

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 21 June 2013
Subject	Decision number: 13/00005 Proposed expansion of Lansdowne Primary School, Sittingbourne
Classification:	Unrestricted
Future Pathway of Paper	Cabinet Member Decision
Electoral Division	Swale East

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 Lansdowne Primary School (Community), Sittingbourne

1. Introduction

1.1 The Swale section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need for additional places in the Sittingbourne 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 Lansdowne Primary School (Community), Sittingbourne.

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 29 April 2013.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Lansdowne Primary School by 30 reception year places, taking their PAN to 60 (2 FE) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 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 Swale section of the Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission additional primary capacity across the whole of Swale, including the Sittingbourne locality.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

4.1 A total of 3 responses were received objecting to the proposal.

- 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

Mr Andrew Bowles is the local member for Swale East and attended the public meeting. He commented that most children attending the school lived in the local vicinity and that he had the responsibility to ensure that the local community could access facilities including schools. However, it was essential to see that adequate measures were put in place to safeguard the local residents and improve parking and access.

5.2 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Lansdowne Primary School has supplied the following response to the consultation:

“The governors of Lansdowne School have been approached with the suggestion of increasing the size of the school from one to two forms of entry. The rationale for this is that the school age population of the town is increasing, and the County authority is looking to expand good schools, which are oversubscribed and have the physical space required. Lansdowne satisfies all these requirements and governors addressed themselves to questions of how the school would manage the transition and the potential problems. Chief among these are the potential for the existing traffic congestion to worsen, provision of staff parking and the additional demand placed on the kitchens, which currently serve other schools as well.

At the consultation with local residents about the initial expansion to accommodate an extra class, the concerns about the traffic were echoed by the residents, and assurances were given by county members that everything possible would be done to address their concerns.”

5.3 Area Education Officer

This is a popular and successful school that is regularly oversubscribed. Increasing pupil numbers in the Sittingbourne area, including in the vicinity of Lansdowne, 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 Lansdowne Primary School 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/LansdowneSchool/consultationHome>

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 expand Lansdowne Primary School.

8. Background Documents (and links to them)

COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17

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

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 Primary Commissioning - Swale District

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

The public consultation document is available via the following link:

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

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The Proposed Expansion of Lansdowne Primary School from 210 pupil places to 420, increasing the PAN from 30 to 60.

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 400
Responses received: 3

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	0	1	0	1
Governors	0	0	0	0
Members of Staff	0	0	0	0
Interested Parties	0	2	0	2
Total	0	3	0	3

Against the proposal

Parent

- I think a better idea would be to build another school.

Other interested parties

- I cannot agree with the proposal until the traffic problems are made public knowledge.
- To enlarge the school would add to the congestion which affects the roads in the surrounding area of the school.
- To add to the situation would be dangerous and unwelcome to residents and children alike.

The Proposed Expansion of Lansdowne Primary School from 210 pupil places to 420, increasing the PAN from 30 to 60.

Summary of the public meeting held on Monday 30 April at Lansdowne Primary School

The meeting was chaired by Mr Gary Cooke and was attended by approximately 15 people including Mr Andrew Bowles, local member

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

Richard Calvert, Chair of Governors explained that the governors had been approached by KCC about the idea of expansion due to the increasing population in the area. The governors considered the proposal and the opportunities that a larger school could bring such as a better range of education with more specialised teachers and decided it would be good for Lansdowne.

Tanya O'Connor, Headteacher explained that the decision to expand was not a rash one and that the main aim was to ensure that the children received an excellent education. There would be many benefits for the children, staff and parents and therefore the proposal had her full support.

Views and comments are listed below:

- Consideration needs to be given to parking and traffic problems. People are unable to get out of their drives and are subject to abuse when trying to move their cars.
- There is a need for better parking facilities on the school site.
- Would the building work be staggered and in term time.

The questions raised with regard to traffic and parking were answered and the meeting was informed that options for improving the access were being explored and Highways would look at ways of reducing impact of additional traffic.

Safeguarding the children during the building work would be part of the planning process.