

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

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Tonbridge & Malling, and seeks the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision:
Recommendations:	The Education Committee is asked to endorse that the Local Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Consult on the significant enlargement of Discovery School.</li> <li>b) Undertakes survey and analysis work to determine the future capacity needs on Kings Hill.</li> <li>c) Consults on solution for primary provision in Leybourne (for 2015)</li> <li>d) Reviews primary education need in Snodland.</li> </ul>

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Tonbridge & Malling section of Kent’s draft “Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017” indicates that, although there appears to be sufficient places available in Year R, there are pressure points in the district linked primarily to house building.

## 2. Background

2.1 Since September 2010 Discovery School has been admitting bulge year groups in Year R, admitting 90 rather than 60 pupils. Planning consent for three double classroom modular units and toilets is currently being sought for the site to ratify the current situation. Consultation needs to be undertaken on the significant enlargement of the school to 3FE (630 places). The school is rated Outstanding by Ofsted, and is oversubscribed, with housing development continuing on the Kings Hill estate. The provision of a two classroom unit on the site will provide accommodation for the additional pupils due to be admitted in September 2012. Two further double classroom units will be needed in future years.

2.2 Subject to analysis it may prove necessary to provide additional capacity at Kings Hill Primary School. For September 2012, 15 pupils within Kings Hill could not be offered places at either of the two schools.

2.3 The housing development at Leybourne Grange is for 700 homes. The developer is providing a 1fe site and £2m towards the cost of a new school building. Consultation will need to be undertaken to find a solution for the provision needed in Leybourne.

2.4 The housing development at Holborough Quarry (1,000 houses) is being provided for via the Snodland Primary Schools (St Katherine's School and Snodland CEPS). Depending on forecast need a 1fe or 2fe site will be provided together with cash contribution (£1.2m for new build or £700k for expansion of an existing school). A review of education need will be undertaken in the coming year (as per the S106 agreement) to ascertain the likely requirement.

### **3 Commissioning Options for 2013 and beyond**

3.1 The proposal for the expansion of Discovery School has been on the horizon for some time. The pupil product generated by the housing on the Kings Hill estate and the pre-school migration rates are higher than anywhere else in the County. This resulted in an under-estimation of the amount of primary provision required. Kings Hill is a major development site, 500 homes remaining to be built. Further planning applications for housing are proposed.

3.2 It is proposed to undertake some specific survey work to determine whether additional capacity is required for September 2013.

3.3 Consultation on a solution for primary educational provision in Leybourne needs to be conducted. Following consultation, options and the public view on these, will be brought to the Education Committee.

3.4 Primary provision in Snodland needs to be reviewed before decision can be made about the need for any educational provision. Should provision be needed information on the size and timings will be brought to the Education Committee.

### **4 Proposal**

4.1 It is proposed to:

4.1.1 Admit an additional form of entry into Year R at Discovery School in September 2013.

4.1.2 Undertake survey work in Kings Hill to determine whether additional Year R capacity will be needed for September 2013.

4.1.3 Consult on a solution for primary education provision in Leybourne.

4.1.4 Review primary provision in Snodland and consult if provision is needed.

### **5 Financial Implications**

#### **5.1 Discovery School**

5.1.1 Capital: Accommodation is being provided for 2012/13, with an estimated cost of £326k for two class bases. The classroom setup cost of £6k is within the capital programme.

5.1.2 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 Year R pupils should numbers fall short of this.

5.1.3 Human: The school will appoint an additional teacher yearly until the school reaches its proposed capacity of 630 places.

## **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

7.1.1 Discovery School and the Kings Hill Area – Malling Rural East division, Richard Long

7.1.2 Leybourne and Snodland – Malling North division, Sarah Hohler

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

## **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 headteacher and governing body of Discovery School have agreed to the proposal.

## **10 Conclusions**

10.1 Forecasts for Tonbridge & Malling Borough indicate increasing demand for primary school places. These proposals are in line with the growth plans and education strategy for the Borough.

## **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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