

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

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

**Decision No: 14/00013(b)**

**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:**

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reforms took the decision to issue a public notice to expand Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from 3FE to 4FE increasing the published admission number to 120. During the Public Notice period no objections or comments were received and now the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the further decision outlined in the recommendations below.

**Recommendations:**

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

- i. Expand Garlinge Primary School & Nursery from 3FE to 4FE increasing the published admission number to 120.
- ii. Allocate £2,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- iii. 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
- iv. 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.

This decision is conditional upon the grant of planning permission under Part 3 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by 1 June 2014.

**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 Public Notice Outcomes**

- 4.1 The Public Notice was issued on 16 February 2014 and ran for 4 weeks.
- 4.2 No objections or comments were received during this period.

## **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. Recommendation(s)**

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

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- ii. Allocate £2,500,000 from Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- iii. 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
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## **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](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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