

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

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

Subject: Proposal to enlarge The Ellington & Hereson School, Ramsgate and add a sixth form provision

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 15 April 2015

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Ramsgate

Local Members: Trevor Shonk and Martyn Heale

Summary: This report sets out for consideration the results of the public consultation and the statutory public notice on the proposals from the Governing Body and Trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School.

- To enlarge the school to provide for 1200 students with an admission number of 200 for Year 7 entry.
- To add a sixth form to the enlarged school with a capacity of 200 students.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider the information provided and agree to:

- (i) The governing body and trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School implementing their proposal to enlarge the school.
- (ii) The governing body and trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School implementing their proposal to add a sixth form to the school.

1. Introduction

1.1 The governing body and trustees of the school seek to combine the Ellington & Hereson School and The Marlowe Academy to create one larger school with a capacity of 1,200 students with the potential to expand to 1,800 students as the secondary student population rises. The Marlowe Academy has been proposed for closure by the Department for Education and as a result of its discontinuance, it is anticipated that students attending the Academy would automatically transfer to the roll of the enlarged Ellington & Hereson School. The enlarged school would operate over two sites:

- The Lower School (Years 7, 8 and 9) would be located at Newlands Lane, Ramsgate, CT12 6RH (currently the site of The Ellington & Hereson School).
- The Upper School (Years 10, 11, 12 and 13) would be located at Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6NB (currently the site of The Marlowe Academy)
- During the 2015-16 academic year, Year 11 and Year 13 students would continue on their current site to ensure continuity with their studies as they prepare to take exams.

1.2 The governing body and trustees of the school seek to add a 6th form to the enlarged school to enable the post 16 provision at The Marlowe Academy to continue and to also benefit the students attending The Ellington & Hereson School. The 6th form would have capacity for 200 students. The school is working closely with the Skills and Employability team to develop its Post 16 curriculum.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 Capital – The Marlowe site and buildings will transfer back into KCC ownership in line with provisions in the original agreement when Marlowe was established until such time as Ellington & Hereson transfers into the Coastal Academies Trust, when the land and buildings will be subject to a 125 year lease.

2.2 Revenue – There are cost implications related to bringing the two school sites together, aligning ICT systems and potential redundancy costs. Detailed costs are being established and discussions are taking place with the Education Funding Agency in order to mitigate any financial risk for the school and the Authority.

2.3 Human – All staff of Marlowe Academy with employment rights will be subject to TUPE. Following transfer, a revised staffing structure will need to be implemented. Both sets of staff are being consulted and supported through the process.

3. Policy Framework

3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes’: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’.

3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2015-19’ identifies that by 2018/19 additional secondary capacity will be required. These proposals will secure the capacity for future growth to respond to the increased numbers of pupils coming through from Thanet Primary schools over the next few years.

4. Area Education Officer Views

4.1 The Local Authority believes this proposal will deliver the best opportunities for both current and future students. Across the two campuses the school will provide an exciting and varied curriculum and access to a wider range of amenities, and working with the Coastal Academies Trust will provide the excellent education that secondary pupils in Ramsgate need and deserve.

4.2 Single Sex Education – When Ellington School for Girls and Hereson School amalgamated in September 2009 a commitment was made to continue to provide single sex education in some subjects. The school will continue to provide single sex education where possible.

4.3 The Ellington & Hereson Governing Body will be consulting on revised Admission Arrangements for the enlarged school, including Post 16, if the proposals are approved. I am satisfied that the proposed admission arrangements for the school are compliant with the School Admissions Code.

4.4 It is proposed that the enlarged school will operate over two sites, including the site of Marlowe Academy proposed for closure by the Department for Education. The

Trustees are already in negotiation with the services and groups that use Marlowe Academy site, to ensure that these services provided for the community can continue.

4.5 Parents have raised concerns about potential bullying problems should it be agreed that the proposal goes ahead. I have sought assurances from the Governing Body that strategies will be put in place to provide the necessary support for students. It planned that along with the Heads of Houses on both sites, a Pastoral Support Officer will be attached to each House to ensure that students feel safe and supported.

4.6 KCC's Transport Team is working closely with both schools to ensure that all pupils entitled to free home to school transport are provided for. Early indication is that very few students will have their travel entitlement changed as a result of moving to a different site for their education if the proposal proceeds. It is therefore considered that this proposal would not unreasonably extend journey times or increase transport costs.

