

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Draft scheduled report to Education Cabinet Committee
Subject	Decision No. 12/02021 - Proposed expansion of Maypole Primary School, Dartford
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs members of the results of the Public Consultation
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Maypole Primary School.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Dartford district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2012 - 2017 indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity in the Dartford West planning area.

1.2 On 12 September 2012 the Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member of Education, Learning & Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Maypole Primary School.

1.3 This reports sets out the results of the Public Consultation which took place between Monday 3 December 2012 and Monday 28 January 2013. A public meeting was held on 5 December 2012.

2. The Proposal

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Maypole Primary School by 30 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 pupils.

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 Dartford section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity in the Joydens and Maypole planning area.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

4.1 A majority of respondents were in favour of the proposal. The concerns raised at the public meeting are explored in paragraph 5.2 below.

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

4.3 A summary of the questions, comments and responses made during the meeting are given at appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 Local Member

The Local Member is Mrs Ann Allen. Mrs Allen supports the proposal.

5.2 The following views were raised in the public consultation meeting:

(i) Concern over the potential for a dilution in standards at the school.

The responsibility for maintenance of standards at the school is vested in the Head teacher, who made it clear during the public meeting that he believed that performance standards were not at risk.

Residents concern over the potential for an increase in traffic or local parking issues.

It is acknowledged that the access from the surrounding roads may need to be considered as part of any redevelopment of the site and Property Group are factoring this in to their feasibility studies.

The school benefits from a large turning oval and excellent on site car parking. The single issue is that the entry/exit is to a narrow residential road.

Increased traffic during drop off and pick up would need to be considered in the wider planning, following a survey by Kent Highways.

The school will revisit its travel plan and walking buses may be part of the solution.

(ii) Concerns about whether the school site and playground facilities are large enough for an enlargement.

The feasibility study indicates that the site size is easily capable of accommodating 2FE. The head teacher is adamant that an enlargement will not jeopardise the provision of existing facilities at the school.

(iii) Concerns about the existing accommodation being too cramped to accommodate an enlargement.

The school was designed with core buildings that could accommodate more than 1FE. There may need to be small changes to some of the accommodation, but much of the existing build is able to accommodate 2FE.

5.3 Area Education Officer

The AEO fully supports this proposal. Demand in Joyden and Maypole planning area is outstripping capacity and forecasts indicate that this increasing demand is likely to continue

5.4 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Maypole Primary School are supportive of the proposal.

5.5 Headteacher

The head teacher of the school has been fully consulted and is supportive.

5.6 Parents

A majority of the parents who responded, support the proposal.

5.7 Pupils

The pupils of the school have been offered the opportunity to contribute.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. No comments were received and no changes needed to be made to the Equality Impact Assessment following the consultation period.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 Capital funding is required to complete this expansion. The funding available comes from an annual Government allocation, topped up, where eligible, with Developer contributions. The estimated cost for 2013-14 on this expansion is £416,000. This has been included within the 2013-14 capital programme although we still await confirmation from the DfE of our 'basic need' capital allocations for 2013/15

8. Recommendations

8.1 .The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Maypole Primary School.

9. Background Documents

Maypole Primary School consultation document

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

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic->

[plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 – Primary Commissioning – Dartford 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 Maypole Primary School, Dartford

Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 400
 Consultation responses received: 9

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed
Governors	1		
Staff			
Parents	5		3
Pupils			
Other			
Totals	6		3

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- I feel it is a good move to expand on an already good school and give future children a chance of a place at a good school.
- We hope the excellent breakfast and after school clubs are included in the expansion plans as the extension of the school will mean more demand for this service which is very popular.

Comments against the proposal:

- If the school expands any more, I feel that the standard of education will be affected.
- Parking in or near the school and the flow of traffic is a nightmare and this will increase with expansion.
- I feel the school would lose its community feel where the children all know each other.
- Dartford would benefit from another school being built rather than trying to shoehorn them into existing schools.
- The playground is far too small at the moment and with expansion this will get worse.
- The current infrastructure of the school is insufficient for the existing number of children and cannot accommodate the expansion.

Proposal to expand Maypole Primary School

Summary of Public Consultation Meeting

Purpose of the Meeting

- To explain the proposal to expand Maypole Primary School
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- To listen to views and opinions

Kent County Council is proposing that Maypole Primary School increase its Year R intake to 60, taking the proposed total capacity of the school from 210 places to 420 places.

In 2010, Maypole Primary School agreed to a temporary enlargement to accommodate the increasing demand for primary school places. Maypole Primary School is a popular and successful school and is ideally placed to accommodate the forecasted increase in demand for primary school places.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given by Simon Webb.

