

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education,
Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014

Subject: Proposal to increase the designated number of places
offered at Broomhill Bank School from 80 places to 136
places

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Tunbridge Wells, West: John Davies

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to increase the designated number of places at Broomhill Bank School from 80 to 136 places.

Recommendation(s): 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:

- (i) Issue a public notice to increase the designated number of places from 80 places to 136 places.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1.75 million from Targeted Basic Need budget and £250,000 from the Basic Need budget.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools.
- 1.2 Targeted Basic Need funding totalling £1.75 million has been secured for the purposes of expanding Broomhill Bank School. It is proposed to enlarge

Broomhill Bank School by 56 places, taking the designated number from 80 to 136 for the September 2014 intake.

- 1.3 On 27 September 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that consultation processes take place for a number of schools, including the proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 10 January 2014 and 26 February 2014. A public meeting was held on 21 January 2014 and a drop-in information session for parents was held on 6 February 2014.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Broomhill Bank School by 56 places increasing the designated number of places to 136 for the September 2014.
 - a. It is proposed that KCC funded improvements to the school will provide all necessary teaching rooms including specialist teaching spaces. Facilities within the school will be improved and designed to meet the needs of students. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2 million of which £1.75 million will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and the remainder from the Basic Needs and Special Schools Review Budget. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.
 - b. Revenue - The schools delegated budget will be allocated on an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the High Needs funding methodology of 'Place Plus'.
 - c. Human – Broomhill Bank School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 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'.
- 3.2 The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18' has identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools. This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council's commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of 42 written responses were received with; 38 respondents supporting the proposal; 3 objecting to the proposal; 1 respondent undecided.
- 4.2 A summary of the written comments received is provided at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting held on 21 January 2014 is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

- 5.1 *The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:*
The Headteacher and the Governing Body are supportive of the sustainable long term solution that has been proposed by KCC to enable Broomhill Bank School to improve current facilities and expand.
- 5.2. *The view of the Local Member:*
The Local Member for Tunbridge Wells West supports the expansion of Broomhill Bank School for the benefit of the pupils who will be admitted, but will wish to discuss the traffic implications during the planning process.
- 5.3. *The view of the Local Member of Parliament, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP:*
Having visited the school on many occasions my opinion of Broomhill Bank is that it provides an excellent education to its pupils. It would be very advantageous if more children were given the opportunity to attend. Clearly the impact of an expansion on local traffic must be taken into account.
- 5.4. *The view of the Area Education Officer:*
The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution.

Broomhill Bank School is an inclusive school, which is judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and regularly oversubscribed.

6. Proposal

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Broomhill Bank School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Broomhill Bank Primary School is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

7. Delegation to Officers

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 This enlargement will add an additional 56 places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2013 – 2018).

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): 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:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells by increasing the designated number of places offered from 80 places to 136.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1.75 million from Targeted Basic Need budget and £250,000 from the Basic Need budget.
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) (v) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 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

- 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

- 10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

10.4 Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/KELSI/supporting-pupil-learning/SEN/SEN/FINAL%20Strategy%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20with%20Special%20Educational%20Needs%20and%20Disabilities.pdf>

11. Contact details

Report Author

- Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer – West Kent
- 01732 525330
- Jared.nehra@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

- Kevin Shovelton
- Director of Education Planning and Access
- 01622 694174
- Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk

The proposed expansion of Broomhill Bank School to increase the designated number from 80 to 136 places

Summary of written responses at the time of writing

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 500
Responses received: 42

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	9	1	1	11
Governors	2			2
Members of Staff	21	1		22
Other Interested Parties	6	1		7
Total	38	3	1	42

In support of the proposal

Parents/Carers

- Broomhill Bank School is a fantastic school thanks to the amazing staff and all the families which are part of it.
- Agree with the expansion but concerned the school will lose its character and individual attention pupils currently receive.
- Increased opportunities to pupils in Kent to access the excellent teaching and facilities provided by the school.
- Increased opportunities for current and future pupils to access a wider range and depth of subjects and topics
- Increased opportunities for current and future pupils to be taught and supported by a wider range of experienced teachers and therapists.
- Increased opportunities for current and future pupils to participate in a wider range of exams and qualifications.
- Happy for the expansion providing: the support of children in and out of class is not compromised; the school budget is not affected – used for the children, staff and training and not building purposes.
- Happy with the proposal but concerned about class size and the effects on behaviour.
- Agree with proposal but concerns about increase at sixth form level, if there is a possibility of students joining the school from other educational settings. It may be difficult for existing Broomhill students to adapt.

