

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 12 March 2009

Subject: The proposed relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School to the Hartsdown Technology College site

Classification: Unrestricted

---

Summary: This report proposes the relocation of The Foreland (Community Special) School in Broadstairs to be co-located with Hartsdown (Community) Technology College on the Hartsdown site in Margate. The report seeks the views of the School Organisation Advisory Board on undertaking a public consultation on the possible relocation of the school.

---

## **Introduction**

1. (1) Thanet is an early beneficiary of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Under Wave 4 of the programme, secondary and special schools in Thanet will benefit from substantial capital investment, with the potential to deliver exciting and innovative design solutions to meet current and future learning needs.

(2) Foreland School already has well established thriving links with Hartsdown Technology College. Both schools are in need of improved facilities and accommodation. Co-location of the schools on the existing Hartsdown campus would deliver a cost effective solution with substantial learning benefits for all students. The proposal is strongly supported by the headteachers and chairs of governors of both schools who have been actively involved in formulating and developing this proposal.

(3) A proposal to transfer The Foreland School to the Hartsdown Technology College site requires the publication of statutory proposals as the school is more than two miles (3.20 miles) 'as the crow flies' from Hartsdown Technology College.

(4) A map showing the current location of the schools is attached as Appendix 1.

## **Background**

2.

### *The Foreland School*

(1) The Foreland School is a mixed day special school which was redesignated under the Special School Review in 2005 to provide for 134 pupils aged 5 to 16 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs, with additional provision for pupils with learning difficulties with communication and/or interaction needs. The designated number for Post 16 pupils is 26 and the school also has a specialist maintained nursery unit with 6 fte places.

(2) The majority of pupils attending The Foreland School have Severe Learning Difficulties and in addition a significant proportion of pupils also have either Autistic Spectrum Disorder or communication and interaction needs. All pupils from Year R to Year 13 have a Statement of Special Educational Needs. Not all the pupils attending the nursery will be in receipt of a statement, however following a period of assessment and observation, requests may be submitted to the Local Authority for a statutory assessment to be carried out. Some of the pupils within the nursery transfer to the infant department of the school whilst others may transfer to alternative local specialist provision or mainstream schools.

(3) There are currently 144 pupils on roll aged 2 to 19 years. Nineteen pupils are in local authority care. English is a second language for a very small number of pupils. The pupils come from a wide catchment area with many living in the Thanet area and others living in the surrounding areas, including Canterbury and Dover.

(4) The Foreland School already has established provision at Hartsdown Technology College which enables pupils to experience education in a mainstream setting. The pupils spend social times (break and lunch) with their mainstream peers and some carefully planned and supported lesson times. Twenty one pupils attend the inclusion class at Hartsdown Technology College for either two or three days each week.

#### *Hartsdown Technology College*

(5) Hartsdown is a large specialist Technology College with a sixth form that is part of a local consortium. Currently the school has a PAN of 210. This will reduce to 180 with effect from September 2010.

(6) There are currently 895 pupils on roll in Years 7 to 11 and 180 pupils in the sixth form. Twenty seven pupils are in local authority care. The college has a significant and increasing number of pupils from migrant families and 7.3% of pupils have English as a second language (Kent average 4.2%).

(7) Almost half the pupils have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The college has a designated hearing impaired unit for 12 pupils.

## **The Proposal**

3. (1) The Building Schools for the Future programme will enable the complete rebuilding of both establishments to a design of the highest quality that will provide outstanding facilities for all the pupils. It is proposed that the two schools should share the same single building, creating a fully inclusive learning community for pupils aged 2 to 19 years with all the necessary safeguards built in. Evidence suggests that campus arrangements where pupils and staff have to travel some distance between the schools makes inclusion and the sharing of facilities and expertise much more difficult.

(2) Although collaborative working between The Foreland School and Hartsdown Technology College is well established and successful at present, the benefits are available only to a minority of students. This proposal is based on the desire of the schools to make available to all their pupils the widest possible range of educational opportunities and create a fully inclusive learning community.

(3) The co-location will make available a range of specialist facilities and equipment to pupils from the schools to which they otherwise would not have access. For instance, theatre, internet café, dance studios, gymnasium, hydrotherapy pool as well as specialist facilities for art, music, science and food technology will be available for all. It is hoped there will be areas designed and managed specifically in order for pupils from the schools to share time and space for socialisation and learning.

(4) In addition, the arrangement will provide outstanding opportunities for collaborative working and professional development between the staff of both schools. Collaborative planning is already taking place between senior staff and governors of the schools to ensure that the individual character and priorities of each is retained and that the opportunities for sharing are maximised.

(5) Discussions are at an early stage with the East Kent PCT and others about locating health and other agency services within the complex, thereby making available specialist facilities to pupils and their families.

## **Accommodation & Site Issues**

4.

### *The Foreland School*

(1) Currently the school is accommodated in two old single storey SEAC type buildings (Heath House and Viking House) and Saxon House which was added in 1995. The nursery is accommodated in a timber demountable building.

