

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 17 October 2007

Subject: Proposed closure of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School and their replacement with an Academy, conditional upon a Funding Agreement forthcoming from the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report informs the School Organisation Advisory Board of the steps necessary to achieve the secondary phase of education within the two-tier system on the Isle of Sheppey.

FOR INFORMATION

Introduction

1. (1) At its meeting on 24 July 2006 the School Organisation Advisory Board supported the proposal to consult on the principle of reorganisation from a three-tier system to a two-tier system with transfer at 11+. Public consultation was carried out between September and November 2006.

(2) The results of this consultation were reported back to the School Organisation Advisory Board at its meeting on 13 December 2006 who recommended implementation. A Cabinet Member decision to implement this proposal was recorded on 10 January 2007.

(3) Public consultation on the primary phase of the two-tier system was carried out through proposals for each individual school involved, and the results were reported back to the School Organisation Advisory Board at its meeting on 16 May 2007. Permission to implement the proposal for the primary phase was given on 24 July 2007 by the Cabinet Member.

(4) Public consultation on the proposal for the secondary phase of education through establishment of an Academy on the Isle of Sheppey has been carried out by consultants (Mouchel Parkman) as required by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Kent County Council is now required to publish a Public Notice to close Minster College and Cheyne Middle School and to replace them with an Academy conditional upon a Funding Agreement forthcoming from the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Until the Public Notice is determined the Funding Agreement to build the Academy cannot be obtained. It is a legal requirement for Minster College and Cheyne Middle School to formally close before the new Academy can be opened. It must be stressed that the proposed closures are dependent upon a final Ministerial decision to grant funding for the establishment of a new Academy. If this agreement is not forthcoming, this proposal will be withdrawn and new proposals for the secondary phase of education on the Isle of Sheppey will be brought forward.

The Isle of Sheppey Academy

2. (1) It is proposed that the Academy opens in existing premises in September 2008. There will be one Academy Principal with overall responsibility for both the Academy sites. The whole Academy will have the dual specialisms of Business & Enterprise and Sport.

(2) Following a report commissioned by the Minister, the advice from Lord Adonis, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learners, on 23 July 2007 gave clear guidance as to the shape of the Academy, with the allocation of additional funding making it possible to adopt the two-site option for the Academy, using the existing sites of Minster College (to be known as the Academy East Site) and Cheyne Middle School (to be known as the Academy West Site). Copies of the letters dated 26 July from Lord Adonis to the Leader of Kent County Council and from the Leader to Lord Adonis are attached as Appendix 1.

Admission to the Academy

3. (1) Both locations will offer over time, education to students aged 11-18. Within the overarching Academy there will be small schools on each site. Admission to the Academy will be phased over a 2 year period as indicated in Table 1. Pupils attending St George's CE Middle School and Danley Middle School during the academic year 2008-09 can remain as pupils of those schools. In September 2008 Year 6 pupils from Cheyne Middle School will remain in the middle school phase. All pupils aged 11-16 will transfer into the Academy in September 2009.

Table 1

School	Sept 08	Sept 09	Sept 10
St George's CE Middle School	Yr 6	Primary Yrs R-6	Primary Yrs R-6
	Yr 7	PAN 60	PAN 60
	Yr 8		
Danley Middle School	Yr 6	Closed	Closed
	Yr 7		
	Yr 8		
Academy West Site (Cheyne)	Yr 6 *		
	Yr 7	Yr 7	Yr 7
	Yr 8	Yr 8	Yr 8
	Yr 9	Yr 9	Yr 9
		Yr 10	Yr 10
			Yr 11
Academy East Site (Minster)		Yr 7	Yr 7
		Yr 8	Yr 8
	Yr 9	Yr 9	Yr 9
	Yr 10	Yr 10	Yr 10
	Yr 11	Yr 11	Yr 11
	Yr 12	Yr 12	Yr 12
	Yr 13	Yr 13	Yr 13

* not pupils of the Academy

(2) The Academy will comply with all relevant provisions of the statutory Admissions Code of Practice and the School Admission Appeals Code of Practice as they apply at any given time to maintained schools and with the law on admissions as it applies to maintained schools.

(3) The Academy will in time have sufficient accommodation for all pupils (11-18) on the Island. The overall size will be 2100 (11-16 year olds) with 500 in the sixth form (17 and 18 year olds). Each school within the Academy will be of equal size, with an overall intake of 420 in each year group across the Academy.

Conclusion

4. Members are asked to note that issue of a Public Notice is now necessary. The Notice will propose the closure of Minster College and Cheyne Middle School to replace these schools with an Academy in September 2008 subject to the Department for Children, Schools and Families Funding Agreement.

Alison Osborne
Area Education Officer
(Canterbury & Swale)
Tel: (01227) 284461

The Local Members are Mr Adrian Crowther and Mrs Angela Harrison

Background Papers:

Reports to School Organisation Advisory Board on:
24 July 2006
13 December 2006
16 May 2007