Members of Staff

- The school expansion is not significant in size but will provide excellent provision for a number of students in Kent with communication and interaction difficulties.
- The growth of this school started two years ago with the first two-form entry. This proposal will allow the expansion to continue through the year groups

- Fully support the proposal, only reservation relates to current road access. The school and local community to work together to address this issue with KCC and the Highways agency to make appropriate changes.
- Pupils need the specialist provision that Broomhill Bank provides, it is important that sufficient places are available.
- Broomhill Bank School is a special education needs school with excellent facilities, teaching, support staff and leadership. By increasing the designated number and further developing the school over the next few years, the school will be able to provide a much needed educational service for parents and pupils in the South East.
- In favour. Measures need to be in place to protect the rights of girl pupils in terms of admissions so that Broomhill does not become a “boy-heavy” educational establishment.
- There is clearly a need for extra provision for young people with ASD/social communication issues. The school has a proven track record; a settled and effective staff and a large site appropriate for further development.
- Having worked at the school for three years I have seen what a difference this school makes. It would be a wonderful opportunity for more children and to really help prepare them for adulthood and life in the real world.
- The increase numbers on roll will be gradual with well-planned co-ordinated taxi provision, additional traffic should be marginal in the locality.

Governors

- Joined the school as parent governor to thank the school for the fantastic way they had changed my daughter’s approach and attitude to school. Change has been the agenda of the governing body. The development plans are another step in establishing a genuine beacon school and allowing more parents to enjoy the benefits of a dedicated, caring and successful school for their children. It must proceed.

Other interested parties

- Agree with the proposal and are now in no doubt as to the critical need to increase places in this most important educational sector. Pleased that KCC were prepared to accept the concerns of residents:
 - The site has no safe pedestrian access
 - It is not served by any immediate public transport facility
 - Access is through de-restricted rural lanes in all directions
 - Current traffic in these lanes is subject to frequent delays because of numbers single carriageway elements, and the road is frequently used by larger than normal vehicles.
 - Access for emergency vehicles is a concern
 - Normal year on year increase and the additional prospect of a hotel development
- Agree with the proposal, the educational changes sound exciting for pupils and staff. However, views of the local residents (Rusthall) about transport and access must be taken into consideration.

- Agree and have no concerns about the proposed increase in number, however, urge KCC to engage with Highways to ensure that Broomhill Road is improved as this will impact on Rusthall and Speldhurst.
- Agree, providing traffic calming measures are introduced. There should be a ban on commercial and large vehicles for using the roads for anything other than access.

Undecided

Parent

- Wish it had stayed as a girls' school which was a wonderful place.
- Buildings are barely fit for purpose as just not enough room.
- KCC continue to squeeze SEN education to the limit. All about money not really about best interest of children of either sex.

Against the proposal

Parents

- Concerned how quality of teaching will be affected by increased population at the school.
- Will Speech & Language (SALT) and Occupational Therapist (OT) support increase with the increase in pupil numbers
- Concerned about class sizes and number of teaching staff
- The increased numbers may result in school losing its unique, friendly and confidential ethos.

Member of Staff

- Site big enough to accommodate but additional traffic will bring chaos.

Other interested parties

- Increase in taxi journey times if pupil numbers increase.
- A rural school should remain a rural school.
- Access route makes plans untenable, KCC should seek alternative site to create additional SEN provision.

