

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
Subject	Decision number: 12/02001 - Proposal to expand Hawkinge Primary School
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs the Cabinet Member of the results of the Public Consultation and seeks agreement to the issuing of a public notice in respect of the expansion of the school.
Recommendations:	The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the issuing a public notice to expand Hawkinge Primary School

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 The Shepway District section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2012-17 indicates a need to commission additional primary school places in the Folkestone area.

1.2 On 12 September 2012, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Hawkinge School.

1.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 14 November and 21 December 2012. A public meeting was held on 3 December 2012.

## **2. The proposal**

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Hawkinge Primary School by 15 Reception Year places taking their PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2013 intake. Successive reception year intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 places.

## **3. Bold Steps and The Kent Commissioning Plan**

3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.

3.2 The Shepway section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates the need to enlarge Hawkinge Primary School to 2FE.

## **4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation**

4.1 The majority of respondents support the proposal.

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

4.3 A copy of the questions, comments and responses made during the public meeting are given at Appendix 2.

## **5. Views**

### 5.1 Local Member

The Local Member is Ms Susan Carey who has a high opinion of the staff, pupils and governors at Hawkinge Primary School and is supportive of the proposal.

### 5.2 Area Education Officer

The AEO 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 Hawkinge area. The proposal conforms to the Authority's commissioning principles of expanding good, popular provision when places are needed. However, importantly the proposal seeks to ensure that children from Hawkinge Town do not have to be driven to neighbouring communities for education. The AEO is confident that the school will retain its ethos as it grows. The school is well led, with experienced staff who will work tirelessly to ensure high standards of academic progress and personal development. There is some concern about class sizes rising because historically the 45 pupils in Year R have been split across two classes. However the disadvantages of increasing to 30 pupils per class are outweighed by the advantages of single age group teaching through years 1 – 6, and allowing additional local children access to the school.

### 5.3 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Hawkinge Primary School is supportive of the proposal.

### 5.4 Headteacher

The Headteacher, Senior Management Team and Staff of the school have been fully consulted and are supportive.

### 5.5 Pupils

The pupils have been offered the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

## **Education Cabinet Committee**

The Education Cabinet Committee, at its meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> January 2013, considered and endorsed the proposed Cabinet Member decision to issue a public notice to expand Hawkinge Primary School

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and can be found at: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/Hawkinge/consultationHome>. No changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the Consultation period.

## **7. Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member is asked to approve the issue of a Public Notice to expand Hawkinge Primary School

## **8. Background Documents**

Hawkinge Primary School consultation document

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

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

[http://www.ab-](http://www.ab-consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn%20ing%20and%20Skills.pdf)

[consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn%20ing%20and%20Skills.pdf](http://www.ab-consulting.co.uk/Delivering%20Bold%20Steps%20For%20Kent,%20Education%20Learn%20ing%20and%20Skills.pdf)

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/b11518/FINAL%20Version%20Kent%20Commissioning%20Plan%20Education%20Provision%202012-2017%20-%20Published%2020%20September%202012%201.pdf?T=9>

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 – Primary Commissioning – Shepway District

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/g4880/Public%20reports%20pack%2012th-Sep-2012%2010.00%20Education%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

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## Proposal to expand Hawkinge Primary School

### Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed:	400
Consultation responses received:	34

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed	Totals
Governors				
Staff	3			3
Parents	20		9	29
Pupils				
Other	1		1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>34</b>

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

- It is right to seek to accommodate all local children. (3)
- I believe this is a fantastic school and works hard to give its pupils the best education. Other children should have a chance to secure a place here.
- I believe that the three primary schools need to expand with the growth of Hawkinge. (Maybe now KCC will realise that a secondary school is also needed in here. This would save our children having to take long, expensive bus trips to and from school.)
- It is difficult and uneconomical to have split classes in any school and the sooner this expansion happens the better for our community.
- In favour but concerned as to how the school will accommodate the additional children year on year. Will classes still be split? Does the school have the classrooms and the staff to accommodate this? (2)
- In favour but concerned at traffic congestion worsening and the loss of outdoor space.

