

From: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform**

**Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills**

To: **Education Cabinet Committee - 14 March 2014**

Subject: **Re-designation of Special Schools across Kent**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: **Education Cabinet Committee, 27 September 2013**

Future Pathway of Paper: **Individual Cabinet Member Decisions**

Electoral Division: **All**

**Summary:**

This paper updates Members on the Special Schools Review and ongoing public consultations involving Kent's maintained Special schools. Also, it details further consultations that need to be undertaken in order to enlarge or relocate a number of the Special schools.

**Recommendations:**

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the consultations that are currently taking place and to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that the Local Authority undertake public consultations on the remainder of the proposals set out in this paper.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to Special school provision, as well as mainstream settings.
- 1.2 As part of our published SEND Strategy and review of Special school provision, there are a number of proposals that require the LA to undertake statutory consultations as part of school expansions to ensure we have the right number of school places in the right locations.
- 1.3 The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013 specify the following, amongst others, to be prescribed alterations to Special schools, which require statutory proposals:
  - a) Any increase in the number of pupils for whom the school is organised to make provision which, when taken together with all such previous increases in the number of pupils, would increase the number of such pupils by 10%;
  - b) Transfer of a school to a new site where this is more than 2 miles from the current main entrance of the school.
- 1.4 Over time, in order to meet our responsibilities a number of Special schools have been asked to admit additional pupils. In some cases this has led the

schools involved to exceed their designated numbers to the extent that we need to undertake statutory proposals to significantly enlarge these schools, and regularise the situation.

- 1.5 The ongoing Special school review programme, which seeks to modernise all of Kent's Special schools, also requires us to undertake some statutory proposals. Some of the schools in this programme will relocate to new sites, others will expand, and a number will do both. Due to the need to progress some of these proposals quickly, Members have previously agreed to consultation processes beginning for a number of the schools involved.

**2. Proposals**

- 2.1 Table 1 shows the Special schools that require statutory proposals to implement a change in accordance with the regulations, and updates Members on the current status of any ongoing consultations.

**Table 1**

| <b>School</b>                          | <b>Current designated number of pupils.</b> | <b>Current roll (Oct 2013)</b> | <b>Proposed designated number of pupils.</b> | <b>Proposal and Consultation Status (as at January 2014)</b>                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>Proposed Capital Financial Costs</b> |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Bower Grove School, Maidstone          | 146                                         | 210                            | 183                                          | <u>Proposal</u><br>Increase in designated number and transfer of the 12 place secondary satellite provision to St Augustine Academy.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation complete. Business case with EFA. Public Notice issued. | N/A                                     |
| Broomhill Bank School, Tunbridge Wells | 80                                          | 93                             | 136                                          | <u>Proposal</u><br>To improve the accommodation and increase the designated number of the school.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation ongoing. Public Notice due March 2014.                                                     | <u>£2m</u>                              |
| Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone       | 210                                         | 218                            | 260                                          | <u>Proposal</u><br>To re-build the school and increase the designated number of the school.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>To be commenced                                                                                               | <u>£10.16m</u>                          |
| Foreland School,                       | 160                                         | 158                            | 200                                          | <u>Proposal</u><br>Expansion, rebuild                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <u>£9.65m</u>                           |

| School                                  | Current designated number of pupils. | Current roll (Oct 2013) | Proposed designated number of pupils. | Proposal and Consultation Status (as at January 2014)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Proposed Capital Financial Costs          |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Thanet                                  |                                      |                         |                                       | and relocation<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation ongoing. Public Notice due February 2014.                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                           |
| Foxwood School, Shepway                 | 122                                  | 138                     | 148                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>Merge these schools by closing Foxwood and expanding, changing need type and relocating Highview.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation ongoing. Public Notice due March 2014                                                                                                                            | <u>16.8m to combine FW &amp; Highview</u> |
| Highview School, Shepway                | 160                                  | 170                     | 188                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                           |
| Furness School, Sevenoaks               | 60                                   |                         | 96                                    | <u>Proposal</u><br>Change of need type and increase in designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation to commence                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <u>N/A</u>                                |
| Goldwyn School, Ashford                 | 60                                   | 71                      | 105                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>Expansion of the school by 10 places in Ashford. Expansion by 35 places via a satellite in Folkestone<br>Provision of 12 residential places (temporarily located at Furness School, Sevenoaks).<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation to begin Feb 2014 and will be linked to changes at Furness School. | <u>NA</u>                                 |
| Grange Park School, Tonbridge & Malling | 79                                   | 99                      | 97                                    | <u>Proposal</u><br>Regularise the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <u>N/A</u>                                |