(2) The Foreland School's buildings have evolved over the last 40 years and are now too small, outdated and largely unsuitable for meeting their current purpose. The reason for this is that the designation of the school has changed several times in this period, the demands of the curriculum have moved forward with the introduction of the National Curriculum and the pupil population has increased from its previous designation of 107 to its current roll of 144, with 165 pupils being the target for the new build. The current school roll of 144 cannot increase to the designated number of 160 plus nursery pupils within the confines of the current accommodation. Any changes to the school accommodation on its current site would be difficult because of the constraints of the site.

(3) At the school's Ofsted Inspection in December 2004 the Inspector noted "It [the school] is constrained in its ability to meet their [the pupil's] wide ranging needs by the grossly inadequate classroom space and facilities". Since that time many small improvements have been made, e.g. converting any available area (including toilets and cupboards) into small pupil work rooms and the provision of two double room mobile classroom blocks by the Local Authority. These additions have made only marginal improvements to the current situation however and the majority of issues remain.

(4) A new building remains essential to enable the school to fully meet the needs of all the pupils it now caters for under its most recent designation (2005), which is for pupils who have Profound, Severe or Complex Learning Difficulties, in addition many of the pupils have either Autistic Spectrum Disorder or Communication and Interaction Difficulties.

### *Hartsdown Technology College*

(5) The main building was built in 1958 in a SEAC type building and many of the classrooms are undersized by today's standards. The school was enlarged in the mid 1970's with the addition of accommodation in SEAC type buildings for Technology, Humanities, Modern Languages/Art and Design, and social and dining facilities. The school was further extended in 2001 with the addition of a two-storey Science block and a linked Sports Hall to the Technology and Gymnasium building. The school has a number of mobiles and timber demountable buildings.

(6) The Hartsdown site can accommodate the state of the art new building as envisaged under the BSF scheme. The new building would accommodate both schools

but with discrete areas for each. There would also be shared spaces combining general and specialist areas.

## **Resource Issues**

### *Capital & Revenue*

5. (1) Both the schools are within Wave 4 of Kent's Building Schools for the Future Programme and are expected to be provided by way of a PFI agreement.

(2) The new building would be a PFI project with a lifespan of 25 years. Trillium would be the Local Education Partnership (LEP) partner with Kent County Council leading on the PFI project. MITIE would be the PFI partner providing managed services.

(3) The anticipated funding available from Government for the two schools is the equivalent of in excess of £25m.

(4) Any affordability gap on the PFI scheme would be funded by way of a top-slice off the DSG.

### *Human*

(5) As The Foreland School would be located in relative proximity to its existing site and the new building would meet the requirements for the school's designated number, there would be minimal implications for teaching staff. There may be some implications for non-teaching posts that are specifically premises related.

## **Views of the Local Members**

6. (1) The Local Members are Mr Robert Burgess, Mr Bill Hayton and Mr John Fullarton and their views on the proposal are being sought. Their responses will be tabled at the meeting.

## **Views of the Governing Body**

7. The proposal is strongly supported by the chairs of governors of both schools.

## **Views of the Partnership Boards**

8. Members of both Thanet 1 and 2 Partnership Boards have indicated their support for the proposal in principle and see it as a great opportunity for both schools.

## **School Improvement Implications**

9. The two schools co-located in one state of the art building, working and planning together and with other partners, developing a shared vision, would greatly enhance the learning opportunities for all pupils.

## **Equality Issues**

10. One of the key elements of this proposal is the opportunity to build on the collaboration that already exists between the two schools ensuring that the learning community is accessible to all. The co-location of the schools will help to develop understanding and empathy by recognising and celebrating diversity.

## **Transport & Environmental Impact, Including Community Implications**

11. (1) A full traffic assessment will be carried out and appropriate access arrangements made. Health and safety issues will have the highest priority.

(2) It is envisaged that the new building would be open to the community, not only through adult learning but community use of the facilities, which could include a theatre, café and sports facilities.

## **Proposed Timetable**

12. (1) The following timetable would apply, subject to the proposal going forward to public consultation.

Report to SOAB seeking views on public consultation	12 March 2009
Public consultation period	19 March to 14 May 2009
Public meeting	week commencing 30 March 2009
Report back to SOAB	16 July 2009
Public Notice Issued (subject to Cabinet Member decision)	3 September 2009
Public Notice Expires	15 October 2009
Determination by Local Authority	November 2009
Adjudication (if required)	January 2010
Building work commences (earliest)	September 2010
Implementation (earliest)	September 2012

## **Recommendations**

13. Members are asked to give their views on whether there should be a public consultation on the proposed relocation of The Foreland School from its existing site at Lanthorne Road, Broadstairs, to be co-located with Hartsdown Technology College on the Hartsdown site.

Name            Martyn Doole

Title           Area Children's Services Officer  
Area           Dover & Thanet  
Tel:           (01227) 284407

The Local Members are:

Mr Robert Burgess, Mr Bill Hayton and Mr John Fullarton

---

*Background Documents:*