

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

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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.

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## **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  
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The Local Member is Richard King.

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*Background Documents:*

*None*