

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member, Education, Learning and Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee 21 November 2012
Subject	Decision No. 12/01976 - Proposal to expand St John's Church of England Primary School, Maidstone
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of the results of the Public Consultation.
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider this report and advise whether capital funds should be released to enable the expansion of St John's Church of England Primary School to proceed.

This paper should be read in conjunction with the report to Education Cabinet Committee on 12 September 2012. The reports can viewed at the following link <http://kent590w3:9070/documents/g4880/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Sep-2012%2010.00%20Education%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

1. Introduction

1.1 On 12 September 2012 a report was presented to Education Cabinet Committee on the above proposal.

1.2 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 17 September and 26 October 2012.

2. The proposal

It is proposed to enlarge St John's Church of England Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.

3. Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan

3.1 The Maidstone section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity in the Maidstone North planning area.

3.2 An e-petition requesting an increase in capacity to one of the schools in the Bearsted area of Maidstone and signed by 1171 people was debated at County Council on 19 July 2012. This proposal will have a "knock on" effect to the Maidstone North area mentioned in 3.1 above.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

4.1 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period are given at Appendix 1.

4.2 A copy of the notes made during the public meeting are given at Appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 The Local Member is Mr Paul Carter who is supportive of the proposal.

5.2 The LA fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increased demand in the Maidstone Town area.

5.3 The Governing Body of St John's CEPS, with support from Kent County Council, have brought this expansion proposal forward. The Headteacher, Senior Management Team and Staff of the school have been fully consulted and are supportive.

5.4 The school currently has a robust and sound School Travel Plan. They are in contact with Highways over the potential impact of this proposal. A survey may be needed and an off-road drop-off/pick-up area may be favoured. Once full information is to hand relating to any changes to be made the School Travel Plan will be updated.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and can be found at:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StJohnsSchool/consultationHome>

No changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the Consultation period.

7. Recommendations

Members are requested to consider the report and advise the Cabinet Member on whether capital funds should be released to enable the expansion of St John's Church of England Primary School to proceed.

8. Background Documents

8.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

8.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

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