| School                      | Current designated number of pupils. | Current roll (Oct 2013) | Proposed designated number of pupils. | Proposal and Consultation Status (as at January 2014)                                                                                      | Proposed Capital Financial Costs |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                             |                                      |                         |                                       | To be commenced.                                                                                                                           |                                  |
| Ifield School, Gravesham    | 174                                  | 207                     | 190                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>Regularise the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>To be commenced.                                     | <u>N/A</u>                       |
| Portal House School, Dover  | 60                                   | 56                      | 80                                    | <u>Proposal</u><br>To increase the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation to commence.                           | <u>£6.5m</u>                     |
| Rowhill School, Dartford    | 96                                   | 108                     | 106                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>Regularise the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>To be commenced.                                     | <u>N/A</u>                       |
| St Anthony's School, Thanet | 96                                   | 91                      | 112                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>To improve accommodation and increase the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>Consultation to commence. | <u>£1.5m</u>                     |
| St Nicholas, Canterbury     | 144                                  | 201                     | 191                                   | <u>Proposal</u><br>Regularise the designated number.<br><u>Consultation Status</u><br>To be commenced.                                     | <u>N/A</u>                       |

- 2.2 Table 2 updates Members on the current status of the proposed changes to Special schools, which do not require statutory proposals to implement a change in accordance with the regulations. The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform will take decisions to allocate the funding for the projects and the reports will contain full financial implications

**Table 2**

| <b>School</b>                          | <b>Current designated number of pupils.</b> | <b>Current roll (Oct 2013)</b> | <b>Proposed designated number of pupils.</b> | <b>Proposal</b>                    | <b>Proposed Capital Financial Costs</b> |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Oakley School, Tunbridge Wells         | 188                                         | 181                            | 206                                          | To increase the designated number. | <u>£1.5m</u>                            |
| Ridge View School, Tonbridge & Malling | 164                                         | 101                            | 174                                          | Expansion and relocation           | <u>£14.6m</u>                           |

2.3 Members will note that in some cases, such as Bower Grove School, the proposed designated number is lower than the current number on roll. In these cases it has been agreed with the individual schools that there is a need to change the school's designated number to better reflect the current admissions pattern and school capacity. The change will not affect any pupils on roll. The Governing Bodies of the schools and the Local Authority do not want to see the rolls of these schools rising further. We recognise that there will always be individual cases which mean the Local Authority will request a school to admit beyond its designated number.

2.4 In cases where the number of pupils are already very close to or exceed the proposed designated number the Local Authority may wish to consider the scale of consultation to be undertaken. These pupils have been accommodated within existing buildings, or via the provision of temporary accommodation in which case a planning application consultation would have been undertaken. Regulations no longer dictate the precise nature of the consultation process and we would therefore propose a low key consultation. We would suggest parents and other interested parties are written to explaining the situation and the need to amend the schools' designated numbers and seeking their views. Following this the statutory public notice process would be followed.

### **3. Resource Implications**

- 3.1 a) Capital – Proposals relating to regularising designated numbers do not have any capital implications. The capital costs, of rebuilding, refurbishing, relocating and expanding the schools in the Special School Review, are currently in the Capital Programme. £63m identified for the Special school programme has been set aside for these projects. Further details will be available in the report to the Cabinet Member, which he will consider before taking his decision.
- b) Revenue – This is funded through the DSG and existing schools funding formula. For schools that are relocating into new buildings there will be savings in such areas as maintenance. Consolidation of Foxwood and Highview Schools on one site will enable the “new” school to make efficiency savings. This will enable the schools in question to redirect such savings towards pupils' education.

#### **4. Equality Impact Assessments**

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been or will be completed for each proposal.

#### **5. Local Member Opinion**

- 5.1 Local Members will be briefed in advance of any public consultation and their views reported to the Education Cabinet Committee in the Consultation Outcomes Report.

#### **6. Area Education Officer Opinion**

- 6.1 The relevant Area Education Officers support public consultation on all the proposals.

#### **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the consultations that are currently taking place and to consider and make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that the Local Authority undertake public consultations on the remainder of the proposals set out in this paper.

#### **8. Background Documents**

School consultations are available on the following link:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/plans\\_and\\_consultations.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations.aspx)

Delivering Bold Steps for Kent 2013-2016 and the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2013-2018 are available on the following link:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/plans\\_and\\_consultations/education\\_plans.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans.aspx)

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

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/KELSI/supporting-pupil-](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)

[learning/SEN/SEN/FINAL%20Strategy%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20with%20Special%20Educational%20Needs%20and%20Disabilities.pdf](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)

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