

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services**

To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 17 March 2016**

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway: **None**  
of Paper

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

Electoral Division: **Dartford North (Cllr Tom Maddison)**

**Summary:**

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the outcome of the public consultation on the proposal to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

**Recommendation:**

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b. Allocate £2.4m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- d. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points

raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.2. The Dartford district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identifies a local pressure in Reception year places in the Dartford North planning area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the planning area from September 2016.
- 1.3. Every school in the planning area was considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including location, cost, proximity to demand, site size, willingness of the school, highways issues, Sport England and Ofsted rating. Temple Hill Primary School was identified as the best option for expansion according to these criteria.
- 1.4. The Department for Education issued new Regulations in 2013 (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013), and as a consequence of the changes introduced in these regulations, local authorities can propose making changes to maintained schools including expansion (enlargement of premises) providing that they follow the statutory process.
- 1.5. Before a statutory Public Notice is published to initiate a representation period, a public consultation must be undertaken.
- 1.6. This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 18 January to 22 February 2016. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors, members of staff and other stakeholders was held on 27 January 2016, where the AEO and property representatives were present.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Temple Hill Primary School, increasing the PAN to 120 (4FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 840 places.
  - a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £2.4m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project is an estimate. 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, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 per additional classroom will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

- c. Human – Temple Hill Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

### **3. Kent Policy Framework**

- 3.1. These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in the Education Commissioning Plan.
- 3.2. The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2016-20’ identified a pressure on primary school places in the Dartford North planning area. Changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on primary school places in the planning area.

### **4. Consultation Outcomes**

- 4.1. The local authority established a formal consultation process over a five week period, between 18 January to 22 February 2016. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors, members of staff and other stakeholders was held on 27 January 2016.
- 4.2. A total of 6 written responses were received by the local authority through the prescribed consultation process. 5 respondents supported the proposal. No one objected to the proposal. 2 respondents were undecided.
- 4.3. A summary of the comments received by the local authority is provided at Appendix 1.

### **5. Views**

#### **5.1. The Local Member**

Cllr Tom Maddison was informed of the proposal. He said:

Whilst I appreciate that the Temple Hill Primary School site has the space and land to facilitate the comparatively easy and cost effective expansion of the school to 4FE, I do have some concerns. The access to the School on St Edmunds Road, Temple Hill is very narrow and always heavily parked, with the addition of some extra 30 pupils it will be absolutely imperative that an up to date School Transport Management Plan is in place and operational. It may be sensible to look at the possibility of providing an additional access from Littlebrook Manor Way so easing the pressure on the main St Edmunds Road school entrance.

With the scale of the major residential developments taking place in Dartford in particular on Temple Hill and at the nearby Bridge development I am concerned that we are expanding Temple Hill Primary School, when in fact for a more long term and sustainable approach in providing pupil need we should be expanding the Bridge Community Primary School from the present 2FE to 3FE along with this schools dedicated nursery provision . This would, I feel, reduce the number of

school journeys made by car in an already highly congested area of north Dartford adjacent to the Dartford Thames River Crossing.

Large 4FE entry Primary Schools do seem to detract from the ethos of the local community primary school with a maximum of 3FE being the preference. However, I do understand the present difficult financial situation and the restraints the authority find themselves. However, with congestion and school transport costs escalating it would be sensible to continue to investigate the provision of school places as near as possible to primary pupils homes.

I do appreciate the great need for the additional school places now and over the coming years however I would be grateful if you would take my views and concerns on board.

**5.2. Headteacher**

The Headteacher fully supports the proposal.

**5.3. Chair of Governors**

The Chair of Governors is fully supportive of the proposal.

**5.4. Area Education Officer:**

The analysis of the needs in the area indicate that due to immediate pressure and future demand, based on planned new housing in the Dartford North planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required.

Whilst it is acknowledged that demand for school places has increased within the planning area due to the continued growth of the Bridge development, there is also significant housing development on the Dartford Northern Gateway site and in and around the Temple Hill area of Dartford.

Members should also be aware that it is the intention to provide a new Primary school on the Dartford Northern Gateway development in the future, thus providing additional capacity to support the extensive growth in the overall Dartford North planning area.

The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every primary school in the planning area with a view to whether that school could be enlarged. I am of the firm opinion that notwithstanding the objections received during the consultation, the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solution to the immediate demand in the Dartford North Planning Area is to enlarge Temple Hill Primary School by 1 form of entry.

**6. Proposal**

- 6.1. The proposed expansion of Temple Hill Primary School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.

- 6.2. 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, provides 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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1. Forecasts for the Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to medium and large scale housing development and inward migration.
- 8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2016 – 2020).

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1. The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:
- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
  - b. Allocate £2.4m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
  - c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
  - d. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in

order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised. This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

## **10. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Summary of Written Responses

## **11. Background Documents**

11.1. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/bold-steps-for-kent>

11.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016 – 2020

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=61244>

11.3. Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

## **12. Contact details**

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*Relevant Director:*

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Director of Education Planning and Access

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## Appendix 1

### Proposal to expand Temple Hill I Primary School, Dartford Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 600

Consultation responses received: 6

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	<b>In Favour</b>	<b>Undecided</b>	<b>Opposed</b>
Governors			
Staff	1		
Parents	4	1	
Pupils			
Other			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Comments in favour of the proposal:

- Good idea as so many houses are being built in the area.
- The need for additional school places greater than ever.
- Nursery provision is good so pleased the school is increasing
- Teachers are brilliant so hope when recruiting for new staff they are of same calibre
- School was previously a 4FE school with a separate nursery

#### Comments against the proposal:

- There were no comments against the proposal

#### Undecided

- Agree need school spaces but why not build a new school on one of the new housing developments
- Concern over loss of playing field
- Traffic and parking an issue
- Could consideration be given to a specialist provision, i.e. for autism

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00034

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE**

Decision:

**As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:**

- a. Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Temple Hill Primary School from 3FE to 4FE, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b. Allocate £2.4m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
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This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. The views received from the consultation with parents/carers, staff and governors.
2. The views of the Governing Body
3. The views of the Local Member
4. the views of the Area Education Officer
5. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Temple Hill Primary School, increasing the PAN to 120 (4FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 840 places.



- a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £2.4m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project is an estimate. 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, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 per additional classroom will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
- c. Human – Temple Hill Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**17 March 2016 report to Education and Young Person’s Cabinet Committee**

To be added after meeting

**15 December 2015 report to Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee**

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional secondary places in the Sevenoaks District.

Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for the Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to medium and large scale housing development and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, ‘Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People’s Services’ and the ‘Commissioning Plan for Education’ (2016 – 2020).

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

**N/A**

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**Signed**

**Date**