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

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Thanet, and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	<p>The Education Committee is asked to endorse proposals to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Increase capacity for 2013 by adding places at Margate primary schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 15 places at Palm Bay Primary School</li> <li>▪ 15 places at Northdown Primary School</li> <li>▪ 30 places at Drapers Mills Primary School</li> <li>▪ 30 places at Garlinge Primary School</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Consult on the significant enlargement of Palm Bay Primary School</li> <li>c) Commence the process of commissioning an additional form of entry in Ramsgate</li> </ul>

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Thanet section of Kent's "Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017" indicates a need to add a significant number of school places for Thanet to manage the increase in numbers of children predicted to come forward. There is currently pressure on places in Margate and Ramsgate and this pressure is expected to increase. This has been brought about by both the rise in the birth rate and the unexpected number of families moving into the area.

1.2 The pressure on places has been managed through temporary expansion, adding 2 FE, and agreeing with headteachers that they can admit over their PAN.

## 2. Background

2.1 The following temporary additional places were put in place for September 2011 and for entry in September 2012, by amending the PANs through consultation where appropriate.

- In September 2011 Drapers Mills admitted 30 additional pupils into Year R and Year 1. The school will admit 30 additional pupils into Year R in September 2012

- In September 2011 Garlinge Primary School admitted 30 additional pupils into Year R. The school will admit 30 additional pupils into Year R in September 2012
- In September 2012 both Northdown Primary School and Palm Bay Primary School will admit an additional 15 pupils into Year R.
- In September 2012 Newlands Primary School and Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School will admit an additional 30 pupils into Year R. This will be a temporary arrangement for one year only.

2.2 Permanent expansion of some schools is now being proposed. Only one of these expansions will require a statutory consultation which is Palm Bay (Community) Primary School. From September 2013 Northdown Primary School will become an academy as part of the Kemnal Trust chain of academies. Drapers Mills will become an academy as part of the Kemnal Trust with an estimated conversion date of 1 December 2012. Enlargement of these schools will form part of their funding agreements. Garlinge Infant School and Garlinge Foundation Junior School amalgamated from September 2007 and became a 2 form entry primary school. The predecessor schools had both been 3 form entry and therefore accommodation already exists that can be utilised to expand Garlinge to become a 3 form entry school. There will be a need to provide some additional accommodation but this would not be classed as a significant expansion and will not require statutory consultation.

### **3. Commissioning Options for 2012 and beyond**

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

3.2 The temporary increase of PANs for entry September 2012 for Callis Grange Nursery and Infant School and Newlands Primary School for one year only will provide an additional 60 Year R places.

3.3 At least one form of entry will be required in Ramsgate on a permanent basis and how this will be provided is part of ongoing discussions with the schools and other KCC departments.

3.4 In the longer term, proposed new housing at Westwood Cross and the East Kent Opportunities sites in Broadstairs will require the commissioning of a 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 half form of entry into Palm Bay Primary School and Northdown Primary School. The PANs have been determined at 60 for entry in September 2013.
- Consult on the significant enlargement of Palm Bay Primary School (45 to 60 places) from September 2013
- Commence the process of commissioning new school provision in Ramsgate through possible expansion of an existing primary school if

KCC can provide additional land or determining an alternative site in liaison with the Director of Property Infrastructure and Support.

## **5. Financial Implications**

### **5.1 Garlinge Primary School & Nursery**

- a. Capital: Some surplus accommodation already exists within the school to accommodate some of the additional pupils. Accommodation will need to be provided for 2012/13 with an estimated cost of £240k. Two huted classrooms will need to be refurbished for use from September 2012 with an estimated cost of £40k.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. Protection will be provided until 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 has appointed additional teaching and support staff.

### **5.2 Northdown Primary School**

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for 2013/14 with an estimated cost of £500k.
- b. Revenue: The school will be an academy from September 2012 and as such will receive its funding directly from the government.
- c. Human: The school will organise its staffing to provide for the additional pupils.

### **5.3 Palm Bay Primary School**

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for 2013/14 with an estimated cost of £451k.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. Protection will be provided until to ensure the school receives funding for 60 pupils should numbers fall short of this.
- c. Human: The school will appoint additional staff at the appropriate time.

### **5.4 Callis Grange Nursery & Infant School**

- a. Capital: Additional accommodation will need to be added to the schools building project for the bulge year, allowing permanent expansion in the future if necessary, at an estimated cost of £120k.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. Protection will be provided until

to ensure the school receives funding for 120 pupils should numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k set up costs for the additional class.

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

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

- 6.1 A Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

## **7. Member Opinion**

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

- a. Drapers Mills Primary School, Northdown Primary School and Palm Bay Primary School – Margate and Cliftonville Division, Chris Wells and Michael Jarvis.
- b. Garlinge Primary School & Nursery – Margate West Division, Robert Burgess
- c. Newlands Primary School and Callis Grange Nursery & Infant School – Broadstairs & Sir Moses Montefiore Division, Robert Bayford and Bill Hayton

- 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 Thanet 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

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