Statement from the Headteacher, Linda Wilmann

In December 2009 governors were approached to expand the school due to predicted forecasts and were concerned whether increase was sustainable. In September 2010 only 33 children joined the school and thought would have to implement mixed classes. School now has 49 children. In September 2011 had full reception, year 1 and are confident the demand for places is here.

- Children have welcomed the additions, are achieving well and feel the ethos has not changed.
- Staff has welcomed the benefits of sharing skills, coaching & mentoring and for training opportunities as we see this as a way to raising standards.
- There are opportunities for the children, including wider number of friends, and movement if problems occur.
- If the school is to increase, it is important the right accommodation is in place as we have a mobile in situ that do not meet statutory health & safety requirements. Have been informed by local authority that this will be removed.
- Need adequate cloakrooms outside of classroom.
- Need integrated telephone system in mobile.
- Ofsted priority to improve EYS learning area.
- Need reassurances that buildings will be finished on time.
- Need bigger school hall as currently children are eating packed lunches in classrooms.
- Need larger staff room.
- HT & DHT need offices.
- New computer suite.
- Additional storage, for sports equipment, teachers as corridors full of resources.
- Would like to keep extended schools provision on site.

I can see the need for expanding the school, to accommodate the demand from local children but we must have assurance that the accommodation will be fit for purpose and in

keeping with what we presently have.

Statement from the Chair of Governors, Elaine Manark

- Overall we do support the expansion but we need to make sure that we have the right facilities for the children. Continuance of the extended school provision is top of the priorities as ACORN the present provider is unable to cope with demand. Have 50% of the children at the school will attend, making more flexible arrangement for the parents of the school.
- Currently have two areas that we use for teaching, EYFS and the cage, netball court. We would ask that this not included in area as allocated for playground space as we have funded it as a school.
- Need reassurance that the timetable will be adhered to as late delivery will cause concern that we have the facilities available to accommodate the children in September 2013.

Statement from Area Education Officer, Simon Webb

- EYFS is statutory so will remain in place – only caveat if have to build across play area we would replace like for like.
- I would like to revisit the school to see the cage in operation and how this can be worked into scheme.
- Need to look school hall, staff room and kitchen facilities as I was not aware you do not have on site.
- Extended Schools will remain as we will not change provision.
- School was built to statutory requirement of 55sqm, now 60sqm so cannot give you space retrospectively but will ensure new build is in accordance with new regulations.
- Feasibility study will have to be agreed with headteacher, governors and parents. Basic need funding allows for basic build and we will negotiate on extras. Request will be looked at sympathetically but doubt DHT will get an office.

Question	Response
<p>The children cannot use any toys or play equipment for health & safety reasons as the playground is so crowded.</p>	<p>There will be an ongoing consultation with the feasibility study is available which hopefully the school will share with parents at another meeting.</p>
<p>Parking is a real concern and I think a child has been hurt in the past. If intake doubles how are parents going to get through entrance gates safely.</p> <p>If everybody played by the rules it wouldn't be a problem but people abuse what is here.</p>	<p>Had three years of growth here in a temporary of capacity so half of the additional form already in school. I understand the issues surrounding the traffic but as part of the feasibility study we do a traffic assessment and look at the entrance of the school but current turning circle and area is immense.</p> <p>Traffic assessors will visit at peak times to gauge the high volume.</p> <p>KCC can make provision but at the end of the day if parents do not abide by the rules.... We will do what we can but there needs to be goodwill on both sides.</p>

