

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
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To:	Education Committee, September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning in Dartford District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	<p>This report seeks the views of the Education Committee on whether to progress a proposal to Public Consultation:</p> <p>a) commission enlargements of Dartford Bridge PS and Stone St Mary's CEPS by 1FE each, for September 2013.</p> <p>b) commission an enlargement of Knockhall PS by 1FE, for September 2014.</p> <p>c) confirm enlargement of Fleetdown PS, Maypole PS, Manor PS and Oakfield PS by 1FE each for September 2013.</p>
Recommendations:	The recommendation is that the Education Committee agree to a Public Consultation on local authority proposals to commission an increase in the number of reception year places in Dartford District.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Dartford section of the Kent Commissioning Plan indicates a need to commission an additional three forms of entry to manage the increase in numbers in parts of Dartford district.

1.2 Following consideration of all available options, the local authority is proposing enlarging two schools, Dartford Bridge PS and Stone St Mary's CEPS each by one form of entry for September 2013. This will increase the number of Year R places in Dartford by 60 for that year.

1.3 Three other schools, Maypole PS, Manor PS and Oakfield PS, increased their intake by 1FE for September 2011 and 2012. These temporary enlargements now need to be confirmed.

1.4 Fleetdown PS, have increased their intake to 90 for September 2013. This temporary enlargement now need to be confirmed.

1.5 The local authority is proposing enlarging one school, Knockhall PS by one form of entry for September 2014. This will increase the number of Year R places in Dartford by 30 for that year

2. Background

2.1 Dartford Bridge Primary School is a community school with a PAN of 30. The school is relatively new and is sited in the Dartford Bridge Community Campus. See Appendix 1 for school information.

2.2 Stone St Mary's CE Primary School (voluntary controlled) is a popular oversubscribed school with a PAN of 60. Feasibility studies for a 1FE expansion are currently being undertaken. The school is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from the Stone area.

2.3 Knockhall Primary School is one of two schools in Greenhithe. Enlargement to the school is proposed for September 2014 because the current head teacher is retiring this year. Feasibility studies for a 1FE expansion are currently being undertaken. The school is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from the Swanscombe and Greenhithe area.

2.4 Fleetdown Primary School is a popular and oversubscribed school with a PAN of 60. The school is admitting 90 pupils for September 2012. The school needs existing accommodation to be refurbished. Fleetdown Primary School is ideally placed to accommodate the demand from the Fleetdown planning area

2.5 In September 2010, 2011 and 2012 Manor Primary School admitted bulge year groups in Year R, admitting 90 rather than 60 pupils. The school needs existing accommodation from the old Infant block to be refurbished.

2.6 Oakfield School admitted bulge year groups in Year R, admitting 90 pupils in September 2010, 2011 and 2012. The school needs some accommodation to be installed and some existing accommodation to be refurbished.

2.7 Maypole PS is a newly built school that was designed with the potential to expand to 2FE if the need arose. In September 2010, 2011 and 2012 Maypole Primary School admitted bulge year groups in Year R, admitting 60 rather than 30 pupils

3. Commissioning Options

3.1 The local authority has considered several options for increasing provision. Factors under consideration include, site size, suitability, available accommodation, proximity to demand, performances and standards, willingness of the headteacher and governing body and sustainability.

3.2 The schools indicated provide the most appropriate options to manage the increased demand in

4. Proposal

4.1 It is proposed to:

a. Enlarge Dartford Bridge Community Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.

b. Enlarge Stone St Mary's Church of England Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.

- c. Enlarge Knockhall Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2014 intake.
- d. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Fleetdown Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- e. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Manor Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- f. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Oakfield Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 90 for the September 2013 intake.
- g. Confirm the permanent enlargement of Maypole Primary School by 1FE taking their PAN to 60 for the September 2013 intake.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Dartford Bridge Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires a full fit-out and furnishing of the second floor of the community campus. The cost of this work will be in the region of £250k - £300k.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Dartford Bridge PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.2 Stone St Mary CE Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an initial installation of two additional classrooms, followed by five permanent rooms. 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 £1.4m - £1.65m.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Stone St Mary's CEPS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.3 Knockhall Primary School

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an initial installation of two additional classrooms, followed by five permanent rooms. 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 £1.6m - £1.8m. Note that this proposal is for 2014.
- b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Knockhall PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.4 **Fleetdown Primary School**

a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires a refit and refurbishment of the existing accommodation. The estimated cost of this will be in the region of £750,000 which will be drawn from the Capital Budget.

b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human - Fleetdown PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises

5.5 **Manor Primary School**

a. Capital - The enlargement utilises accommodation that formed part of the Swanscombe Infant School, before its amalgamation with Sweyne Junior School to form Manor Primary School. The costs involved are for refurbishment and refreshment and budget is likely to be in the region of £750k.

b. Revenue - The schools will continue to receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Manor PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.6 **Oakfield Primary School**

a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an installation of six additional classrooms. The costs involved are estimated at £750k, pending a feasibility study.

b. Revenue - The schools will continue to receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Oakfield PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5.7 **Maypole Primary School**

a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires an installation of seven permanent teaching rooms. 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 £1.6m - £1.8m.

b. Revenue - The schools will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.

c. Human – Maypole PS will appoint additional teachers as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Will need to be completed.

7. Member Opinion

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

- a. Dartford Bridge PS - Dartford North East division, Mr Avtar Sandhu
- b. Stone St Mary's CE PS - Dartford East division, Mrs Penny Cole
- c. Knockhall PS – Swanscombe and Greenhithe, Mr Richard Lees
- d. Fleetdown PS - Dartford East division, Mrs Penny Cole
- e. Manor PS – Swanscombe and Greenhithe, Mr Richard Lees
- f. Oakfield PS – Dartford West, Mrs Ann Allen
- g. Maypole PS – Dartford West, Mrs Ann Allen

7.2 The members have been informed of the proposals and have offered their support.

8. Area Education Officer Opinion

8.1 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 Dartford area.

9. The Views of The Schools

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

10. Conclusions

10.1 Forecasts for Dartford urban planning areas indicate increasing demand for primary school places. These three enlargements will add an additional ninety Year R places 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'.

11. Recommendations

11.1 Members are requested to agree/endorse the recommendations as printed on page 1 of this report.

12. Background Documents

Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework
Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent

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