

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Committee, September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning in Sevenoaks District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Sevenoaks, and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	The Education Committee is asked to agree that the Local Authority: a) commission enlargements of Sevenoaks PS and Lady Boswells (Aided) CE PS by 1FE each, for September 2013. b) confirm enlargement of Otford PS by 10 for September 2013 taking the PAN to 60. c) confirm enlargement of St John's CE PS by 15 for September 2013, taking the PAN to 30.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Sevenoaks section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity to manage the increase in numbers in the Sevenoaks planning area

1.2 Following consideration of all available options, the local authority is proposing enlarging two schools, Lady Boswells CE PS (Aided) and Sevenoaks PS, by one form of entry. This will increase the number of Year R places in Sevenoaks by 60.

1.3 Two other schools, Otford PS and St John's CE PS increased their intake temporarily for September 2011 and 2012. These temporary enlargements now need to be confirmed.

2. Background

2.1 Lady Boswell's CE Primary School (Aided) is a high performing, oversubscribed school with a PAN of 30. Feasibility studies for a 1FE expansion are currently being undertaken. The school is in central Sevenoaks, ideally placed to accommodate the demand from this area.

2.2 In September 2011, Sevenoaks Primary School admitted a bulge year group in Year R, admitting 30 additional pupils, taking their PAN to 90. Planning consent for additional modular units and toilets is currently being sought to support the proposal that the school be enlarged to 3FE permanently. The school is heavily oversubscribed and is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from this area.

2.3 Otford Primary School increased its PAN by 10 Year R places to 60. The school needs additional teaching space to enlarge to 2FE.

2.4 St Johns CE Primary School temporarily increased its PAN by 15 for September 2011 and again by a further 20 for September 2012. The school has capacity for a permanent enlargement of 15 places giving it a PAN of 30. The school is ideally placed to accommodate demand from the local area.

3. Commissioning Options

3.1 The local authority has considered several options for increasing provision. Factors under consideration include, site size, suitability, available accommodation, proximity to demand, performances and standards, willingness of the headteacher and governing body and sustainability.

3.2 The four schools provide the most appropriate options to manage the increased demand in Sevenoaks.

4. Proposal

4.1 It is proposed to:

- a. Enlarge Lady Boswell's (Aided) Church of England Primary School by 1FE, taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.
- b. Enlarge Sevenoaks Community Primary School by 1FE, taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- c. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Otford Primary School, taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.
- d. Confirm the permanent enlargement of St John's CE Primary School, taking their PAN to 30 for the September 2013 intake.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Lady Boswell's (Aided) CE Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires a rebuild on the school site and enlargement of facilities and service. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £1.35m.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Lady Boswell's CE PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.2 Sevenoaks Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires a rebuild on the school site and enlargement of facilities and services. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £2.0m
- b. The school has been granted access to funding from the Priority Schools Programme. We await full details from the DfE on which year the allocation of funding will be available.
- c. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- d. Human – Sevenoaks PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.3 **Oxford Primary School**

- a. Capital - The costs involved are for the demolition of derelict buildings and building of new teaching areas. The budget has been agreed and is estimated at £450k.
- b. Revenue - The schools will continue to receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Oxford PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.4 **St Johns CE Primary School**

- a. Capital - The costs involved are for the and building of new teaching areas. The budget is estimated at £500k.
- b. Revenue - The schools will continue to receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – St John's CE PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Will need to be completed.

7. Member Opinion

7.1 The proposals are for schools sited in the following divisions:

- a. Lady Boswell's CE PS (Aided) - Sevenoaks Central, Mr John London
- b. Sevenoaks PS - Sevenoaks Central, Mr John London
- c. Oxford PS – Sevenoaks East, Mr Nick Chard
- d. St John's CE PS – Sevenoaks Central, Mr John London

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

8. Area Education Officer Opinion

8.1 The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports these proposals and having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that these enlargements offer the best location, are the most cost-effective and are the most sustainable solutions to increased demand in the Sevenoaks area.

9. The Views of The Schools

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

10. Conclusions

10.1 Forecasts for Sevenoaks planning area indicates increasing demand for primary school places. These enlargements will add an additional 85 Year R places per year to manage the increased demand in Sevenoaks.

11. Recommendations

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

12. Background Documents

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

13. Contact details

Simon Webb
Area Education Officer - West Kent
01732 525110
simon.webb@kent.gov.uk