Proposal to Increase the Designated Number of places offered at Broomhill Bank School

Notes of Public Consultation Meeting 21st January 2014

Panel	Michael Northey (Chair)	Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
	Mr Jared Nehra	Area Education Officer (West Kent)
	Mrs Michelle Hamilton	Area Schools Organisation Officer (West Kent)
	Mr Chris Mains	Project Manager, Property Services
	Mrs Deborah Ledniczky	Public Meeting Recorder
	Ms Emma Leitch	Headteacher
	Mr Mark Holder	Chair of Governors

Introduction

Mr Northey welcomed parents, staff and members of the public to the meeting and introduced the supporting officers and principal speakers. Mr Northey explained that the meeting will be recorded and a transcript of the meeting will be presented to the Education Cabinet Committee meeting and will be considered at any future meeting if the Local Authority (LA) is looking at whether to go ahead with this proposal.

Purpose of the Meeting

- To explain the proposal to enlarge Broomhill Bank School from 80 places to 136 places
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment
- To listen to views and opinions

Proposal

Mr Nehra gave a short presentation outlining the background to the proposal and the indicative time scales.

The proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council's commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings and to reduce the pressure on in-county school places.

The proposal is to increase the designated number Broomhill Bank School places from 80 to 136. It is proposed that this would be accommodated through improvements, expansion and development of the current site.

The change will not affect any pupil currently on roll. Whilst the proposal is to increase the designated number for September 2014, the number of pupils on roll will be increased incrementally between September 2014 and September 2017.

This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council's commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings. KCC funded improvements to the school will provide all necessary teaching rooms including specialist teaching spaces. Facilities within the school will be greatly improved and designed to meet the needs of students. KCC will be required to seek planning consent and more detailed plans would be developed, subject to the agreement to proceed. It is proposed that the first tranche of the new facilities will be completed

in time for admission of the extended 2014 cohort. There will be opportunities for you to see plans and further details as we move through the process. Some plans are available to view at the back of the room but please be aware that these are early plans and may be subject to change.

No final decision will be taken until the consultation process has finished. The deadline for the response forms is 11am on the 26th February 2014. A drop in session has also been arranged for parents on Thursday 6th February 2014 at 13.00 - 15.00pm.

Statement from the Head teacher of Broomhill Bank School, Ms Emma Leitch

To me, re-designation is about improving provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities by sharing it more widely.

I assume that all of you who are parents have already or will in the future strive for the very best in terms of the education and life experiences your own children access on their journey towards adulthood – as a parent myself this is certainly the case. I also assume that as responsible citizens, we all collectively recognise our moral responsibility towards supporting and ensuring the wellbeing not only of our own children but children everywhere in our neighbourhoods and communities. My students at Broomhill Bank represent the most vulnerable group within our communities and the education system, because they all have a special educational need or disability (SEND).

My students have all at one point or another been in a position where the mainstream systems that we take for granted, including the education system, have struggled to include them. They are all at Broomhill Bank because they have been unable to manage in a mainstream school for a variety of reasons, despite high levels of support and intervention. All come with a history of underachieving, very often with very low self-esteem; many have previously been the victims of bullying

My students' parents really understand the concept of having to fight for their children, often from birth, and throughout childhood, to enable them to be recognised and included. For children with SEND, we must make sure that being included means having the best opportunities possible to achieve young adulthood on an equal footing as their contemporaries who are not faced with the same challenges.

Three years ago I took the decision to make a case to my Governing body to increase our roll. I took this decision due to a constant trickle of children who were being referred to the door of Broomhill Bank and whom I was having to turn away because I had insufficient places. In most instances I could easily have met the needs of these children, and in most instances their parents were hooked in to an increasingly desperate search for the right provision. Having to effectively say no – go away, knowing that the unrealised potential is actually there to say 'yes', does not sit comfortably with me, and in my view is morally suspect. I do not know what has happened to children I have been unable to accommodate over the years, I do know that because of general pressure on special school places in Kent the outcome is not likely to have been favourable either for the child or their family.

