Proposed Change:
Kent County Council would like to hear your views on a proposal to expand Furley Park Primary School from 420 places to 630 places.

Date of Public Meeting:
Date: Thursday 7 November 2013.
Time: 7.00 pm.
Venue: Furley Park Primary School, Reed Crescent, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN23 3PA
1. Summary

Kent County Council is proposing to expand Furley Park Primary School from 420 places to 630 places.

We are currently undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on this proposal. The Public Consultation Period will run from 14 October to 29 November 2013. There will be a public meeting on 7 November 2013 which will give you the opportunity to make your views known and to ask any questions you may have.

This document gives you details of the proposal, information on the background to it, and outlines the current position. There is a form at the end which we ask you to complete and return to us by 29 November 2013.

2. Background to the Proposal

Ashford is designated as a major growth area for the South East of England, with 25,000 houses planned to be built in the period up to 2030. This growth is changing the shape of the town, bringing new families to the area and creating new communities. It requires the infrastructure to meet the future needs of the town and its residents.

In addition to the demand for school places arising from new homes, pressure has been increasing over the past decade due to the rising birth rate. This has been a national pattern, but the birth rate in Ashford is consistently higher than the national and Kent rates. In response to rising demand, further primary provision has been made available in Ashford in recent years; Repton Manor and Goat Lees Primary Schools have opened, and Aldington, Challock and John Wesley CEP Schools have permanently expanded. Additional temporary places have been made available at Furley Park and Great Chart Schools during the past two years.

Despite the increase in primary school places arising from new homes, pressure has been increasing over the past decade due to the rising birth rate. This has been a national pattern, but the birth rate in Ashford is consistently higher than the national and Kent rates. In response to rising demand, further primary provision has been made available in Ashford in recent years; Repton Manor and Goat Lees Primary Schools have opened, and Aldington, Challock and John Wesley CEP Schools have permanently expanded. Additional temporary places have been made available at Furley Park and Great Chart Schools during the past two years.

Despite the increase in primary school places the data contained in the table on the last page of this document shows that there are only 33 spare primary school places within two miles of Furley Park Primary School, and that there will be a shortfall of 304 places by 2016. For children aged 4 years old in the area (i.e. Reception aged pupils) forecasts indicate there will be a shortfall of 40 places by 2016.

The County Council is committed to ensuring that where it expands schools, it does so at schools parents want to send their children to, and which offer a good or better standard of education.

Furley Park PS is a popular and successful school. It is rated Good by Ofsted and the Headteacher is a Local Leader of Education. In response to demand and local pressures the school admitted 90 Year R pupils for both September 2012 and 2013. There were 159 parental preferences for places in September 2013; 83 of these were first preferences. If only 60 places had been offered for September 2013, non-siblings living further than 0.37 miles from the school would not have been admitted (see map on last page).

There is housing growth in the locality of Furley Park PS. Of the planned number of 780 dwellings, 590 have already been built and the final tranche of some 200 dwellings is going through the planning process. It is evident that the further school places are needed locally to serve the community.

3. The proposal

KCC proposes to formally expand Furley Park Primary School to be a 3FE school by adding 30 places per year group, taking the total capacity of the school from 420 places to 630 places. The school would admit 90 reception pupils into Year R from September 2014. The expansion would continue on a gradual basis with the additional places created annually to accommodate reception aged pupils only.

4. What happens next?

Furley Park PS has applied to become an Academy with the date of transfer currently proposed as 1 November 2013. The timetable set out below is the route to be taken if the Academy conversion goes ahead as planned. If there are any delays to the conversion then the second timetable shown sets out the steps needed.
## Timetable 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2013</td>
<td>Following the consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform. The Cabinet Member decides whether to release funds to enable the proposal to continue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan – Feb 2014</td>
<td>Furley Park Academy submits a Business Case to the Secretary of State for Education regarding the proposed increase in pupil numbers and requesting an increase in revenue funding for the additional pupils from September 2015.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>The Secretary of State considers the Business Case and decides whether to go ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2014</td>
<td>Implementation (if the proposal is agreed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Timetable 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2013</td>
<td>Following the consultation, all views received, either by post, e-mail or at the Public Meeting, will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Notice: 5 Jan 2014 – 2 Feb 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member decides whether to continue with the proposal. If so, a Public Notice will be published in a local newspaper, at the school and in public places like the library. During this time comments and objections can be made about the proposal. The Public Notice will run for 4 weeks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2014</td>
<td>Implementation (if the proposal is agreed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 5. How to give your views

**There are a number of ways you can let us have your views:**

- **Complete and return the response form on the enclosed sheet to:**
  David Adams, Area Education Officer - South Kent, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. Fax: 01233 652163

- **Come to the Public Meeting at:** Furley Park Primary School, Reed Crescent, Kingsnorth, Ashford TN23 3PA on 7 November 2013 at 7pm

- **Email your comments to:** school.consultations@kent.gov.uk
  (We will note all you say, but will not be able to respond individually to response forms, letters or emails.)
Forecast tables for primary pupils in the Planning area and/or within 2 miles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3166</td>
<td>3133</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3360</td>
<td>3588</td>
<td>3664</td>
<td>-304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year R</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These figures show agreed changes only.

Map showing the Kingsnorth and Park Farm area of Ashford

---

Based upon the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (C) Crown Copyright. Unauthorized reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Kent County Council licence No. 100019238. September 30th, 2013.
We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations or contact school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Public Consultation Response Form: Furley Park Primary School

Please return no later than 11am on Friday 29 November 2013

You can also email your views to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk

Do you agree with the proposal to expand Furley Park Primary School to 3FE?  
☐ Yes  ☐ No

I am:  *A Parent/Carer; Member of Staff; Governor; Pupil of Furley Park PS; OR - Other interested party

.................................................................................................................. please state).  * Please delete as appropriate

Name: 

Address:

Your comments:

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the proposal could affect anyone unfairly. We welcome your views on the assumptions we have made and the conclusions we have drawn. To view the document, go to www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations or contact school.consultations@kent.gov.uk