<p>The parking facilities are good but the approach (Franklin Road) is inadequate so becomes a bottle neck.</p> <p>Is it not possible with back gate and road, have a one way system – come in one way and exit another way.</p>	<p>Upgraded fencing around the school and will have access from Joydens Woods. 50% of the children are within walking distance to school so need to educate the parents – hopefully with additional entrance it will encourage parents to us this.</p> <p>If you mention this in response forms as part of the consultation then highways can look into it.</p>
<p>Maypole is a great school worrying concern that the ethos of the school will change. By moving to 420, school will become impersonal and worries me a lot.</p>	<p>School has 392 children and I know all their names. I am confident that this will continue as the children are always so welcoming, they love the school and will get to know everyone.</p>
<p>Temporary classes are not adequate; as they breach health & safety and is a concern. What is the contingency plan if Maypole decides not to increase?</p>	<p>Not aware until here tonight that there were H&S issues regarding the demountables but please be rest assured that I will get this sorted. Enlargement would stop if responses from headteacher, governors and parents indicated that it was not a good idea.</p>
<p>Pie in the sky – what is happening now – children being crowded at lunchtime – insurance cannot be valid with this number of children in school hall. Son had to move to packed lunch as only has 10 minutes to eat lunch. What short term plan is, as the plans being discussed seems to be in the future.</p>	<p>We will be immediately looking at H&S re the mobiles, in terms of building arrangements for the hall, and current provision is considered as part of the process. If the expansion does not go ahead then none of these improvements will be implemented.</p>
<p>Only takes one day for something nasty to happen. Hear that the children have limited time to eat lunch, however, you are here today and it has been highlighted extra space needed – you have to work with parents – there are concerns regarding health & safety, this needs to be addressed now as we have to think about what is happening. If something major happened at the school, the council will be held accountable.</p>	<p>From a council prospective number one priority is health & safety in so far as children concerned. If deficient in H&S, the issues will be addressed immediately.</p> <p>In terms of funding for the additional work to accommodate the expansion, the local authority will work with the school, the parents and governors of the school.</p>
<p>Daughter recently started school and attends the breakfast and after school club because we both work – did not know demountables were unfit for purpose – if you need to change accommodation will that provision be withdrawn in the meantime?</p>	<p>It is a question of the urgency and need. If it is an H&S issue, we would always seek to work with the school and not interrupt curriculum and extended school services.</p> <p>If work needs to be carried out urgently we would bring in some temporary accommodation so extended schools provision can be relocated whilst the issues are resolved.</p>
	<p>Health & Safety – I will be here 4.30pm Monday 10 December and get County Accommodation</p>

	<p>Manager alerted about your H&S issues as I want to reassure staff and parents that I will work this through to get it resolved.</p>
<p>Concerned about the disruption during school time and rebuilding.</p>	<p>There will be disruption but it depends how it is managed. A Project Manager will liaise with the headteacher over how the building works are managed. You could make it an activity to engage the children in the building works that are ongoing – opportunities to use to the benefit.</p>
<p>We have spoken about lunchtimes, getting feedback not sufficient time to eat pack lunch. I think attention to learning suffers. As a parent of a child with a nut allergy more chance of child coming into contact with food allergic to and what staff supervision in place.</p> <p>So what is the way forward with an additional 60 in September?</p>	<p>Food with nuts in same as in hall. Do have to use classrooms due to lack of space and the children are supervised in the classrooms. We are working on this.</p> <p>There will be 30 additional children in September. The school hall will not be enlarged by then.</p> <p>Work with HT and Govs how to manage this – when County Accommodation Manager visits the site we will look at impact of additional 30 and the immediate solution is put double demountable so space could be used for lunch periods – it is an option.</p>
<p>Lunchtime can only fit less than half of school into hall so if you are thinking about extending the hall, could you look into acquiring the field next door to expand onto?</p>	<p>If ownership ascertained and available to purchase, question becomes price and then CPO timeframe.</p>
<p>Parent The talk has been about expanding the school out, have you thought about going up?</p>	<p>Gary Cooke We would only go to 2nd storey if we absolutely had to as it is cheaper to go out. Where we have capacity, it is much nice r to keep as single storey.</p>
<p>Funding approved for a basic school does that include libraries, ICT suite.</p>	<p>Government describes the fund as basic need – funding to provide adequate provision and nice learning environment for children.</p> <p>Negotiation will have to take place over the provision of a library or ICT suite (but we would not fund the ICT equipment or books for the library). It is up to the school to decide how the accommodation is utilised.</p>
<p>A lot comment about here and now, H&S, car park and that there is a further meeting on Monday. Hope we get communication back</p>	<p>Simon is returning to the school on Monday to discuss the immediate health & safety issues that have been highlighted tonight.</p>

<p>about the concerns raised and some resolutions from the meeting. There are a lot of immediate issues that need to be addressed now.</p>	<p>As a separate issue, there is the consultation, which requires you to fill in forms after tonight's meeting but there is a commitment for County to follow up on the issues.</p>
<p>Can raise challenges here and now and would like a document of the issues raised – so there is accountability and something that can be revisited.</p>	<p>I have agreed to come back on Monday, hopefully with a property representative. Cannot address traffic and parking issues at this stage, the headteacher can contact me if there is an issue.</p>
<p>Great that communication works between you and headteacher, but what about the parents so they are aware of the position.</p>	<p>I will get the answers, as promised.</p>

Gary Cooke thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the questions that had been asked. He encouraged everyone to send in their comments by the closing date, 28 January 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.