

By: Ian Craig, Director - Operations

To: Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE.

Subject: REPTON PARK (also known as Templar Barracks), ASHFORD – PROPOSED NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION.

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: The Cabinet Member is requested to agree to the issuing of a competition notice for a new primary school in Ashford.

Introduction

1. (1) The School Organisation Board, at its meeting on 14 November 2007, supported the proposal to consult on new primary school provision in Ashford. Results of this consultation were then reported back to the Board on 19 March 2008. This report is attached as Appendix 1.

(2) Ashford is a designated growth area with 30,000 new houses planned for the period up to 2030. One major site is Repton Park 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.

The Proposal

2. (1) The forecasts indicate there is a need for additional provision on the Repton Park site. The proposal is to establish a new primary school for 210 boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 11 years (30 places per year group). This will be a state funded school that provides free education for pupils. A 26 place nursery facility would also be created for use by a private, voluntary or independent provider. The proposed new school would open on 1 September 2010 within the Repton Park housing development in Ashford.

(2) The school should be built with the ability to expand easily to accommodate an additional 210 pupils. This means some spaces, such as the hall, kitchen and staff room, will be large enough for the future needs of the school to minimise disruption. It will be accessible to pupils with physical disabilities and will admit pupils with special educational needs if their needs can be met in a mainstream school. The school will be built primarily to serve the new community from Repton Park and neighbouring developments and will seek to provide high quality learning provision for this new community.

(3) The nursery facility will be attached to the school but will be run separately as a private, voluntary registered or independent nursery. It is likely that the facility will offer full day care either for children aged 0 to 4 years old, or 2 to 4 years old, depending upon demand and the business case. By the time this proposal is implemented, all

children aged three and above will be eligible for 15 hours of free early years education per week. This proposed nursery would be registered to provide this free provision.

Response to the consultation

Written responses

3. At the end of the consultation period, 16 written responses were received. The consultation asked four questions.

A summary of responses is below:

Question	Yes	No
Do you think there is a need for a new primary school in Repton Park?	16	0
Do you agree that the school should initially offer 30 places per year group (210 places in total) and be for pupils aged 4-11 years?	15	1
Should a 26 place nursery be provided?	16	0
Should the school be built in a way that it can easily be expanded?	14	2

Views of the Local Member

4. The Local Member is Mrs Elizabeth Tweed who spoke at the public meeting in support of the proposal. She welcomed a school being built at an early stage of the community's development. Also, she supported the calls for further discussion about a new school in Goat Lees.

Views of the Ashford Cluster Boards

5. Ashford 1 Cluster Board is aware of the proposal and expressed support for building new schools in new communities and nursery provision close to areas of need. The Board supported the need for children to be able to walk to school. Four queries were raised – there is nursery provision in the wider areas, will it be affected? How does this link with the possible relocation of Victoria Road School? What about a new school, in the Goat Leas? Will this impact adversely on rural schools?

Resource Implications

Capital

6. (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.

(4) The nursery will be funded in accordance with the County Council's Early Years funding mechanism.

Views of the School Organisation Advisory Board

7. At its meeting on 19 March 2008, the School Organisation Advisory Board supported the proposal to issue a competition notice to find a promoter for a new primary school in Ashford.

Recommendation

8. The Cabinet Member is requested to agree to the issuing of a competition notice for a new primary school in Repton Park, also known as Templar Barrocks, Ashford.

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The local member is: Mrs Elizabeth Tweed

Background documents:

Education & Inspection Act 2006

Previous Committee Reports:

Report to the School Organisation Board - 14
November 2007 on 'New School Competitions'
Report to the School Organisation Board - 14 November
Report to the School Organisation Board - 19 March 2008