

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
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To:	Education Cabinet Committee, 12 September 2012
Subject	Primary Commissioning – Shepway District
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	This report seeks to inform Members of arrangements in place to ensure sufficient school places are available in Shepway, and seek the views of the Education Cabinet Committee on proposals to commission additional provision.
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to endorse that the Local Authority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase capacity for 2012 by 15 places in Year R at Hawkinge Primary School. b) Increase primary capacity in East Folkestone.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Shepway section of Kent's draft "Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017" indicates a need to consider enlarging Hawkinge Primary School, and potentially, to provide additional accommodation in East Folkestone

2. Background

2.1 In September 2012 Hawkinge Primary School will admit 15 additional children into Year R, admitting a total of 60 rather than 45 pupils. This does not require any additional accommodation this year. For September 2013 an additional class can be created within the existing school infrastructure. A feasibility study is currently being undertaken regarding adding a further two classrooms to Hawkinge Primary School to enable it to expand to 2FE. The school is rated good by Ofsted, and is oversubscribed with housing development occurring nearby.

2.2 The Commissioning Plan highlighted the need to review admissions application numbers to determine if action is needed for September 2012 in Folkestone East. The pressure on places has materialised but surplus capacity in West Folkestone is sufficient to ensure all children have a place. Proposals for 2013 and beyond are needed to address this situation.

3. Commissioning Options

3.1 The feasibility of enlargement of Hawkinge Primary School is already in train.

3.2 Consultation on the Commissioning Plan has elicited proposals for addressing the shortfall of places in East Folkestone. Discussions with schools are underway, but no formal proposal is ready for public scrutiny.

4 Proposal

4.1 It is proposed to:

- (a) Consult on the significant enlargement of Hawkinge Primary School, subject to feasibility.
- (b) Develop and bring forward a proposal on proposals to increase capacity in East Folkestone.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 Hawkinge Primary School

(a) Capital: Accommodation is being provided for 2013/14, with an estimated cost of £20k. The cost of significant enlargement cannot be determined until the feasibility study has been completed.

(b) Revenue: The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis. No protection is being provided in September 2012, as there is no additional cost to the school. Protection may be needed in September 2013 when an additional class opens.

(c) Human: The school will appoint an additional teacher from September 2013.

5.2 East Folkestone

(a) Capital: As a minimum, a double modular unit will need to be provided, at an estimated cost of £200k.

(b) Revenue: It is probable that at least one school will receive protected funding for an additional 30 pupils.

(c) Human: At least one school will appoint an additional teacher.

6 Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed.

7 Member Opinion

7.1 The proposals are for schools sited in the following divisions

(a) East Folkestone – Folkestone North East and Folkestone South divisions, Dick Pascoe and Roland Tolputt respectively

(b) Hawkinge Primary School – Elham Valley division, Susan Carey. Miss Carey has been informed of the proposals and has indicated her support.

(c) The Members will be consulted as plans are developed.

8 Area Education Officer Opinion

8.1 David Adams, the Area Education Officer for Mid Kent fully supports the proposals.

9 The Views of The Schools

9.1 The headteacher and governing body of the school has agreed to the proposal.

10 Conclusions

Forecasts for Shepway District indicate increasing demand for primary school places. Proposals to address this demand are needed.

11 Recommendations

Members are requested to endorse the recommendations as shown 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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