

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

Subject: **TEMPLAR BARRACKS, ASHFORD – PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: To seek the views of Members on consulting on the need for a new school in Ashford.

Introduction

1. Ashford is a designated growth area with 30,000 new houses planned for the period up to 2030. One major site is Templar Barracks where 83 replacement dwellings have been built and planning permission granted for 1250 new homes on the site. The developer contribution (S106) agreement has recently been signed off. This provides the County Council with contributions for various services including primary school education. A site for a two form entry school and nursery class, and £4.08M is being provided.

Background Information

2. The Education and Inspection Act 2006 now requires the Local Authority (LA) to undertake a competition to find a promoter for any new primary school. However, before we undertake a competition we are required by statutory guidance to undertake a public consultation. This should ask whether or not the community feels a new school is needed. This report sets out the case for a new school and requests Members' views on whether or not a public consultation should be conducted. Full details of the competition process is set out in the report on New School Competitions, also on this agenda to the Board.

School Capacity in Ashford

3. (1) The Templar Barracks development is likely to commence early in 2008. The school site is available to the LA after the 150th occupation. The anticipated pupil product from the development (approximately 284 in total) is included in Appendix 1.

(2) Appendix 1 sets out the capacities and rolls of the schools within 1, 2 and 3 miles of the development. It also sets out the forecasts for the next 5 years. For primary school aged pupils, we strive to ensure that adequate provision exists within 2 miles of their homes.

(3) Appendix 1 indicates that currently there are sufficient places within 3 miles of Templar Barracks. These places are in schools situated between one and three miles away. However, there are no places within one mile of the development. Within two miles of the development there are currently 3.4% surplus places and this is forecast to fall to 2.7% by 2012. The corresponding figures for a 3 mile radius are 4.6% reducing to 1.9%.

(4) The map attached as Appendix 2 shows the location of the development site, together with the locations of schools within the 1, 2 and 3 miles radius.

(5) The forecasts indicate that there is a need for new provision to cater for the Templar Barracks development specifically (i.e. make provision within one mile), and more generally to ensure that the additional pupils generated by the development do not inhibit access to local schools by other families moving into other areas of the Town.

The Proposal

4. The forecasts indicate there is a need for additional provision on the Templar Barracks site. This could currently be accommodated by a 1FE school. This should be built with the infrastructure to enable it to expand to 2FE with minimal disruption (i.e. enlarged hall and staffroom), known as a hybrid school. In line with current policy a nursery may be provided to meet the need for additional capacity in the locality (currently a 55 place deficit).

Views of the Local Member

5. Mrs Tweed supports the undertaking of a public consultation on the need for a new school.

Views of the Cluster Board

6. The Cluster Board will be consulted at its meeting on 7 November. The views will be reported orally to the meeting.

Resource Implications

Capital

7. (1) The site and the capital costs of this development are available via developer contributions. The anticipated costs for a 1FE hybrid school with nursery is £3M. The remaining developer contributions may be used at a later date to enable expansion to 2FE subject to demand.

Revenue

(2) The school will be funded via the Dedicated Schools Grant according to KCC's funding formula. The LA's allocation from Central Government is increased according to rising pupil numbers.

(3) KCC's current policy is to provide reorganisation fund money to new schools. The current allocation is £47,100 lump sum plus £6,728 per class. An existing budget exists to meet this cost. The exact allocation made available to this new school would be derived according to the policy and rates that apply in the year of opening.

Equality Issues

8. (1) The proposal to consult on the need for a school does not in itself present any equalities issues, provided adequate consolidation is given to ensuring the consultation process is accessible to all members of the community.

(2) The school will be fully accessible, thereby increasing the range of provision available to pupils with a physical disability.

(3) If it is decided to proceed with creating a new school, an assessment will be made of the equalities issues arising from any proposal received.

Transport and Environmental Impact including Community Implications

9. The creation of a school should reduce the risk of the LA needing to transport primary aged pupils to access education.

Community Impact

10. The creation of a school early in the development of the Templar Barracks site will have a positive impact on generating a sustainable community in this locality. It will enable the community to gel, and create a heart which is essential for community well being. This fits with the LA's vision of schools at the heart of their community.

