

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills
Subject	Decision number: 12/01962/2 - Proposal to expand The Discovery School, Kings Hill
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report informs the Member of the results of the Statutory Public Notice for consideration and recommends the approval of the expansion as proposed
Recommendations:	The Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills is asked to agree to expand The Discovery School.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Tonbridge and Malling District section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2012-17 indicates a need to commission additional primary school places in the Kings Hill area.
- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge The Discovery School by 30 Reception Year places, taking their Pan to 90 (3FE) for the September 2013 intake. Successive Reception Year intakes will offer 90 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 630 places
- 1.3 This report sets out the results of the public notice, which was published on 10 February 2013 and closed on 10 March 2013 and includes the recommendations made by Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 19 March 2013.

## **2. Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan**

- 2.1 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’.
- 2.2 The Tonbridge and Malling section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to enlarge The Discovery School by 1FE.

## **3. Response to the Statutory Public Notice**

- 3.1 Two responses were received objecting to the school expansion. The comments had been previously submitted and considered by the Cabinet Member in response to the KCC consultation. The responses are submitted to the Cabinet Member for further consideration.

## **4. Education Cabinet Committee**

- 4.1 On 12 September 2012, the Committee considered and endorsed the proposal to the temporary expansion of The Discovery School. The Committee recommended a public consultation on the proposal
- 4.2 On 18 January 2013, the Committee considered the responses received and the comments made at the public meeting and discussed the concerns raised. The Cabinet Committee resolved to endorse the proposed decision (12/01962) to issue a public notice regarding the expansion of The Discovery School, to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills.

- 4.3 19 March 2013 the Cabinet Committee considered a report providing the responses to the public notice. The Committee considered the information and resolved to endorse the proposed Cabinet Member decision to the temporary expansion of The Discovery School.

## **5. Equality Impact Assessment**

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

## **6. Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Cabinet Member for Education Learning and Skills is asked to agree to expand The Discovery School.

## **7. Officer Scheme of Delegation**

- 7.1 The Cabinet Member should be aware that no specific officer delegations are included within the formal decision as the Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council in this instance.
- 7.2 Officers performing tasks under the scheme of delegation are expected to keep the relevant portfolio holder informed of progress.

## **8. Background Documents**

Discovery School Consultation Document

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

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<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 – Ashford District

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

Education Cabinet Committee report – 19 March – outcomes of the Statutory Public Notices

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s38882/Item%20B8b%20Final%20ECC%20Paper%20sign%20off%20public%20notices.pdf>

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