

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member Education Learning And Skills Patrick Lesson, Corporate Director Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 12 September 2012
Subject:	Re-locatable Classroom/Additional School Places Programme 2012-13
Classification	Unrestricted

Summary

Summary of the programme to provide additional accommodation for increased school places in 2012-13. The additional school places will be delivered by the provision of re-locatable classrooms, new permanent building and adaptation to existing school accommodation

1. Background

1.1 As Members will be aware from consideration of the Education Commissioning Plan, also presented at this meeting, we are seeing a significant increase in pupil numbers. The number of primary age pupils requiring places in mainstream schools are forecast to rise significantly from 108,103 in 2011 to 117,797 in 2016. In certain areas of Kent existing capacity in schools is already no longer adequate to provide for the growth in pupil numbers

1.2 The Education Commissioning Plan for Education informs the roll out of a programme of new school place provision delivered through extensions to existing buildings and whole new school builds in growth areas.

1.3 The rapidly increasing pupil numbers have created a need for new pupil places for the 2012-13 academic year. The exercise of parental choice, pressures on popular schools and the school admissions appeals process means that, in addition to the planned increases in places, some locations for additional pupil places are not always known until the commencement of the Spring term.

1.4 The planning for the necessary additional accommodation has been on-going and has resulted in expansion in a number of schools across the county for the September 2012 intake. The necessary increased accommodation has been procured and, where there is the possibility of delay in delivering new re-locatable classrooms, contingency plans have been agreed with Area Education Officers (AEOs) and Headteachers until all the new facilities are available.

1.5 The additional places are to be provided by the use of re-locatable classrooms, new permanent building and adaptation to existing accommodation.

1.6 The details of the proposed programme to provide additional pupil places by the use of re-locatable classrooms, new permanent build and extensions to existing accommodation is attached as appendix 1.

2. Procurement and Delivery Processes

2.1 The programme is procured mostly by using the County Council's term building maintenance consultants, on a zonal basis: Aecom Zone 1 West Kent, Mouchel Zone 2 Mid Kent, NPS Zone 3 East Kent.

2.2 The works are either providing re-locatable classrooms, or general building contractors who can deliver re-locatable buildings and traditional construction, all in accordance with 'Spending the Council's Money', the KCC procurement standing order. This ensures value for money is achieved. The consultants manage the building process on site overseeing contractors' valuations and ensuring the project is delivered on time to programme and completed on budget.

2.3 The programme is monitored both by the maintenance consultants and the Maintenance Contract Management Team within Property & Infrastructure Support.

2.4 Two of the projects are to be delivered by architectural consultancies selected from the County Council's framework and monitored by the Capital Projects Delivery Team

2.5 Potential risks to delivery are-

- Securing planning permissions required in time to enable the provision of the classroom units on site. Some consents are now in place and others expected shortly. Progress is being monitored in order that contingency arrangements can be put in place if delays occur.
- For some of the schools, the crucial date for contractors entry to site is at the end of July 2012. The Property and Infrastructure Support Service and its consultants are checking how delivery of classroom units and building work may be affected by the Olympics this year. Resilience plans have been requested from the consultants and suppliers on the approved list.

2.6 We have been working with schools to ensure that contingency plans are in place to ensure pupils are able to start school in September, and a small number of schools have agreed to interim use of existing school accommodation (such as hall space) if the additional classroom provision is delivered later than the start of Autumn term of 2012. We are confident that all the children starting school in September will be accommodated.

3. Resource Implications

3.1 Funding has in previous years been set aside in the revenue budget to enable the provision of mobile classrooms at schools where needed. Expenditure on such provision was typically of the order of £1m each year. 2011 saw the first significant increase for additional pupil place provision and it was agreed that re-locatable classrooms would be provided, funded from the capital budget. Depending on whether a short term or long term solution is required the provision of new re-locatable accommodation which is long lived, good quality timber or steel framed buildings offers far better value for money than the traditional mobile classroom. Examples of the buildings are attached as appendix 2. Elsewhere in the country

whole school provision has been provided by such quality build. The total cost of the 2011 re-locatable programme amounted to £3m.

3.2 Funding is available within the capital budget to support the 2012 programme for additional school places. In future years, following the adoption of the Commissioning Plan for Education it is necessary to consider the Councils longer term objectives and how basic need pressures are met through the capital programme.

3.3 The total capital sum for the programme listed on the schedule (all three zones) is listed as £5.4m.

3.4 £301K is set aside as a contingency to meet pressures including unforeseen spend on the schemes identified in appendix 1 and the need for additional provision to meet pupil place needs for the 2012-13 academic year.

4. Governance and Approvals

4.1 The proposals have been agreed by all internal groups and the Cabinet Member. Officers will continue to review the development and delivery of the programme through their monthly meetings and will report to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills through the ELS Members' Capital Monitoring Group.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Members of the Committee are asked to note the report

Background Documents:

None

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