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To:	Education Committee, Date 12 September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning – Ashford District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Ashford, and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	<p>The Education Committee is asked to endorse that the Local Authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase capacity for 2013 by 30 places in both Great Chart and Furley Park schools. b) Consult on the significant enlargement of Repton Manor Primary School. c) Provide permanent accommodation at John Wesley PS for the ongoing expansion to 2fe. d) Commence the process of commissioning a new school at Cheeseman's Green. e) Note the commencement of a significant enlargement proposal at Repton Manor Primary School.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Ashford section of Kent's draft "Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017" indicates a need to undertake a significant enlargement proposal for Repton Manor Primary School, and to commission up to an additional three forms of entry to manage pressures in the South Ashford area. It also states that Goat Lees Primary School will open in September 2013.

1.2 The Plan also flags up that by 2016, new school provision needs commissioning in Chilmington Green and Cheeseman's Green, subject to housing development. Chilmington Green does not yet have any form of planning consent. Cheeseman's Green has consent for 1250 homes. The developer has been granted funding from the 'Get Britain Building' fund. The developer has committed to building 100 homes by December 2014.

2. Background

2.1 The John Wesley CE/Methodist Primary School opened in September 2007. Following consultation in 2009/10, the Cabinet Member for CFE agreed the significant enlargement of the school with effect from September 2010. This was subsequently deferred to 2011 as housing growth dropped. Canterbury Diocese used underspend on the original build project to fund a two class modular unit, while the Capital Programme was reworked to include this school. The current budget book has £2.5m set against the school for enlargement, but under later years. It is nonsensical to provide further temporary accommodation in September 2013 in a school which is permanently enlarging. The school needs to feature in the current programme and urgent feasibility work undertaken to design phase 2.

2.2 In September 2012 both Great Chart and Furley Park Primary Schools are admitting bulge year groups in Year R, each admitting 90 rather than 60 pupils. Planning consent for two class modular units and toilets is currently being sought for each site to support these decisions. Both schools are rated good by Ofsted, and are oversubscribed, with housing development occurring nearby. The provision of two classroom units on each site will provide the flexibility to enable additional pupils to be admitted in September 2013 also.

2.3 Goat Lees Primary School was due to open in September 2012, but a dispute with the former land owner delayed implementation. The school will now open in September 2013. All statutory processes are complete.

2.4 Repton Manor Primary School opens in September 2012. It was intended that this open as a one form entry school, being built in two phases. In view of the delay in Goat Lees the Cabinet Member for Education took the decision to construct the school in one phase, to enable two forms of entry to be admitted in to Year R in September 2012. The decision record stated that the public consultation on significant enlargement should commence as a matter of urgency.

3. Commissioning Options for 2013 and beyond

3.1 The proposals for the opening of Repton Manor and Goat Lees Primary Schools are long planned. The expansion of Repton Manor Primary School was always envisaged, although the timing had not been confirmed. Repton Manor is a major development site (1200 homes). It is one of the few major sites in Ashford which is active. The Cabinet Member has consented to an expansion proposal.

3.2 The enlargements of Great Chart and Furley Park Primary Schools are already in train for both 2012 and 2013. Factors considered in reaching these decisions included site size, proximity to new housing, parental preference, and performances. In 2012 the schools received 84 and 79 first preferences respectively, with each having 60 places. They occupy sites sized 2ha and 2.6ha respectively, thus full 2fe sites.

3.3 John Wesley PS opened in September 2007 as a hybrid school. Accommodation of 210 places was provided with room for growth to 2fe as demand arose. Agreement to expand to 2fe was given in June 2010 and the school is currently growing year on year. Permanent accommodation needs to be provided.

3.4 The Cheeseman's Green development has provision for a school. A site and £4.4m is to be made available by the developer. Under the terms of a S106 agreement legislation regarding new schools requires the Local Authority to publish proposals seeking an Academy promoter. Canterbury Diocese has indicated a desire to promote a Voluntary Aided school on site. However, under the terms of the S106 the £4.4m may not be payable in this event. Therefore, it would be for the promoter of a Voluntary Aided school to demonstrate to the Local Authority how it would finance the school build.

