

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT A PROPOSAL TO RUN A NEW TWO FORM ENTRY
PRIMARY FREE SCHOOL, INCLUDING A NURSERY PROVISION OFFERING
26FTE PLACES – CHILMINGTON GREEN, ASHFORD**

Introduction

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in the County is responsible for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and be the champion of children and their families in securing good quality education.

Our Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 is key to achieving our aims and identifies the need for new school provision across Kent. One such need is a new 2FE primary school with a 26FTE place nursery within Chilmington Green, Ashford, for September 2018. Therefore, under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the 'free school presumption') we are seeking sponsors to establish a free school at Chilmington Green.

Our Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) identifies the need to provide additional places for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. We are proposing that the school contains specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. This could be via a satellite unit of Wyvern Special School on the new school site. The alternative is for the sponsor to operate a Specialist Resourced Provision within the school. We would be interested in sponsor's views about this.

The Ashford Borough Local Plan sets the expectation that 20,350 new homes will be built in the District between 2001 and 2021 with the development at Chilmington Green being an integral part of this plan. The development is located south west of Ashford Town and bordered on the west by the A28. The development will be a vibrant new community of some 5,750 homes, alongside significant leisure and community facilities. The development will produce additional demand for primary and secondary school places which cannot be met locally. Once the development reaches capacity there are planned to be three new 2FE primary schools, a 1FE primary school and a secondary school accommodating up to 8FE. We are therefore seeking a sponsor for the first new 2FE free school that will serve the District Centre of the development.

Education Vision

Our vision is for Kent to be the most forward looking area in England for education and learning so that we are the best place for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.

Kent should be a place where families thrive and all children learn and develop well from the earliest years so that they are ready to succeed at school, have excellent foundations for learning and are equipped well for achievement in life, no matter what their background.

In Kent we should have the same expectations for every child and young person to make good progress in their learning, to achieve well and to have the best opportunities for an independent economic and social life as they become young adults.

Every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve.

Key Dates:

| Event | Proposed Dates |
|---|-------------------|
| Invitation to submit a proposal published | 3 April 2017 |
| Community consultation commences | 3 April 2017 |
| Expression of interest submitted | 4pm 21 April 2017 |
| Deadline for receipt of applications | 4pm 19 May 2017 |
| Community consultation ends | 4pm 19 May 2017 |
| KCC informs DfE of all proposals received | 23 May 2017 |
| Promoter Assessment Panel meets | 6 June 2017 |
| Education Commission considers proposals | 13 June 2017 |
| KCC submits all proposals to the Secretary of State | 20 June 2017 |
| Secretary of State appoints the successful sponsor | End July 2017 |
| School opens off site | September 2018 |
| School open in the development | September 2019 |

School Specification

Location: Ultimately the school will be situated on land in the Chilmington Green development in Ashford, Kent (see Appendix 1). However, it will initially open in premises located at Jemmett Road Ashford, TN23 4QE (see Appendix 2). On completion of the new school building in Chilmington Green the school will relocate. This is expected to be in September 2019.

Expected Opening Date: 1 September 2018 (off site at Jemmet Road, Ashford).

Age Range: The school will be for boys and girls aged between 4 and 11 years.

Capacity: The school will provide 420 places, with a Published Admissions Number of 60.

Nursery: The school will house a 26FTE place nursery which can either be operated separately by the Trust, or by a private/voluntary provider.

Community Development: The school will play an important role in helping the new community of Chilmington Green to develop. Its influence and engagement has to be wider than simply the education of its pupils. Its facilities need to be accessible to the community out of school hours, its activities should seek to involve the wider population, and its ethos must be inclusive and outward looking. We would expect, therefore, the sponsor to agree to sign up to a community use agreement of the school's facilities. Located adjacent will be the community hub building, but this will not be delivered for several years, making the school building the main community asset for some period of time. Once the neighbouring

community facilities are available, we would anticipate a mutual sharing of facilities to maximise the benefit of these to both the school and the community.

In order to ensure the school supports the development of a new community in Chilmington Green we would want to work with the sponsor to balance the availability of places against local demand. This will require a flexible approach dependent upon pressures and the pace of house building and the need for places in the wider Ashford area. However, we recognise the school will require budget certainly in order to become established and deliver the quality of education we require (see Revenue Funding section below).

Provision for Special Educational Needs (SEN) Pupils: The school will be expected to be fully inclusive and therefore will educate children with SEND for whom the Local Authority has determined that mainstream education is appropriate.

The building will host specialist provision for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. This will be either a satellite provision of Wyvern School (28 places), or a Specialist Resourced Provision (14 places) operated by the Trust.