My current Year 7 and 8 parents are very lucky indeed – they have benefitted from the Governing body's willingness to pilot an additional class during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years; had this not been the case 50% of my current Years 7 & 8 would not be at Broomhill Bank now. I and my staff are also very lucky indeed to have had the opportunity over the years to work with so many marvellous students and their families throughout school and most recently to have been able to support the learning of our growing cohort.

The proposal to continue to grow our roll and re-designate is not a plan hatched to create a Broomhill Bank empire; nor has it been conjured up to alienate the local Community. It is not even a cunning plan to have a new school built courtesy of the LA. It is about serving children with special educational needs and disabilities.

Statement from the Chair of Governors, Mr Holder

In 2011 the school and the Governing Body acknowledged that there was increasing pressure on Kent special schools with most schools being over their designated role and in November of that year the Governing Body agreed to a second Year 7 class being introduced on a 'one off basis' with the intention that this would be reviewed after 12 months. Adequate building and infrastructure works were carried out to cater for this additional class.

In May 2012 the Governing body met to discuss a wider proposal to increase the school role which would lead to a re-designation. A formal paper was presented by the Head Teacher which after rigorous debate was fully supported by the Governing body. A proposal was subsequently submitted to the LA for consideration.

The Governors undertook a full risk assessment of the potential impact of any re-designation and the infrastructure requirements needed and concluded that an increase in roll was achievable subject to any necessary building works, but in order to deliver this we needed to work with the LA in an open and transparent way to identify, plan and implement a long term solution which aligned the schools vision and enabled more Kent children with communication and interaction difficulties to have their needs met at Broomhill Bank school.

In the past 20 months we have been working closely with the LA to secure the funding to undertake the necessary infrastructure and building work to meet any re-designation requirements in order that the formal consultation process could commence.

Architectural plans are now well advanced and the Governors support for the re-designation is entirely dependent upon the appropriate capital funding to meet the needs of an increased number of pupils. We are having regular dialogue with the LA and have no reason to believe that the funding will not be forthcoming.

In addition you will be aware that the school has recently undergone an Ofsted inspection, following which we have been designated as 'Good'. The improvements that have been identified, whilst not totally dependent upon an increase in roll, will be considerably enhanced by the structural improvements that will be delivered as a result of it.

The school has always enjoyed a fantastic reputation both within the local community and the local schools and we see this as an opportunity of developing on this by providing additional places to meet demand.

Therefore we fully support this re-designation proposal as previously stated subject to the appropriate fully funded building work being completed.

The governors are fully aware of the potential impact on the current students in terms of the building work and the changes that the school will undergo. We are committed to work closely with both the school and the LA to minimise that impact and we will continue to ‘challenge’ and act as ‘the critical friend’ to ensure that the best decisions are made for everyone involved with the school.

Question	Response
<p>Parent</p> <p>He and his wife fully support the proposal to increase the designated places and are pleased that improvements to the schools physical infrastructure and facilities are planned. However, cannot see how we can comment on the education merits with just the two items that have been included in the proposal:</p> <p>(i) The increase in teaching resources, teaching assistants, Speech & Language and Occupational Therapists needs to be part of the discussion so that those children who are going to be in this school have the support they need in order to achieve their full life potential. If the number of designated places was to increase to 136 then resources would be spread very thinly.</p> <p>(ii) The children who are likely to fill the 56 spaces are children with a wide range of needs. KCC policy does not include the group of children who have speech & language issues as a primary educational need who are not necessarily in the Autistic Spectrum or do not necessarily have behavioural issues.</p> <p>(iii) The impact assessment (first draft) focuses entirely on the infrastructure; if the provision of teaching and therapy does not go hand in hand and the needs of the children who have a speech and language as a primary need are not protected they could potentially be disadvantaged as a result of these plans.</p> <p>Although in principal we support the proposal we feel there is not enough information in this proposal to discuss the educational merits and judge it.</p>	<p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer</p> <p>The proposal sets out the overall aims and intentions and would not go into the operational matters of the school. This evening’s meeting and the planned drop-in session give people the opportunity to raise the points such as you have and receive a response. The information that you have referred to would not normally be part of the consultation because it is a more detailed matter for the school.</p> <p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher</p> <p>Stated that the school will send a letter out to families with greater information about the operational side of the expansion. The designated number will mean a higher budget which will allow for improvements and expansion of the school site. Therapists are employed by the NHS and the school have no control over how the NHS allocate this support but the school is exploring creative in-house solutions to address this and people will be informed if and when they come to fruition. Recent referrals; 75% ASD 25% Speech and Language disorder, would suggest that the trend does not seem to be changing. Broomhill Bank is a school for children with complex and diverse needs and will continue to admit children with severe language and sensory needs. The LA does want to increase the number of children with BESD but that will be for the schools that have a behavioural designation.</p> <p>Mr Holder, Chair of Governors</p> <p>Governing Body had a long debate about the proposal when it was first proposed, the programme of which was extremely challenging. The Governing Body supports the proposal and agrees that the improvements to the infrastructure will help support the education of the children. Since the Ofsted inspection the Governing Body has undergone a restructure and now consists of two divisions; a strategy committee and a resourcing committee that are linked into each</p>

