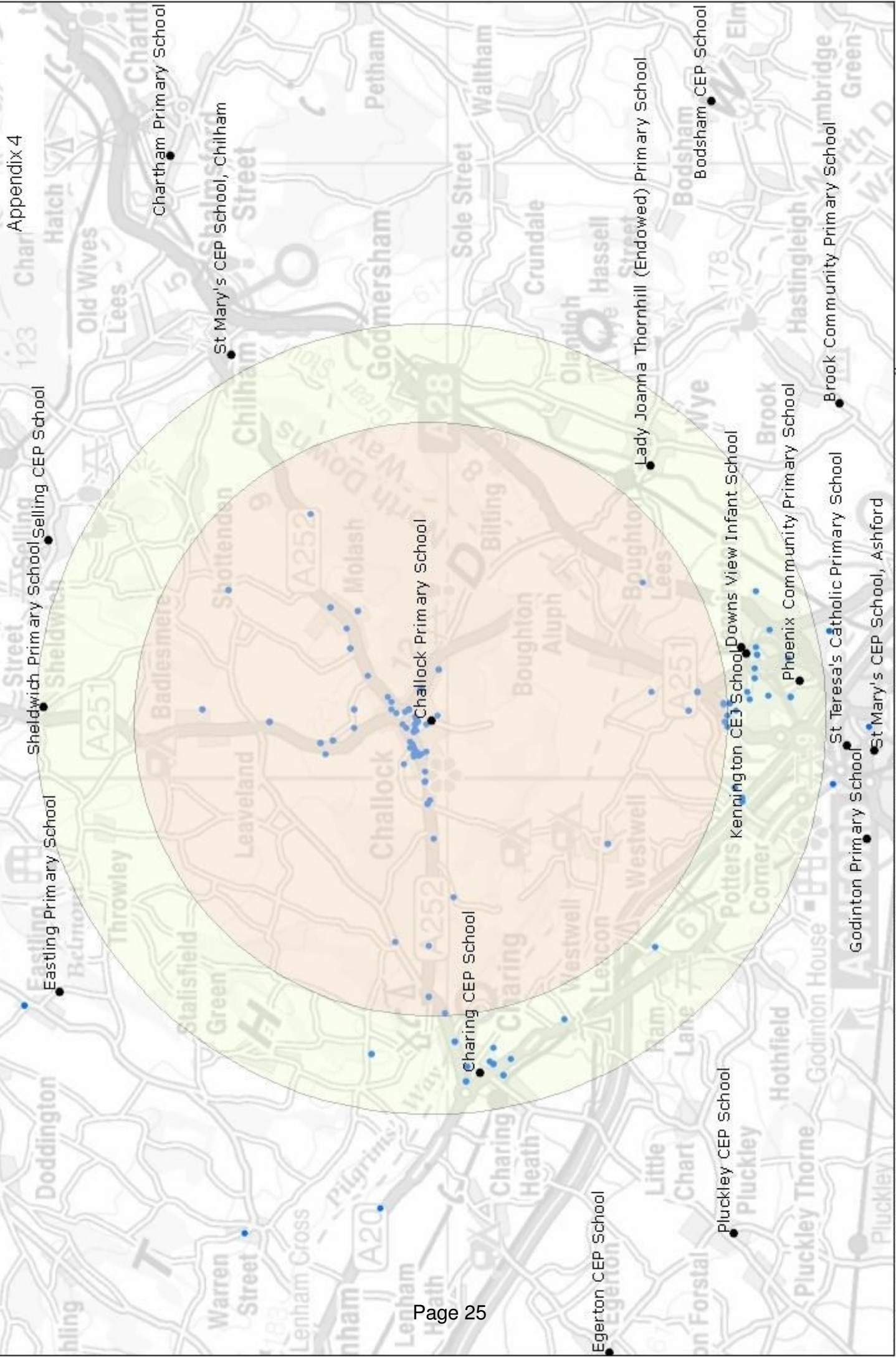
| School name | Status | Sub-type | Year R PAN 2010-11 | Year groups | 2010-11 (A) | 2011-12 (F) | 2012-13 (F) | 2013-14 (F) | 2014-15 (F) |
|---|----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Challock Primary School | Community | Primary | 20 | 7 | | | | | |
| Charing CE Primary School | Voluntary Aided | Primary | 15 | 7 | | | | | |
| Downs View Infant School | Community | Infant | 90 | 3 | | | | | |
| Lady Joanna Thornhill PS | Voluntary Controlled | Primary | 60 | 7 | | | | | |
| Phoenix CPS | Community | Primary | 30 | 7 | | | | | |
| Sheldwich Primary School | Community | Primary | 30 | 7 | | | | | |
| Total Year R pupils within 4 miles | | | | | 248 | 261 | 269 | 260 | 260 |
| Surplus/deficit | | | | | -3 | -16 | -24 | -15 | -15 |

Notes:

Forecast roll data based on projections made in Summer 2010

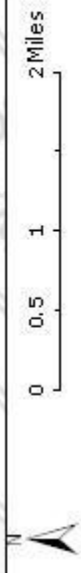
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Map showing pupils attending Challock CE Primary School (Oct 2010) and three and four miles distance from the school



Appendix 4

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