If commissioned, the Satellite would be led by Wyvern School. Pupils in the satellite would be on the roll of Wyvern School, and their staff would support them. The host school would provide inclusion opportunities. The objective of provision is to enable pupils to make progress in their speech, language and communication skills in an inclusive environment and to reduce their anxieties. The Satellite will be a centre of excellence which helps other providers to increase their expertise in this area. It will open in September 2019 and it would be expected to admit 3-4 pupils in the first year, growing incrementally per year until it reaches its capacity of around 28 places. If the satellite goes ahead, the successful sponsor will be expected to sign an agreement with Wyvern School and the LA. An example Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) can be found on the website.

The alternative would be for the school to have its own designated Specialist Resourced Provision for pupils with EHCPs related to ASD. It would provide places for 14 pupils. Pupil numbers would grow as the school's roll increased, and it would commence when the school is located in its permanent buildings. It too would be a centre of expertise which would support other providers to improve their practice. A Service Level Agreement (SLA) would need to be signed by the sponsor and the LA. An example of an SLA can be found on the website.

Admission Arrangements

The admission number for reception aged children will ultimately be 60. However, in the first three years of operation the admission number will be 30. It is expected that there would be a clear commitment to serve the Chilmington Green development and to support the creation of a community in this area. The school is intended to serve families living within walking distance of the school in order to reduce the need for car journeys.

The "seed point" for admissions purposes will be the school site in Chilmington Green. It is from this seed point that distances from the school will be measured, including in year one when the school is located off-site.

All sponsors are required to follow the DfE School Admissions Code and the School Admission Appeals Code. Promoters will be required to participate in KCC's co-ordinated scheme for the normal admission rounds and KCC's In-year Fair Access procedures.

Admission to the Satellite of Wyvern School will be via the Wyvern School being named on an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP). Admission to a SRP would be via the SRP being named in the EHCP.

The School Building

The school will be procured by KCC and built to the agreed EFA specification for a 2FE primary school. A satellite unit will comprise additional dedicated teaching spaces and 2-3 smaller areas which can be used flexibly to provide support, e.g. individual sensory/therapy; a calm space for small groups and time out when necessary. A SRBP will have similar facilities with the final design being agreed with the sponsor.

The site and buildings will be leased to the free school trust for 125 years.

Revenue Funding:

1. Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the following organisation (Table 1).

Table 1: Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 3 years

| | Yr. R | Yr. 1 | Yr. 2 | Yr. 3 | Yr. 4 | Yr. 5 | Yr. 6 | Number of Classes Funded | Pupil Numbers Funded |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2018/19 | 30 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 90 |
| 2019/20 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 5 | 150 |
| 2020/21 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 180 |

Beyond this time the structure will be determined by pupil numbers and the school's budget. The Indicative Budget for the Chilmington Green Primary School can be found on the web page. On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education Funding Agency.

2. Furniture and Equipment: £6k per classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the Trust for them to undertake procurement.
3. Start up Costs: A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to the successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2018. KCC has significant experience of opening maintained schools, and academies, using this funding mechanism. KCC will not pay further "Project Management Costs" to the sponsor. Therefore, potential sponsors will need to confirm that they would be prepared to proceed on this basis if they are selected.

Application Process and Assessment Criteria: Potential sponsors are asked to complete the Expression of Interest Form and return it to us by 4pm on 21 April 2017.

You will also need to complete the full application form and return it to us by 4pm on 19 May 2017.

Both documents are available via this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/provision-of-new-schools#tab-3>

Potential sponsors who are not on the DfE's approved sponsor list are must go through the approval process before submitting an application. Details of how to apply to be an approved sponsor can be accessed vial this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sponsor-an-academy>

If you would like further information or wish to discuss your application, please contact David Adams, Area Education Officer (South Kent) on 03000 414989.

We will evaluate proposals received and provide the DfE with copies of the proposals and our assessment of them. Our assessment criteria mirrors, as far as possible, those used by the DfE. These focus on strategic vision, educational capacity and performance, financial planning and operational capacity and governance.

Additionally, we would expect sponsors to demonstrate:

- How they will ensure that pupil achievement and rates of progress are above national expectations;
- How they will ensure vulnerable groups of pupils perform as well as other children;
- That they have a strong culture of working collaboratively with other education providers locally and in other parts of Kent;
- How they will support the development of a new community in Chilmington Green, including their commitment to working in partnership with local stakeholders;
- How they will work in close partnership with KCC and Wyvern School should a satellite unit be commissioned or to operate a SRP; and
- How they will deliver high quality provision for children with SEN and disabilities and Children in Care.

You will need to submit a focussed and coherent education plan as part of Section C of the application. Also you will need to submit a 3 year budget plan as part of Section F of the application.

KCC will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State as to its preferred provider. The Regional School Commissioner (RSC) for the South East, on behalf of the Secretary of State, will consider the local authority assessments and recommendations before deciding which sponsor is in the best position to take forward the new school. The RSC will inform the Local Authority and the successful sponsor of its decision, and the Local Authority will inform any unsuccessful sponsors.

The DfE will only consider entering into a funding agreement with an approved sponsor. If you are a new sponsor you will need to go through the DfE's sponsor approval process and should contact the DfE as soon as possible and before submitting your full application form to us.

