

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 21 June 2013
Subject	Decision number: 13/00007 Proposed expansion of Newington Community Primary School & Nursery, Ramsgate
Classification:	Unrestricted
Future Pathway of Paper	Cabinet Member decision
Electoral Division	Ramsgate

Summary:	This report sets out the results of the public consultation.
Recommendation	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to issue a public notice to expand Newington Community Primary School & Nursery, Ramsgate.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Thanet section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for additional places in the Ramsgate area.
- 1.2 On 19 March 2013, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the (former) Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Newington Community Primary School & Nursery, Ramsgate.
- 1.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 15 April 2013 and 24 May 2013. A public meeting was held on 30 April 2013.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Newington Community Primary School & Nursery by 30 reception year places, taking their PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intakes will offer 90 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 630 pupils.

3. Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition, "to ensure every child can 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 Thanet section of the Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity across the whole of Thanet, including the Ramsgate locality.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

- 4.1 A total of 6 responses were received - 5 supporting the proposal and 1 undecided.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments received during the consultation period are given in appendix 1.
- 4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached as appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 Local Member

The local members are Mr Trevor Shonk and Mr Martyn Heale

5.2 Governing Body

“The Governing Body of Newington Community Primary School & Nursery wholeheartedly supports the proposed expansion. We are a popular and successful school and this proposal will give us the opportunity to reach out to more families within our community.”

5.3 Pupils

Comments from pupils in support of the proposal:

- There will be new people to be friends with.
- We can play together and get to know more people.
- Opportunities for meeting new children from a range of backgrounds.
- Being large will help us to prepare for secondary school.
- We can learn from other children e.g. languages, culture.
- It will give more children the opportunity to join our great school.

Comments from pupils against the proposal:

- Not enough resources.
- The dinner ladies might run out of food.
- We might forget where the new classes are in the school.
- We might get all squashed when we sit in the hall for assembly.
- There will be a lot more children in the playgrounds, therefore less space.
- Children might get lost in a large school.

5.4 Area Education Officer

This is a popular and successful school that is regularly oversubscribed. Increasing pupil numbers in the Ramsgate area, including in the vicinity of Newington, mean that expansion is necessary to ensure sufficient school places for local children. We will work closely with the school on the provision of additional accommodation and the planning for the works on site in order to ensure that this supports the smooth running of the school, is in keeping with the vision that the governing body has for Newington Community Primary School & Nursery and provides for a permanent solution for September 2014. The school at that time would also produce a new travel plan in liaison with Highways and taking into consideration the views of the local residents.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out at the start of this consultation and is available via the following link:

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

- 6.2 The conclusion following the public consultation is that the presumptions made in the initial assessment still remain and that it is not necessary to initiate a further Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to issue a public notice to Newington Community Primary School & Nursery.

Background Documents

COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s34295/FINAL%20VERSION%20Kent%20Comm%20Plan%20Ed%20Prov%202012-17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf>

17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf

Education Cabinet Committee report – 19 March 2013 Primary Commissioning and relocation of Special Schools (Special School Review) – Thanet District

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s38884/Item%20B9a%20Primary%20Commissioning%20and%20Relocation%20of%20Special%20Schools.pdf>

The public consultation document is available via the following link:

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

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**The Proposed Expansion of Newington Community Primary School & Nursery
from 420 pupil places to 630, increasing the PAN from 60 to 90.**

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 600
Responses received: 6

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	5	0	1	6
Governors	0	0	0	0
Members of Staff	0	0	0	0
Interested Parties	0	0	0	
Total	5	0	1	6

In support of the proposal

Parents

- I fully support expanding the school to allow more children to attend Newington but I hope this will not stretch resources to the extent that it could potentially impact on children's learning.
- This is a very good proposal.

Undecided

My concern at the proposed expansion is how it will affect the Pre-School Nursery.

Thanet District Council

A letter was received from Thanet District Council saying that the council has no comments to make with regard to the consultations but will be interested to see the outcome and receive formal consultation should the proposals for the sites continue.

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**Summary of the public meeting held on Thursday 25 April at Newington
Community Primary School & Nursery**

The meeting was chaired by Mr Kevin Shovelton and was attended by 4 people including parents and governors.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given Marisa White, Area Education Officer.

Mike Harrison, Chair of Governors explained that the governors had been approached by KCC with regard to expanding the school and had agreed with the proposal providing the school could continue to maintain its excellent ethos. The staff and governors were working towards becoming an outstanding school and did not want mobiles placed on the site. They had been reassured with regard to the accommodation especially since seeing the new accommodation at Callis Grange.

Views and comments are listed below:

- A query was raised regarding nursery and pre-school provision in the area and whether this was adequate.
- Would the school become too big to remain friendly.
- The children love the school and enjoyed coming.
- Would families moving into the area stretch classes.
- Would the proposed development at Westwood Cross bring more children.
- Will extended services be a high priority given that there might be more people coming from London and Eastern Europe.

The questions raised were answered:

- It was explained that the expansion of the current nursery was not part of the consultation but capacity in the area was being looked at by KCC's Early Years Team.
- The headteacher confirmed that the current model of class sizes would remain.
- It is proposed to expand Bromstone on its current site and there will be a new school at Westwood Cross as new housing comes on. Numbers would be kept under constant review.
- The local authority is responsible for deploying resources and to provide integrated services to support children and families beyond the school provision.