

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
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To:	Education Committee, 12 September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning – Swale District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Swale, and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	<p>The Education Committee is asked to endorse the following proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase capacity for 2012 in Faversham by making permanent the temporary expansions at Ethelbert Road Primary School, Bysing Wood Primary School and Ospringe CE Primary School b) Increase capacity for 2012 in Sittingbourne by 30 places in Year R in The Westlands Primary School on a temporary basis with a view to commissioning permanent expansion as needed c) Consult on the significant enlargement of Lansdowne Primary School by 1 FE from September 2013 d) Permanently expand Halfway Houses Primary School from 2 FE to 3 FE when it relocates to new accommodation on the Danley site. e) Commence the process of commissioning additional places in Sittingbourne

1. Introduction

1.1 The Swale section of Kent's "Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017" indicates a need to add a significant number of school places for Swale to manage the increase in numbers of children predicted to come forward.

1.2 The pressure on places in Faversham in September 2011 was managed through temporary expansion of three schools, adding an additional 1.3 forms of entry. In the medium term this provision will need to be made permanent to meet continuing demand.

1.3 The Plan also flags up that an additional 2 to 3 form of entry will be needed in Sittingbourne through expansion of existing schools.

1.4 Up to 2 forms of entry will be required on the Isle of Sheppey with at least one form of entry on a permanent basis.

2. Background.

2.1 In September 2011 three primary schools in Faversham admitted pupils over their PAN in order to accommodate the number of pupils coming forward for a Year R place. Permanent expansion of these schools is now being proposed.

- Ethelbert Road Primary School from .5 FE to 1 FE
- Bysing Wood Primary School from .5 FE to 1FE
- Ospringe CE Primary School increase of PAN from 30 to 40 (proposing to increase to 45 from September 2014)

2.2 In September 2012 The Westlands Primary School in Sittingbourne is admitting over its PAN of 60 in order to accommodate the number of late applications coming forward for a Year R place, providing an additional 30 places.

2.3 In September 2011 and 2012, Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School and Queenborough Primary School admitted over their PAN in order to accommodate the number of pupils coming forward for a place including late applications.

3 Commissioning Options for 2012/13 and beyond

3.1 The enlargement of the Faversham primary schools is already in train for 2012 and beyond. Factors in reaching these decisions included site size, existing surplus accommodation, pressure points, parental preference and performance.

3.2 The temporary increase of PAN for The Westlands Primary School provides an additional 30 places in Year R for September 2012. The Westlands Primary School is part of The Westland Academies Chain and it is planned that discussions commence with the Executive Headteacher and the Trust as a matter of urgency with regard to commissioning permanent expansion of The Westlands Primary School increasing its capacity from 2 FE to 3 FE.

3.3 Sittingbourne is a growth area with further new housing proposed. Additional capacity will need to be commissioned through the expansion of existing schools including the expansion of Lansdowne Primary School from 1 FE to 2 FE from September 2013.

3.4 The temporary increase of PAN for Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School was for two years only (September 2011 and 2012) provides an additional 30 Year R places each year. The temporary increase of PAN from 50 to 60 for Queenborough Primary School provides an additional 10 places for September 2012 and the PAN will change to 60 from September 2013. These temporary expansions use existing school accommodation and therefore no cost is involved.

3.5 Halfway Houses will have a temporary increase in its PAN from 60 to 90 for Year R entry in September 2013. It is planned that the school will permanently expand to 3 FE when it relocates to new accommodation on the Danley site. The LA's application to the government to include the school in the government's Priority

Schools Building Programme was successful but further information has not yet been released. The expected date for the rebuild is September 2014.

3.6 In the longer term, continued new housing at Thistle Hill will require the commissioning of new 1 FE primary school with the potential to expand to 2 FE.

4 Proposal for September 2013

4.1 It is proposed to:

- Admit an additional 40 pupils in Faversham primary schools as indicated in 2 (1). Public consultation on the expansion proposals will not be required to start until September 2013 for implementation in September 2014 when permanent buildings will need to be in place on the school sites.
- Commence the process of commissioning additional school provision in Sittingbourne through the expansion of The Westlands Primary School.
- Consult on the permanent expansion of Lansdowne Primary School from 1 FE to 2 FE.
- Admit an additional 10 pupils at Queenborough Primary School. PAN determined as 60 through the Admissions consultation.
- Admit an additional 30 pupils in Year R at Halfway Houses Primary School. Public consultation on the permanent expansion of the school to 3 FE will not be required to start until September 2013 for implementation in September 2014 (approximate date).

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Ethelbert Road Primary School

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for September 2014 with an estimated cost of £400k.
- 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 30 pupils should numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened over a three year period.
- c. Human: The school has appointed additional teaching and support staff.

5.2 Bysing Wood Primary School

- a. Capital: Some surplus accommodation already exists within the school to accommodate additional pupils. Accommodation will need to be provided for 2013/14 with an estimated cost of £300k.
- 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 30 pupils should numbers fall short of this.

- c. Human: The school has appointed additional teaching and support staff.

5.3 Ospringe CE Primary School

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for 2014/15. If it is agreed that the PAN increases to 45 from 2014, the estimated cost for the new accommodation is £370.
- 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 40 pupils should numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened over a three year period
- c. Human: The school will organise its staffing to provide for the additional pupils.

5.4 The Westlands Primary School

- a. Capital: Provision of accommodation for 2012/13 (one classroom) at a cost of £100k has already been agreed. Further discussions will be needed on expansion of the school by a full 1 FE.
- b. Revenue: As an academy the school receives its funding directly from the government.
- c. Human: The school will appoint additional staff.

5.5 Lansdowne Primary School

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided to expand the school from 1 FE to 2 FE with an estimated cost of £1.5-2m. Developer contributions towards this project are approximately £350k.
- 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 pupils should numbers fall short of this.
- c. Human: The school will appoint additional staff.

5.6 Halfway Houses Primary School

- a. Capital: The additional 30 pupils in Year R in September 2013 will be accommodated using existing accommodation in the current school. New build 3 FE provision on the Danley site will be provided through Priority School Building Programme, capital receipt from the Halfway Houses site and Basic Need funding.
- 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 90 pupils should numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened over a three year period.

- c. Human: The school will appoint additional staff to manage the additional pupils.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

7. Member Opinion

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

- a. Ethelbert Road Primary School and Bysing Wood Primary School – Faversham – Tom Gates
- b. Ospringe CE Primary School and Lansdowne Primary School – Swale East, Andrew Bowles
- c. Westlands Primary School – Swale Central, Mike Whiting and Alan Willicombe
- d. Halfway Houses Primary School and Queenborough Primary School – Sheerness, Ken Pugh
- e. Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School – Sheppey, Adrian Crowther

7.2 The members have been informed of the proposals and have indicated their support for the permanent and temporary enlargements.

8 Area Education Officer Opinion

8.1 Alison Osborne, the Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposals.

9 The Views of The Schools

9.1 Headteachers are in agreement with the proposals. Discussions are taking place with each governing body.

10 Conclusions

10.1 Forecasts for Swale District 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 the increasing pupil population.

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

13. Lead Officer Contact details

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