

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 19 March 2013
Subject	Primary Commissioning – Swale District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report updates Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Swale, and seek the views of the Education Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	<p>The Education Committee is asked to endorse the following expansion proposals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consult on the significant enlargement of Lower Halstow Primary School from September 2014 through adding 10 places per year group, expanding the school to 1 FE b) Support the Swale Academy Trust's consultation on the significant enlargement of The Westlands Primary School to permanently expand the school from 2 FE to 3 FE c) Commence the process of commissioning additional Primary education capacity to serve Thistle Hill on the Isle of Sheppey d) The temporary expansion of Eastchurch CE Primary School by increasing the admission number from 60 to 90 for September 2013 and 2014. 2) Members to note that the decision to issue a public notice on the permanent expansion of Ethelbert Road Primary School will need to be taken outside of Education Cabinet Committee. This is due to time constraints attached to work on the buildings that will need to take place before the 2013 summer holiday period to ensure that the school has the accommodation in place for September 2014.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Swale section of Kent's "Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017" indicates a need to add a significant number of school places for Swale to manage the increase in numbers of children predicted to come forward.

1.2 The pressure on places was managed through temporary expansion for September 2012, adding 110 Year R places across Swale. Permanent expansion of some schools as outlined in the 12 September 2012 report to Education Cabinet Committee is going forward for September 2014.

1.3 A temporary expansion of Eastchurch CE Primary School is being proposed to accommodate two bulge years increasing the intake into Year R from 60 to 90 for September 2013 and 2014.

2. Proposals

2.1 Lower Halstow Primary School

It is proposed to permanently expand Lower Halstow Primary School adding 10 places in Year R from September 2014.

- a. Capital: Accommodation will need to be provided for September 2014 with an estimated cost of £275k.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive Growth funding for a maximum of three years to provide protection on the increased Year R admission number of 30 should pupil numbers fall short of this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened as a result of the expansion towards the cost of the non-staffing resources needed to set the class room up.
- c. Human: The school will appoint additional teaching and support staff at the appropriate time.

2.2 The Westlands Primary School

The Swale Academies Trust is proposing permanent expansion of The Westlands Primary School from September 2013 increasing the PAN from 60 to 90.

- a. Capital: Further discussions have taken place on the permanent expansion of the school by a full 1 FE. The Swale Academies Trust has agreed to take forward the permanent expansion of the school to 3 FE with the EFA. The LA will support the public consultation process. The school has been successful in its bid to the Government's Priority Schools Building Programme for funding to refurbish the current 2 FE school. Basic Need funding for an extension to the building to provide 3 classrooms as the first phase for September 2013 estimated at £450k.
- b. Revenue: As an academy the school receives its funding directly from the government.
- c. Human: The school will appoint additional staff.

2.3 Eastchurch CE Primary School

A two-year temporary expansion is being proposed for Eastchurch CE Primary School from 2 FE to 3 FE to provide sufficient Year R places for the Eastchurch/Warden Bay locality for September 2013 and 2014.

- a. Capital: The school would require two additional classrooms at an estimated cost of £300,000.
- b. Revenue: The school will receive Growth funding providing protection to ensure the school receives funding for 90 pupils should numbers fall short of

this. The school will receive £6k for each additional class opened as a result of the expansion towards the cost of non-staffing resources needed to set the class room up.

- c. Human: The school will appoint additional teaching and support staff at the appropriate time.

2.4 Commissioning of an additional 1FE Primary capacity to serve Thistle Hill, Isle of Sheppey

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017 highlighted the need to commission additional provision at Thistle Hill as the housing development progressed. Minster-in-Sheppey Primary School has expanded from 2 FE to 3 FE on a temporary basis to help manage the growth from the continuing development. However, the Local Authority will need to begin the commissioning process to establish a further 1FE in permanent primary provision to serve Thistle Hill by 2016. The commissioning process will take up to 18 months to complete and options for the delivery of this additional capacity will have to be explored.

- a. Capital: Costs will be dependant on the delivery model.
- b. Revenue: Funding will depend on the delivery model.
- c. Human: A temporary governing body would be established to appoint staff as and when appropriate.

2.5 Ethelbert Road Primary School

Due to time constraints attached to work on the buildings that must take place before the 2013 summer holidays, to ensure the school has accommodation in place for 2014, it will be necessary to issue a Public Notice on the permanent expansion of the school before bringing it to Education Cabinet Committee. Members are asked to endorse this approach.

3. Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan

3.1 These proposals 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’.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each proposal.

5. Member Opinion

5.1 The expansion proposals are for schools sited in the following divisions:

- a. The Westlands Primary School and Lower Halstow Primary School – Swale Central, Mike Whiting and Alan Willicombe
- b. Eastchurch CE Primary School and Thistle Hill – Sheppey Central, Adrian Crowther

5.2 The members have been informed of the proposals.

6. Area Education Officer Opinion

6.1 Marisa White, the Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the proposals.

7. The Views of the Schools

7.1 Headteachers are in agreement with the proposals. Discussions are taking place with each governing body.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Members are requested to endorse the recommendations as shown on page 1 of this report.

9. Background Documents

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

8.2 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](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)

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 – Primary Commissioning – East Kent

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

Lead Officer Contact details

Marisa White

Area Education Officer - East Kent

01227 284407.

Marisa.white@kent.gov.uk