If you are interested in running this new school in Chilmington Green then you need to submit an Expression of Interest by 4pm on 21 April 2017 and a full application form. **The full application form should be sent electronically no later than 4pm on 19 May 2017**

to: school.consultations@kent.gov.uk for the attention of David Adams, Area Education Officer (South Kent).

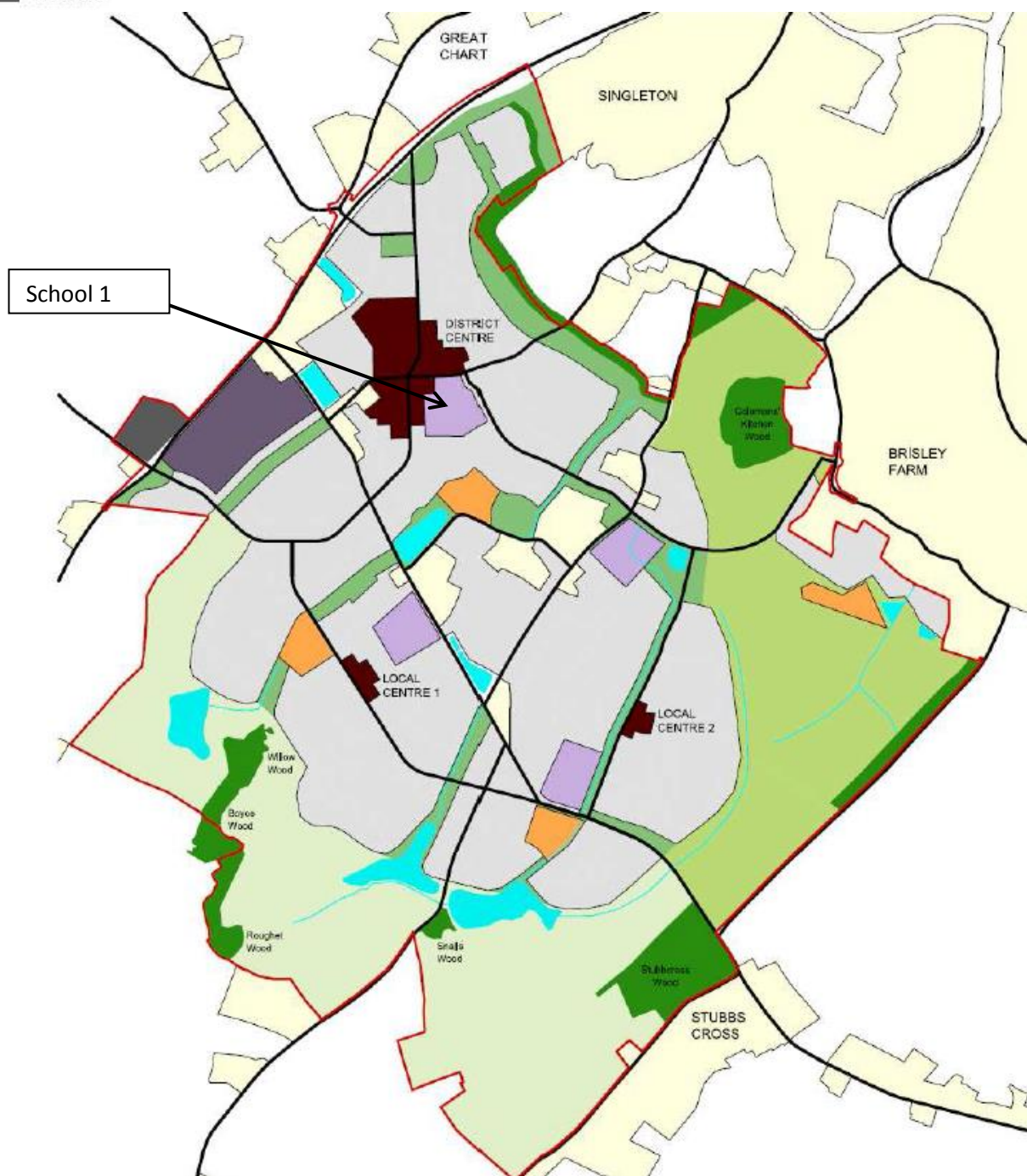
Background documents:

- Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>
- Kent Children and Young People's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>
- Appendix 1 Plan of Chilmington Green Development
- Appendix 2 Plan of the off-site school at Jemmett Road, Ashford

Appendix 1 – Site Plan

Key:

- | | |
|--|---|
| — AAP boundary | Flood attenuation |
| — Existing & Proposed roads | Mixed use area |
| Extent of built footprint | Primary school & community use |
| Discovery Park | Secondary School |
| Green space | Strategic play space areas |
| Ecological enhancement | Existing properties (residential & commercial) |
| Existing & Proposed woodland | |
| Park & Ride | |



Appendix 2: Ashford South Site Plan