	<p>other.</p> <p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer Reiterated that there was no change proposed to the designated need type of the school. The reference to ASD and Behaviour and the creation of spaces to meet that need is based upon the forecast demand that the LA has projected to meet the need for specialist places across the county. The reason the policy refers predominately to those two need types is that the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision sets out the need type we are anticipating to require.</p>
<p>Resident We are trying to actively reduce the flow of traffic through this road. The proposal to increase pupil numbers by 56 will equate to 280 extra vehicles per week, twice each day (1120 journeys per week) to bring one child to and from school on a road that can't cope with the volume of traffic using it at the moment.</p>	<p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer The consultation is to predominately discuss the education merits of the proposal but all comments are welcome and will be noted. The planning proposal will look at the impact such as traffic and transport in more detail. I would disagree with the amount of journeys proposed. The LA and the school will seek to minimise the amount of journeys and maximise the use of existing transport by using minibuses with the maximum number of pupils that can be safely transported.</p> <p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher Agree with the concerns about the road. Explained that the transport department at KCC seeks to fit as many children as possible into a single vehicle and the schools transport department is increasingly using people carriers and mini busses.</p> <p>Parent and Teacher If students live locally I think it will only be 3 mini buses. KCC do look at the numbers that are used in each car and vehicle, my own child comes in a taxi with other children. Agreed that is not nice for residents to live in a road that is congested. Very excited about the re-designation. It will mean that the school will get more teachers who will have more specialism which will offer more choice and pathways for the pupils. We will be able to differentiate more, put students into groups that are possibly more appropriate for them and utilise staff well.</p>
<p>Chairman of Parish Council Fully supports the re-designation to increase the access to the specialist education and facilities. My concern is the state of Broomhill Road. The planning application for a large hotel will further increase the amount of traffic. I would like to hope that you will talk seriously to KCC Highways department in advance to see what can be done to improve the flow of traffic and prevent large lorries using this road. It is an undesignated road so</p>	<p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer Early engagement with KCC Highways is being undertaken as preparation for the planning proposal for this scheme. Talks have already started and will continue. Any planning proposal is required to look at the impact of any additional provision.</p>

