

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
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To:	Education Cabinet Committee - 12 September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning in Tunbridge Wells District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Tunbridge Wells and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations :	<p>The Education Committee is asked to agree that the Local Authority:</p> <p>a) commission enlargements of Southborough Church of England Primary School, St Marks Church of England Primary School and Langton Green Primary School by 1FE each, for September 2013.</p> <p>b) commission enlargements of St James Church of England Infant School by 20 places and St James Church of England Junior School by 22 places, for September 2013.</p> <p>c) confirm enlargements of Pembury Primary School and St Matthews High Brooms Church of England Primary School by 1FE each for September 2013</p>

1. Introduction

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

1.2 Tunbridge wells urban planning areas.

Following consideration of all available options, the local authority is proposing increasing the number of Year R places in the Tunbridge Wells urban area by 110 by September 2013.

a. permanently enlarging three schools, Southborough Church of England Primary School, St Marks Church of England Primary School and Langton Green Primary School each by one form of entry.

b. permanently enlarging St James Infant School and St James Junior schools by 20 places each for September 2013.

1.3 Two other schools, Pembury Primary School and St Matthews High Brooms Church of England Primary School, increased their intake to 90 for September 2012. These temporary enlargements now need to be confirmed.

2 Background

2.1 Southborough Church of England VC Primary School is a larger than average school with a PAN of 60. Feasibility studies for a 1FE expansion are currently being undertaken. The school is ideally placed to accommodate the increasing demand from the Southborough area. See Appendix 1.

2.2 St Marks Church of England Primary School is a 1FE school in the south of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The school is generally popular. Feasibility studies are awaited to consider enlargement of the school to 2FE. See Appendix 2

2.3 Langton Green Primary School is a popular and successful community school in the village of Langton Green. Feasibility studies for a 1FE expansion are currently being undertaken. The school is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from the planning area of Langton Green. See Appendix 3.

2.4 St James Church of England Infant School is a very popular aided primary school in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells. It has accommodated two bulge years where the PAN was increased to 90 in September 2010 and September 2012. Feasibility studies for an expansion of 20 places are currently being undertaken. The school is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from the central part of the town. See Appendix 4.

2.5 St James Church of England Junior School is a very popular VC primary school in the centre of Royal Tunbridge Wells. It is linked to St James Infant School. The increase in St James Infant School numbers means that St James Junior school will be expected to accommodate its first year of 3FE in September 2013. Feasibility studies for an expansion of 22 places are currently being undertaken. See Appendix 5.

2.6 Pembury Primary School admitted a bulge year groups in Year R, admitting 90 rather than 60 pupils for September 2011. Planning consent for additional class modular units and toilets is currently being sought to support the proposal that the school be permanently enlarged. See Appendix 6

2.7 St Matthews High Brooms Church of England Primary School is a VC school in High Brooms, a mile to the north of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The school admitted a bulge year group in Year R, admitting 90 rather than 60 pupils for September 2011. Planning consent for additional class modular units and toilets is currently being sought to support the proposal that the school be permanently enlarged. See Appendix 7.

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 schools provide the most appropriate options to manage the increased demand in Tunbridge Wells.

4 Proposal

4.1 It is proposed to:

- a. Enlarge Southborough Church of England Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- b. Enlarge St Marks Church of England Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.
- c. Enlarge Langton Green Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.
- d. Enlarge St James Infant School by 20 places taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- e. Enlarge St James Junior School by 22 places taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- f. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Pembury Primary School taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- g. Confirm the permanent enlargement of St Matthews High Brooms CE Primary School taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Southborough CE Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an initial installation of two additional classrooms. A decision on whether the build is hard or modular build is yet to be taken. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure improvements. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £1.25m - £1.4m.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human - Southborough PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.2 St Marks CE Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the installation of seven additional classrooms. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure and service improvements. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £1.8m, subject to a feasibility study.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

- c. Human – St Marks CEPS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.3 Langton Green Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the installation of six additional classrooms. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure and service improvements. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £1.2m, subject to a feasibility study.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Langton Green PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.4 St James CE Infant School

- a. Capital - The site is constrained and the enlargement of the school is expected to more expensive once the feasibility study has been carried out. The enlargement requires the installation of two additional classrooms. The Infant school provides meals for the junior as well as the infant school. Therefore significant improvement is required to the kitchens and other service accommodation. The total potential cost is unknown pending the feasibility study, but likely to be between £0.8m and £1.2m.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – St James CE Infant School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.5 St James CE Junior School

- a. Capital - The site is constrained and the enlargement of the school is expected to more expensive once the feasibility study has been carried out. The enlargement requires the installation of four additional classrooms. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure and service improvements. The total potential cost is unknown pending the feasibility study, but likely to be between £0.9m and £1.4m.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – St James CE Junior School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.6 Pembury Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an installation of additional classrooms. The site is a difficult site with gradient and planning challenges. The costs involved are unknown pending a detailed feasibility study, but are expected to be in excess of £1.5m.

- b. Revenue - The schools will continue to receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Pembury PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.7 St Matthews High Brooms CE Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the installation of additional classrooms. The cost of the build will include necessary infrastructure and service improvements. The total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £1.25m, subject to a feasibility study.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – St Matthews High Brooms CE PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached at appendix 1.

7 Member Opinion

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

- a. Southborough Church of England Primary School – Tunbridge Wells North, Mr Roy Bullock
- b. St Marks Church of England Primary School – Tunbridge Wells South, Mr James Scholes
- c. Langton Green Primary School – Tunbridge Wells West, Mr John Davies
- d. St James Church of England Infant School – Tunbridge Wells South, Mr James Scholes
- e. St James Church of England Junior School – Tunbridge Wells South, Mr James Scholes
- f. Pembury Primary School– Tunbridge Wells East, vacancy
- g. St Matthews High Brooms Church of England Primary School – Tunbridge Wells North, Mr Roy Bullock

- 7.2 The members have been asked for their support for the enlargements.

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 locations, are the most cost-effective and are the most sustainable solutions to increased demand in the Tunbridge Wells area.

9 The Views of The Schools

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

10 Conclusions

- 10.1 Forecasts for Tunbridge Wells urban planning areas indicate increasing demand for primary school places. These enlargements will add an additional 110 Year R places per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent'.

11 Recommendations

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

12 Background Documents

- 12.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework
12.2 Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent

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