5. Public Consultation

5.1 Consultation Timetable:

Students, Parents/Carers, Staff and Governors Consultation Period	9 March to 27 April 2015
Stakeholder Consultation Period	24 March to 27 April 2015
Governing Body decision to issue a Public Notice	28 April 2015
Public Notice period	8 May to 5 June 2015
Cabinet Member decision on proposals	15 June 2015
Implementation	1 September 2015

5.2 A consultation document which described the rationale for the proposal was sent by the Governing Body and Trustees to a wide variety of stakeholders including parents, staff and governors of the two schools, all Thanet primary, secondary and special schools, local universities and the further education college, county, district and town councillors, the local Member of Parliament, diocesan representative, unions and the local media. The consultation document was also available on both school and KCC websites. Stakeholders were invited to complete a questionnaire either on line or on paper to express their views on the proposal. The consultation closing date was 27 April 2015.

5.3 Responses to the consultation:

118 responses were received to the consultation of which 75 and 45 confirmed an involvement with either The Ellington & Hereson School or Marlowe Academy respectively. One respondent was not connected to either school. The responses to the questionnaire are as follows:

Are you in favour of the proposal to create a new school in Ramsgate of around 1,200 students?			
	Overall respondents (118)	EHS connected respondents (75)	MA connected respondents (42)
Very much	45%	44%	45%
To some extent	28%	24%	36%
Not very much	8%	8%	7%

Not at all	18%	23%	12%
Don't know	1%	1%	0%
Are you in favour of creating a sixth form of around 200 students?			
Very much	60%	57%	64%
To some extent	27%	26%	27%
Not very much	3%	5%	2%
Not at all	8%	11%	5%
Don't know	2%	1%	2%
The new school would provide a broader curriculum than either of the current schools can offer for its students. How much do you think this could benefit young people?			
Very much	70%	65%	76%
To some extent	16%	19%	14%
Not very much	4%	4%	3%
Not at all	7%	8%	5%
Don't know	3%	4%	2%
How much benefit do you think children would gain from increased access to high quality sports facilities and to a purpose built theatre?			
Very much	64%	64%	62%
To some extent	19%	17%	21%
Not very much	11%	12%	12%
Not at all	5%	7%	1%
Don't know	1%	0%	2%
How important is it that services for children with SEN would be maintained?			
Very much	84%	83%	86%
To some extent	12%	14%	10%
Not very much	2%	3%	0%
Not at all	1%	0%	2%
Don't know	1%	0%	2%
Are you in favour of the name Augustus Pugin Academy?			
Very much	7%	7%	10%
To some extent	15%	13%	19%
Not very much	20%	19%	24%
Not at all	52%	56%	42%
Don't know	6%	5%	5%

5.4 Summary of written responses:

The main concerns raised by parents and students opposing the proposal were:

- Potential bullying.
- The impact on the children's education if moving to a different site.
- Support for children with SEN during the change.

- Preference for a small secondary school.
- Reducing the number of good quality secondary school places.
- Concern that the Marlowe's underperformance will continue in the new academy and that standards will drop.
- That the proposal is based solely around money.
- Whether single sex classes would continue if the merger went ahead.

Comments in support of the proposal:

- This will be an opportunity to meet new people and study new subjects.
- This is a positive proposal for both schools to meet the challenges of the future.
- We look forward to seeing what opportunities the 6th form will offer.
- The new Academy will enable provision of better facilities and a wider and more flexible curriculum for all the pupils involved.
- The split of the two Key Stages will greatly benefit both schools.

6. Statutory Public Notice

6.1 A statutory Public Notice was published by the governing body on 8th May 2015 in a local newspaper. The Notice ran for a period of 4 weeks during which time any person could send in a response on the proposals to Marisa White, Area Education Officer. The Notice and Complete Proposal were also made available on the Ellington & Hereson website, Marlowe Academy website and KCC's website. The Notice expired on 5 June 2015.

6.2 No written representations were received in response to the Public Notice.

7. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider the information provided on:

- The Governing Body and Trustees consultation and decision to issue a public notice.
- The responses received to the consultation and statutory public notice.

And agree to:

- The governing body and trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School implementing their proposal to enlarge the school.
- The governing body and trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School implementing their proposal to add a sixth form to the school.

8. Background Documents (and links to them)

The public consultation document, equality impact assessment, statutory public notice and complete proposal are available on the KCC website via the following link:

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

9. Contact details

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