<p>people can drive at whatever speed they wish to and this is a concern to the local residents of both Speldhurst and Rusthall Parish</p>	
<p>Resident The road is a rat run that is also used by HGV vehicles. I have contacted the Highways agency about the width of the road. Access to the school site is a serious worry. An application to the Highways Agency needs to be made for: improvements to the state of the road, widening in places to allow people to pass and the extra traffic that the proposed new hotel will generate.</p>	
<p>Parent. Great opportunity both to existing and future pupils attending the school to hopefully extend the curriculum and employ additional staff. Fully support the application that the governors are making.</p>	
<p>Parent of pupil Greatly support application. Thank you to Ms Leitch and the Governing Body. The extra numbers will bring an increase in funding for more teachers. I think the education and specialist provision is wonderful.</p>	<p>Michael Northey, MEM Always nice to hear when a school is doing such a wonderful job and gets such great support and compliments very much of the headteacher, the staff, governors and everyone concerned.</p> <p>Mrs Cottage, Deputy Headteacher Feel the proposal is very positive for the school. It will allow more specialist staff, larger peer groups for the pupils and that will offer a larger choice of friends and allow us to offer a much more specialist provision in the classroom and staffing.</p>
<p>Resident Wished the school every success with the proposal. Concern about the road. In the summer work at the schools caused a problem with lorries accessing the site. Traffic was held up, that has to be sorted before the construction starts let along the additional traffic afterwards. Please take it seriously as we would all like your plan to enlarge the school to go ahead.</p>	<p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer Thanked people for their comments about the access road which are noted. Chris Mains from our Property division is taking notes and we will be discussing the management of the site.</p> <p>Chris Mains - Project Manager We will ensure that when we put the contract together we will take into account access to the site and in terms of what vehicles we use.</p>
<p>Resident Need to take into the account that there are horses that access the lane to get to the fields which is also another hazard for both animal and young horse riders.</p>	<p>Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer Reiterated that comments concerning the access road and traffic will be noted.</p> <p>Chris Mains, Property Manager, KCC Added that site access and vehicles will be taken into account.</p>
<p>Resident Lived here for 56 years. Wished well with new project. Concerned about the road. Seen some staff using our private road. Do hope you take traffic into account.</p>	<p>Michael Northey, MEM It is nice to have someone here who remembers the school in earlier times. Things change but the quality of education we hope is getting better and better.</p>
<p>Resident Wish well with project. Concerned about the traffic. The front of my property leads directly onto the road; there is no footpath. I have lived in the village for over 60 years and I am concerned that we are going to have lorries using the road as well</p>	

<p>as extra cars and these needs to be taken into account.</p>	
<p>Chairman of Parish Council How far afield to the students come from?</p>	<p>Michael Northey, MEM Summed up the response: 2 points: great support for the project worry about the road and the traffic</p> <p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher Pupils predominately come from West and Mid Kent</p> <p>Mr Holder, Chair of Governors We will bear your comments very much in mind and any strategy or planning for the actual work will look to factor in all of your comments so that we minimise disruption. This we can do in terms of development, transport plans and the additional pupils coming in. We will work closely with Ms Leitch and the LA to ensure that we minimise the additional traffic as much as we can. We can't stop it and as a Governor of the school I can appreciate your comments. We will take everything we can into account to minimise the impact on you.</p>
<p>Parent How will you minimise the impact of the building work on the pupils?</p>	<p>Chris Mains, Project Manager, KCC Health & Safety will be paramount and the top priority. The work will be done in phases starting with the top floor in the ex-residential blocks, the reason being to minimise the noise for students and it is the intention that these will be clear when the work is carried out. The plan is to start work on the 26th May when the students are on holiday. We will try and minimise the noise by working outside school hours and in the summer holidays. I have given a promise that we will deliver the first phase by September and hopefully it will not run late. Second phase will be December and it all joins together and we are looking to complete in 2015 in time for the summer. It is still very much in the development phase but we are working very closely with the school.</p> <p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher Buildings will be bigger and better but not class sizes. We will stick at a ceiling number we can manage unless we have a case that come via tribunal where we are told to take the child then we will have to increase the number.</p>
<p>Parent Worried that the therapy is going to be diluted.</p>	<p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher We have that same concern. My hands are tied as to what I can get from the NHS trust and we might have to look into other models to meet our student's needs. We are very concerned about the level of therapy and we will have more children so will need to address it and we will.</p>

	<p>I will put in the information that I send out to parents that we need to work more closely than we already do with the parents in terms of understanding if the children are distressed, worried or upset about anything as a result of the building works. We have a plan that we are going to put in place but we need parents to let us know if that plan does not work.</p> <p>Thank you again for coming. It is lovely to see so many people from the local community and as suggested will use the Parish website to develop stronger links with the local community.</p>
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Mr Nehra read out the timescales for the consultation process as detailed on the presentation and reiterated that the closing date of the process is 11am on the 26th February 2014 and for people to please send in their views in the various routes as detailed in the consultation process. No decisions will be taken until the conclusion of that consultation process.

