

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 21 June 2013
Subject	Primary Commissioning in Tunbridge Wells District
Classification:	Unrestricted
Future Pathway of Paper	Public consultation
Electoral Divisions	Tunbridge Wells West, Tunbridge Wells North and Tunbridge Wells Rural

Summary:	<p>This report seeks the views of the Education Committee on a proposal to commission additional places in the Tunbridge Wells area:</p> <p>a) commission an enlargement of Bishops Down Primary School by 1FE for September 2014.</p> <p>b) commission an enlargement of Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 10 reception places for September 2014.</p> <p>c) commission an enlargement of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School by 15 reception places for September 2014.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to carry out public consultations on the proposals to expand Bishops Down Primary school, Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School and St Augustine's Catholic Primary School</p>

1. Introduction

1.1 The Tunbridge Wells section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicated a need to commission additional school places to manage the increase in numbers in parts of Tunbridge Wells district.

1.2 Seven enlargements have already been agreed and are progressing for expansion in 2013 and 2014 namely: St James' Infant School; St James' Junior School; Southborough CE Primary School; St Mark's CE Primary School and Langton Green Primary School, in accordance with the Kent Commissioning Plan.

1.3 The commissioning plan also referred to additional demand for 2014 - 2016 to be met by commissioning an additional 10 places in the Lamberhurst area.

2. Proposal

2.1 Bishops Down Primary School

It is proposed to enlarge Bishops Down Community Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2014 intake and a total number of 420 places by September 2020.

- a. Capital - Feasibility studies indicate that the enlargement of the school would require replacement of temporary classroom buildings plus additional classrooms. The proposal has not been formally costed, but the total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £2m.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human - Bishops Down Primary School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

2.2 Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School

It is proposed to enlarge Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School by 10 Year R places taking their PAN to 30 for the September 2014 intake and a total number of 210 places by 2020.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an installation of two additional classrooms. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure improvements. A feasibility study is awaited, but the total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £450k.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

2.3 St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

It is proposed to enlarge St Augustine's Catholic Primary School by 0.5 FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2014 intake and a total number of 420 places by September 2020.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an installation of three additional classrooms. The cost per classroom is preliminarily estimated at £125,000 to which must be added, some necessary infrastructure improvements. A feasibility study is awaited, but the total potential cost is likely to be in the region of £650k.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – St Augustine's Catholic Primary School will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. **Bold Steps and the Kent Commissioning Plan**

3.1 These proposals 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’.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each proposal.

5. Member Opinion

5.1 The proposals are for schools sited in the following divisions:

- a. Bishops Down Primary School - Tunbridge Wells West division, Mr John Davies.
- b. Lamberhurst St Mary's CE Primary School - Tunbridge Wells Rural division, Mr Alex King MBE
- c. St Augustine's Catholic Primary School - Tunbridge Wells North division, Mr Peter Oakford.

5,2 The members have been informed of the proposals.

6. Area Education Officer Opinion

6.1 The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports these proposals and having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that these enlargements offer the best location, are the most cost-effective and are the most sustainable solutions to increased demand in the Tunbridge Wells area.

7. The Views of The Schools

7.1 The head teachers and governing bodies of all the schools have agreed to the proposals.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to carry out public consultations on the proposals to expand Bishops Down Primary school, Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School and St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

9. Background Documents

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-)

[plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

Education Cabinet Committee report – 12 September 2012 – Primary Commissioning – West Kent

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

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