#### Comments against the proposal:

- One of the reasons we chose this school was because of the smaller class sizes. Having 30 in a class will have an impact on learning and resources. (4)
- The quality of education and proven success of pupils will suffer.
- The school is already oversubscribed. Numbers should be reduced not increased.
- The school is already quite small and there is not capacity to take more pupils. (3)
- The capacity to take on more children has not been fully risk assessed and current pupils are not being given proper consideration.
- Any growth in numbers will need additional supporting infrastructure upgrades. (2)
- Parking will be even harder than it is already. (3)
- There should be another new school in the area not more new homes.
- Churchill School has been constructed in such a way as to facilitate growth; Elham is just a short drive away; Selsted CEPS should be increased first. (2)
- A school such as Elham CEPS cannot rely on the village to sustain numbers and always looks for pupils from surrounding areas to fill places. Increasing capacities of other schools means that Elham will not be able to recruit as many pupils from out of the village as they will go to the school closest to them.
- Hawkinge is a wonderful school but in 2014 there will be 20 surplus places. 20 children could come from outside the area possibly changing the community feel.
- Hawkinge was built over 100 years ago; has been expanded haphazardly over the years and is now inefficient to maintain and environmentally and ergonomically poor.

**Public Consultation Meeting  
Hawkinge Primary School  
3 December 2012**

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In Attendance:	
Mr Gary Cooke (Chair)	Chair – Education Cabinet Committee
Mr David Adams	Area Education Officer – Mid Kent

**Purpose of the Meeting**

- To explain our proposal to enlarge Hawkinge Primary School from 315 places to 420 places.

Gary Cooke introduced himself and explained the role of the Education Cabinet Committee. Very few people attended the meeting (8 in total – including school staff and governors). Gary Cooke suggested a more informal presentation, which was agreed by all.

David Adams gave a brief overview of the proposal, how the extra numbers admitted in reception would work through the school and where the additional accommodation would be added.

The Headteacher Aly Ward confirmed that the school was completely in favour of the proposal. It was hard to say to a parent in Hawkinge that their child could not attend their local school and it was this that drove the school to move forward. There would be benefits as well, for example, straight age group classes and it would create further opportunities for team working.

The Chair of Governors – Penny Stephens agreed with the Headteacher particularly on the point of local children being able to attend their local school. There would be further benefits, a brand new kitchen which would be very welcome. The Chair emphasised her confidence in the current management team and noted that Hawkinge would have two evenly matched primary schools which could only be a positive step forward for the town.

Question	Answer
<p><b>Parent:</b> I have a reception child due to start and I must be honest and say that currently the two reception classes with low numbers in each are attractive. This may be an issue for some parents. A further concern is the outside space that will be lost especially for wet play when children are restricted to the hard area. I am pleased that the hall will be enlarged. My main concern is the traffic. Mill Lane is already a nightmare in the morning and I think something needs to be done to make this safer. In the afternoons there</p>	<p><b>David Adams</b> - The hard play area will be replaced by taking the playground across to the adventure trail area. Also there are some areas that are not being used as well as they could be and we will have a look to see how these can be better utilised. The traffic issue is more challenging. It is debatable if a one way system is best for the community. Another option is for parents to use different entrances. We will be looking in the planning stages to see what solutions there may be. There is the car park across the road by the village hall and perhaps we need to encourage parents to think of those options.</p>

<p>are lots of parents waiting, there will be less space and this surely must be more dangerous.</p>	<p><b>Aly Ward (H/T)</b> - rainy days are worst for traffic congestion as might be expected.  <b>David Adams</b> - we will look at the Travel Plan to encourage different options for parents.  <b>Aly Ward (B/T)</b> – lots of people walk on Wednesday mornings and this may be something that could be encouraged.</p>
<p><b>Parent:</b> Will space in the car park be lost when you expand the kitchen?</p>	<p><b>David Adams</b> – No, the kitchen will be expanded into the parents waiting area rather than the car park. Again, we will look at parents using different entrances to better utilise the space in the waiting area.</p>
<p><b>Parent:</b> Will there be more staff, more TAs?</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> - Funding relates directly to the number of children on roll so there will be extra funding to assist with more staff. It will be a decision for the school as to how it will utilise the extra funding.</p>
<p><b>Parent:</b> How do the staff feel about the expansion?</p>	<p><b>Aly Ward (H/T)</b> - Yes staff are pleased. This is an opportunity to build on the staff's individual strengths and already some staff are enquiring whether there will be an opportunity for a head of KS1 and KS2.</p>
	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> – This will not be rapid growth, it will be steady and take its time to work through the school. New staff will have the opportunity to absorb the ethos of the school and grow with it.</p>
<p><b>Neighbouring Headteacher:</b> We as a school totally acknowledge the need for Hawkinge Primary School to expand. Selsted CEPS does take over 50% of its children from Hawkinge and we would like to re-affirm our commitment that we are here for the community of Hawkinge.</p>	<p><b>Gary Cooke</b> - I realise this is a concern but thank you for your comment.</p>

5 people attended the meeting.