Mr Northey thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the questions that had been asked and told people that if they think of anything else that they would like to say then to please send your comments in.

The meeting closed at approximately 21.00hrs

Approximately 22 people attended the meeting.

Proposal to Increase the designated number of places offered
at Broomhill Bank School

Notes of Consultation Drop-in Session for Parents
6th February January 2014

Mr Jared Nehra	Area Education Officer (West Kent)
Mrs Deborah Ledniczky	Note Taker
Ms Emma Leitch	Headteacher
Mr Mockett	Vice Chair of Governors
Mr Chris Mains	Project Manager, Property Services

Question	Response
<p>Parents (i) The proposal looks to increase the number of pupils with special educational needs by 50%. Will you be increasing staffing levels to reflect the increase?</p> <p>Will the Speech & Language (SALT) and Occupational Therapist (OT) support increase with the increase in pupil numbers?</p> <p>Will the increase in pupils mean that you take pupils with other educational needs?</p>	<p>Ms Leitch, Headteacher Proportion of students to staff will not change. The school will have the right number of teaching assistants to support in class. We are increasing our GCSE curriculum in such subjects as science and looking to recruit teachers with those specialisms. The increase in pupil numbers will happen year on year with one extra class each September. With each class comes extra staff.</p> <p>The therapy programmes are provided by the NHS Trust and the school have no control over the level of service that they provide. We have been notified that the Trust intends to reduce the amount of OT and I am in the process of replying to their letter. I do not know at this stage if that will also apply to their SALT programme. I am also looking at employing my own staff so we can increase our SALT and OT support programme. Each child that joins brings additional funds to the school and we will use that budget to make sure we have the right support in place. Our local NHS contacts are: Ruth Clemence for OT and Sue Phelps for SALT.</p> <p>The designation of the school will remain the same; communication and interaction difficulties.</p> <p>Mr Mockett - Vice Chair of Governors The headteacher has the full support of the Governing Body to secure staff to meet the increase in pupil numbers, curriculum activities and specialist therapy services. As</p>

(ii) Will the increase in pupil numbers mean an increased in the number of children per taxi? We are unhappy amount the amount of time our child is currently spending travelling to and from school (approximately 4 hours) and feel that the time she is out of the home is far too long.

a school we have to take more control. As parents you will see significant changes as we utilise the benefits of becoming a bigger school. There will be no change to the school profile, it will remain C and I. We will support Ms Leitch and her staff to deliver the highest educational standards and best specialist teaching possible to meet the educational needs of all our students.

Ms Leitch, Headteacher

The transportation of students is handled by the Transport Integration Unit (TIU) and they liaise directly with parents. Taxis are limited to how many people they take. The LA will always try to fill vehicles up. The school has raised the issue with the TIU. They have responded and asked to meet with us and we will be taking concerns to that meeting.

Mr Nehra, Area Education Officer

No plans to increase the size of taxis. The proposal does not relate to the transportation of pupils.

Mr Mockett - Vice Chair of Governors

Supports a plan that would maximise the time students spend travelling to and from school. Parents need to raise specific issues directly with the TIU and the school would be able to support that communication but could not guarantee individual taxis for individual students. The Governing Body fully supports the proposal to increase pupil numbers and needs to be aware of any school journeys that are impacting on the wellbeing of the child. The issue of traffic and travelling time is a problem in and around the Kent towns.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Proposal to increase the designated number at Broomhill Bank School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill, Tunbridge Wells, TN by 56 places from 80 places to 136 places.

And, following the closure of the public notice a further Cabinet Member decision will be taken to

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £1.75 million from Targeted Basic Need budget and £250,000 from the Basic Need budget.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

This decision conditional upon planning permission being granted

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for 275 additional SEN places across Kent.

The expansion of Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 21 January 2014, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equality Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

14 October 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the

proposal to expand and redesignate Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN9 1HR

14 March 2014

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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Signed

Date