

By:	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 21 June 2013
Subject	Decision number: 13/00002 Proposed expansion of Bromstone Primary School, Broadstairs
Classification:	Unrestricted
Future Pathway of Paper	Cabinet Member decision
Electoral Division	Broadstairs and Sir Moses Montefiore

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 Bromstone Primary School.

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 Broadstairs 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 Bromstone Primary School.

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 25 April 2013.

2. Proposal

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Bromstone Primary School by 30 reception year places, taking their PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake 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.

4. Outcomes of the Public Consultation

4.1 A total of 12 responses were received with 8 objecting to the proposal and 4 supporting 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

The local member, Mr Alan Terry supports the proposal.

5.2 Ms Laura Sandys MP responded to the consultation as follows:

"I have recently met with Mr Utton, Headteacher of Bromstone Primary School regarding their proposals to expand by 30 places per year group.

I am fully supportive of the School and their plans to expand and do hope my representations will be taken into account when making the final decision."

5.2 Governing Body

The Governing Body of Bromstone Primary School fully supports the permanent expansion of the school to 3 form entry with a PAN of 90. This expansion will:

- Relieve the pressure on current classes which have had to go over PAN.
- Improve the on-site facilities; particularly as we are no longer expecting a full rebuild on another site.
- Improve parking and congestion by creating an additional entrance with parking facilities.
- Improve provision for some pupils who are currently being taught in undersized classrooms and/or dilapidated temporary buildings.
- Allow the school to employ additional staff to complement and enhance our skills pool.
- Have minimal impact on the outside space and local area, as the proposed footprint of the new building covers a similar area to the current, temporary buildings.
- Further raise the profile of the school in the local area.

5.3 Pupils

Comments from the pupils:

- If our school gets bigger we will be helping people with their education.
- I think having a bigger school would be a great idea because if we have a bigger school people with disabilities will have more room and more staff to help them learn.
- We could have a bigger deaf class and help for Miss Potts. (BSL interpreter).
- The builders will make the school more environmental to attract more students and teachers. If there's more students there will be more friendships and if there are more teachers the school will have more supervisors to keep students safe.
- We will get more and more children to come to our school and get more friends.
- There will be more space in the classroom.
- There will be more space for children who find it hard to work and concentrate.
- At our school the new children will have a brilliant education and better creativity.
- Please can we have a swimming pool for year 3, 4, 5 and 6 and a little swimming pool for year 1 and 2?
- It will be good to develop more friendships and meet new people with different cultures and learn new things.

5.4 Area Education Officer

This is a popular and inclusive school that is regularly oversubscribed. Increasing pupil numbers in the Broadstairs/Ramsgate area, including in the vicinity of Bromstone, 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 Bromstone 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/BromstonePrimarySchool/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 Member 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 Bromstone 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%202012-17%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/BromstonePrimarySchool/consultationHome>

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The Proposed Expansion of Bromstone Primary School 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: 12

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	3	2	0	5
Governors	0	0	0	
Members of Staff	1	0	0	1
Interested Parties	0	6	0	6
Total	4	8	0	12

In support of the proposal

Parents

- I agree with the proposal but also think that pre-school provision should be increased in the locality.

Against the proposal

Parent

- The building is far too small for any more children

Other interested parties

- The majority of responses against the proposal came from local residents with concerns about the increase in traffic that the expansion would bring and parents parking on pavements and across resident's driveways.

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.

Appendix 2

The Proposed Expansion of Bromstone Primary School from 420 pupil places to 630, increasing the PAN from 60 to 90.

Summary of the public meeting held on Thursday 25 April at Bromstone Primary School

The meeting was chaired by Mr Gary Cooke and was attended by 4 people including a parent, a governor and two local residents.

Views and comments are listed below:

The main concerns raised at the public meeting were:

- Whether the school hall and other facilities would be adequate for additional pupils.
- The way parents currently park on junctions, across driveways and that this problem would increase if the school expanded.

Mr Nigel Utton, Headteacher spoke about the steps the school had taken to reduce the problem with parking including contacting the police and naming and shaming parents in newsletters. The school has updated its travel plan and would continue to look for ways to mitigate the problems with parking.