

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

To: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform**

Decision No: **14/00013**

Subject: **Proposed expansion of Garlinge Primary School & Nursery**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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

Future Pathway of Paper: **Cabinet Member decision**

Electoral Division: **Thanet – Margate West (Local Member: Jeffrey Elenor)**

Summary:

This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from 3FE (90) to 4FE (120) from September 2014.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the decision to:

i. issue a public notice to expand Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from 3FE to 4FE increasing the published admission number to 120..

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

- ii. Expand the school
- iii. Allocate £2,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital 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 The Thanet district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The district of Thanet is forecast to have a deficit of up to 42 places in September 2016 and in the Margate, Garlinge and Birchington planning areas, a deficit of up to 38 places in September 2014 and a deficit of up to 57 places in September 2015.

- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Garlinge Primary School & Nursery by 30 reception year places, taking the published admission number (PAN) from 90 to 120 (three forms of entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 120 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 840 pupils.
- 1.3 On 27 September 2013 Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Garlinge Primary School & Nursery.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation which took place between 11 December 2013 and 27 January 2014. A public meeting was held at the school on 8 January 2014.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Garlinge Primary School & Nursery by 210 places taking the PAN to 120 (4FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 840 places.

a. Capital: The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 9 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed and a planning application submitted. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2,500,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme. 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: For a period of three academic years from September 2014, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

c. Human: Garlinge Primary School & Nursery will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition, “to ensure every child can 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 future demand for up to 803 Reception Year places within the planning areas of Margate and Birchington and Garlinge, resulting in a deficit of up to 98 Reception Year places should the proposal not go ahead.

4. The Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of 42 responses were received with 28 supporting the proposal and
14 objecting to the proposal.

4.2 A summary of the comments received at the time of writing is provided at Appendix 1.

4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 The view of the Local Member: Jeffery Elenor Local Member for Thanet – Margate West has been consulted

5.2 The view of the Member of Parliament:
Mr Roger Gale wrote on 14 January that he had confirmed with the Governors of Garlinge School that they are satisfied and in support of the proposal and therefore he had no hesitation in welcoming the proposal to expand the school.

5.3 The Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Headteacher and Governing Body support the Local Authority proposal to enlarge Garlinge Primary School & Nursery.
The Chair of Governors wrote on behalf Governing Body to endorse their agreement of the proposal to expand the school to 4FE.
“We have discussed the proposal and believe that it will be in the interests of the children in the area. We do have the space for expansion on our large site with hopefully minimal impact on the present pupils. Additional buildings proposed will also enhance the educational opportunities for both the pupils already attending the school and the future intakes. We also believe that our teaching and support staff have the capacity to absorb the increased numbers without detriment to our present high standards.”

5.4 The views of the Area Education Officer:
The Area Education Officer for East 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 to increase demand in the area. All other schools in the planning area have been considered.

Garlinge Primary School & Nursery is a popular and inclusive school. The school’s location means it is ideally placed to meet the forecast demand for primary school places in Thanet.

6. Proposal

6.1 The proposed expansion of Garlinge Primary School & Nursery will increase the value of KCC’s property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.

6.2 The proposed expansion of Garlinge Primary School & Nursery 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, proves 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 Forecasts for the Thanet district indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year 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. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to consider the responses to the public consultation and agree to:

- i. Issue a public notice to expand Garlinge Primary School & Nursery, by 210 places from 3FE (90) to 4FE (120).

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

- ii. Expand the school
- iii. Allocate £2,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital 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.

10. Background Documents

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

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

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

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Contact Details

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The proposed expansion of Iwade Community Primary School to increase the PAN from 60 to 90 places

Summary of written responses

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 600
Responses received: 40

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	4	5	-	9
Governors	-	-	-	-
Members of Staff	19	-	-	19
Interested Parties	2	9	1	12
Total	25	14	1	40

In support of the proposal

Staff:

- This is a fantastic opportunity for Garlinge and the wider community. As a fully inclusive school with good results the expansion can only benefit future generations of Margate children.
- This would be a very good long term solution for the increased demand on places, due to the capacity of the site, which was previously being used as a 4FE school, and the rapidly increasing attainment achieved by the children at Garlinge.
- There is clearly a need for more school provision in an area with more housing proposed.

Parents:

- I agree to the proposal to increase in take for Garlinge Primary School

Other Interested Parties

- I have no objection to increasing pupil numbers but am concerned about road safety for children.

Undecided

Other Interested Party

- I understand that extra places are needed, the problem is the parking.

Against the proposal

Parents:

- The increased numbers in classes is unsettling and impacted on my own child's performance.
- I feel the quality of education presently would suffer.
- We feel that an increase in capacity will not be good for the area.
- I am against this proposal as the children joining the school will mostly be non-English speaking families and I feel it will not benefit my child's education or the school.

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Other Interested Parties:

- I strongly disagree with this proposal as it is not viable on safety grounds with congested roads, lack of parking and inadequate infrastructure.
- By making the school bigger there is going to be more cars, more safety risks to children, no parking for local residents.
- It would be nice for local residents to have the option of a one way street to be put in place or a local reduced rate in drop kerbs as residents struggle as it is.
- I do not agree with the proposed expansion only due to the lack of parking facilities and the increased traffic this will bring.

**Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School,
Public Consultation Meeting – Monday 18 November 2013**

Panel	Mr Leyland Ridings (Chair)	Chair of Education Cabinet Committee
	Mrs Marisa White	Area Education Officer (East Kent)

In Attendance

	Mrs Jane Wiles	Area Schools Officer
	Mrs Ann Davies	Public Meeting Recorder
	Mrs Di Springett	Headteacher
	Mr William Herbert	Chair of Governors

The meeting was chaired by Mr Leyland Ridings and was attended by approximately 10 people including parents, governors, staff and other interested parties.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion and the reasons for the proposal being brought forward by KCC was given by Marisa White. Marisa White explained that this is the consultation for the education case and that a separate planning consultation had taken place. She explained that the school would grow over a 7 year period as each successive Year R admission number increases from 90 to 120.

James Williams, Deputy Headteacher at Garlinge Primary School gave a presentation outlining the school's improved attainment at both KS1 and KS2 over the past three year period.

Di Springett, Headteacher spoke about how the school was going from strength to strength and had served the local community for 80 years.

William Herbert, Chair of Governors spoke about when Garlinge had been two separate infant and junior schools and at that time both schools had been four forms of entry. The new buildings would make a big improvement to the school accommodation.

Issues Raised	Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted
Can the school be sure that the building development and provisions will be made in time so that the children won't suffer from lack of provision.	The local authority is confident that the building project will be delivered in one phase and on time for occupation in September 2014. Weekly meetings will be held with the school and the contractor. Some work will go on during the holiday periods and areas will be zoned and closely managed to ensure the health and safety of the children.
Will the number of TAs increase for non-English speaking children.	Di Springett, Headteacher responded saying that the school was already working on a plan for staffing and looking at the breadth of experience of teaching staff and TAs. The school

Issues Raised	Response from Marisa White unless otherwise denoted
	already has a pastoral care team with pupil mentors, a language TA and SENco.
Will there be more parking	The school will produce a new travel plan. As part of the design and planning application, parking is being investigated for enough spaces and spaces for additional staff. Governors are looking at drop-off points. All options will be looked at to mitigate issues and to look at easing the situation.
Do the bus companies know that Garlinge is expanding and will KCC be liaising with transport services	We will be informing KCC's Transport Integration Service who work with the bus companies. We cannot predict numbers from the Margate area but we can let them know about the expansion. William Herbert, Chair of Governors responded that the governors had held discussions with the bus company.