School Effectiveness

11. The ambition to create a new school early in the building of the development aims to avoid the negative impact on neighbouring schools of children being admitted due to a lack of on-site provision, only to leave when the new school opens.

Links to Primary Strategy

12. The proposal complies with recommendations 14 (all through primary schools), 18 (organised as 1FE or 2FE), and 19 (new schools built with infrastructure to enable expansion).

Proposed Timetable

13. If it is decided that a public consultation should be undertaken in respect of the proposal, the following timeline could apply:

Report to SOAB	14 November 2007
Consultation document issued	4 January 2008
Public Meeting	Mid January 2008
End of Public Consultation period	15 February 2008
Report back to SOAB	19 March 2008
Cabinet Member Decision	by end of March 2008
Scrutiny Committee (if required)	23 April 2008
Issue Public Notice	30 April 2008
Close of Invitation to bid period	31 August 2008
Report to CFE Senior Management Team	week commencing 1 September 2008
Publication of proposals (Public Notice)	week commencing 15 September 2008
Public Consultation Meeting	week commencing 29 September 2008
Close of Representation period	31 October 2008
Report to SOAB	10 December 2008
Cabinet Member Decision	10 December 2008
Scrutiny Committee (if required)	by 31 December 2008
Implementation date	1 September 2010

14. The views of the School Organisation Board are sought on the proposal to undertake a public consultation on the need for a new school on the Templar Barracks site in Ashford.

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Background documents:

Education & Inspection Act 2006

School Planning data – area of Templar Barracks development

School name	Status	Type	Published admission number 2008 (1)	No. of year groups	School capacity (2)	Actual roll	Forecast roll (3)				
						Jan-07	Jan-08	Jan-09	Jan-10	Jan-11	Jan-12
Godinton PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	418	-	-	-	-	-
St Mary's CEPS	Voluntary aided	Primary	60	7	420	426	-	-	-	-	-
St Teresa's Catholic PS	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	215	-	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 1 mile		-	150	-	1050	1059	1064	1068	1072	1076	1085
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 1 mile (4)		-	-	-	-	-9	-14	-18	-22	-26	-35
Victoria Road PS	Community	Primary	30	7	210	205	-	-	-	-	-
Great Chart PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	428	-	-	-	-	-
Downs View IS	Community	Infant	90	3	270	264	-	-	-	-	-
Linden Grove PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	388	-	-	-	-	-
Ashford South/Oak Tree CPS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	405	-	-	-	-	-
Kennington CEJS	Voluntary controlled	Junior	90	4	360	351	-	-	-	-	-
John Wesley	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	0	-	-	-	-	-
St Simon of England RCPS	Voluntary aided	Primary	30	7	210	204	-	-	-	-	-
Phoenix School	Community	Primary	30	7	210	214	-	-	-	-	-
Beaver Green PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	543	-	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 2 miles		-	600	-	4200	4061	4087	4057	4050	4063	4089
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 2 miles (4)		-	-	-	-	139	113	143	150	137	111
East Stour PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	293	-	-	-	-	-
Willesborough IS	Community	Infant	120	3	360	341	-	-	-	-	-
Furley Park PS	Community	Primary	60	7	420	409	-	-	-	-	-
Kingsnorth CEPS	Voluntary controlled	Primary	60	7	420	378	-	-	-	-	-
Willesborough JS	Foundation	Junior	120	4	480	542	-	-	-	-	-
Total pupils - within 3 miles		-	900	-	6300	6024	6081	6074	6079	6111	6181
Surplus/deficit on capacity - within 3 miles (4)		-	-	-	-	276	219	226	221	189	119

Notes:

(1) Maximum number admitted for entry in September 2008

(2) This is the assessed net capacity of the school as yet at Summer 2007 (or the amalgamated net capacity for school reorganisations)

(3) Forecast roll data is based on projections made in Summer 2007.

(4) A negative number indicates that there may not be sufficient places available to meet demand. A positive number indicates that there may be surplus school places.