4. Proposal for September 2013

4.1 It is proposed to:

- a. Admit an additional form of entry into Year R at Great Chart Primary School in September 2013.
- b. Admit an additional form of entry into Year R at Furley Park Primary School in September 2013.
- c. Consult on the significant enlargement of Repton Manor Primary School by one form of entry (30 to 60 places) from September 2013.
- d. Provide permanent accommodation for the 1fe expansion at John Wesley Primary School.
- e. Commence the process of commissioning new school provision at Cheeseman's Green, with a view to it opening in September 2016.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Great Chart Primary School

- a. Capital: Accommodation is being provided for 2012/13, with an estimated cost of £201k. There is no additional cost for accommodation arising from the above proposal. The classroom setup cost of £6k is within the capital programme. A further £6k would be payable in 2013 if the proposal is implemented.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. Protection will be provided to ensure the school receives funding for 60 Year R pupils should numbers fall short of this.
- c. Human: The school will appoint an additional teacher.

5.2 Furley Park Primary School

- a. Capital: Accommodation is being provided for 2012/13, with an estimated cost of £201k. There is no additional cost for accommodation arising from the above proposal. The classroom setup cost of £6k is within the capital programme. A further £6k would be payable in 2013 if the proposal is implemented.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. Protection will be provided to ensure

the school receives funding for 60 Year R pupils should numbers fall short of this.

c. Human: The school will appoint an additional teacher.

5.3 **Repton Manor Primary School**

a. Capital: The enlargement has been commissioned and is funded within the capital programme. Capital funding of £6k per classroom (£42k) would be payable should the formal enlargement decision be made.

b. Revenue: As a new school it receives guaranteed funding for the first three years. Expansion will not alter this. The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human: The school is a growing school and will appoint additional teachers as required.

5.4 **John Wesley Primary School**

a. Capital: Accommodation is currently being provided by way of temporary accommodation at an estimated cost of £201k per double classroom. Permanent accommodation is likely to cost £2m to £2.5m. The classroom setup cost of £6k is within the capital programme.

b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human: The school will appoint an additional teacher each year until it reaches 2fe capacity.

5.5 **Cheeseman's Green**

a. Capital: KCC will need to commit to making the capital available (£4.4m) when commencing the competition process. Under the terms of the S106 grant, KCC can call for the site after 100 dwellings (ie by December 2014 at the latest). Capital will be progressed at the 50th dwelling, with further instalments 6 months and 14 months later.

b. Revenue: We would agree a three year budget based on guaranteed pupil numbers, as per KCC practice.

c. Human: The school would recruit staff in line with agreed growth plans.

6. **Equality Impact Assessment**

Will need to be completed.

7. **Member Opinion**

7.1 The proposals are for schools sited in the following divisions

a. Great Chart Primary School – Ashford South division, Jim Wedgbury

b. Furley Park Primary School – Ashford Rural South division, Mike Angell

- c. Repton Manor Primary School – Ashford South division, Jim Wedgbury
- d. John Wesley PS – Ashford South division, Jim Wedgbury
- e. Cheeseman’s Green School – Ashford Rural South division, Mike Angell

7.2 The members have been informed of the proposals and have indicated their support.

8. Area Education Officer Opinion

8.1 David Adams, the Area Education Officer for Mid Kent fully supports the proposals.

9. The Views of The Schools

9.1 The headteachers and governing bodies of the four schools have all agreed to the proposals.

10. Conclusions

10.1 Forecasts for Ashford Borough indicate increasing demand for primary school places. These enlargements provide a balance of permanent and temporary expansions to accommodate pressures, whilst recognising that additional permanent accommodation will come on line in the medium term to support new housing development.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Members are requested to endorse the recommendations as shown on page 1 of this report.

12. Background Documents

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework
Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent

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