Proposed Change:
Kent County Council and the governing body would like to hear your views on a proposal to merge Foxwood and Highview Schools to become one school in a new building in Park Farm Road, Folkestone.

Date of Public Meeting:
Date: Tuesday 10 December 2013.
Time: 7.00 pm.
Venue: Foxwood School, Seabrook Road, Hythe CT21 5QJ

www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
1. Summary

Kent County Council and the governing body of Foxwood and Highview Schools are proposing to merge the schools to provide a school for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs in a new building in Park Farm Road, Folkestone. The school will provide for up to 336 pupils.

We are currently undertaking a public consultation to seek the views of the wider community on the educational merits of this proposal. The public consultation period will run from 3 December 2013 to 17 January 2014. There will be a public meeting on 10 December 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 17 January 2014.

2. Background to the Proposal

This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council’s commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings.

Foxwood and Highview Schools federated in 2008 under one governing body. In 2010, Foxwood redesignated to provide for pupils with Profound and Severe Learning Needs and Highview redesignated to provide for pupils with Complex Needs. Since 2010, the schools have worked closely together under the leadership of one Executive Headteacher and leadership team. This journey has brought the schools closer together in readiness for moving into a single building.

Foxwood School has a large open site on a hillside with a range of buildings of varying quality. The site is not appropriate given the needs of its pupils. Highview School has a smaller site but with many different levels due to the sloping nature of the site. Both sites are no longer able to meet the numbers or needs of their respective pupil cohorts.

Over time, the number of pupils admitted to the schools has increased, with the provision of temporary accommodation as necessary. The current combined roll stands at 317 (146 at Foxwood and 171 at Highview). The schools’ current designated numbers total 282 (122 at Foxwood and 160 at Highview).

Kent County Council’s strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools.

3. The proposal

We are pleased to bring you our proposal for Foxwood and Highview Schools.

We propose to provide a brand new school building, specifically designed to meet the needs of the pupils at the two schools. It will be designated as offering up to 336 places for pupils aged 3-19 years with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) in line with the schools’ current designations. The schools’ governing body and leadership team envisage the schools merging to become one, but operating in “village” units with areas of the school being designated as follows: early years, statutory school age, and post 16. The statutory school age element will be sub-divided into provision for pupils with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) / SLD (Severe Learning Difficulties), PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties) and Complex Learning Needs. Each age phase / need type will occupy a discrete area of the school building. We plan for the “new” school to host a Multi Agency Service Hub (MASH) for Shepway, and continue to operate as a training and support provision for mainstream schools through the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service team run by the school.

Facilities within the school will be greatly improved on those in the existing schools. In addition to the general teaching rooms the building will provide specialist teaching spaces (such as art, science, music and drama), a hall, sports hall, and medical/therapy spaces (such as a hydrotherapy pool, physiotherapy and sensory rooms).
The intention is to locate the school on land owned by Kent County Council on Park Farm Road. All pupils at the existing schools will continue to have places in the “new” school. The proposal will impact on the current transport arrangements for some pupils given the relocation. However, Kent County Council and school will work with families on this issue ahead of the move to the new building, to ensure families have plenty of notice of any changes.

The governing body and Kent County Council wish the school on Park Farm Road to be a bringing together of the best of both Foxwood and Highview Schools to create a cohesive provision operating as a centre of excellence for young people with special educational needs. We propose that the “new” school opens with a new name and identity to reflect this new start and coming together of provision.

Staff at both schools are currently employed by the governing body and Kent County Council. Staff will continue to be employed by the governing body of the “new” school and Kent County Council. The governing body has been adjusting its staffing structure over the past five years in readiness for moving to a single building. Therefore, there will be little impact on staff structures and numbers. As pupil numbers continue to grow, the number of teaching and support staff will need to increase. However, a single school, in a new building will allow economies of scale to be achieved. A separate staff consultation will be undertaken at the appropriate time should any adjustments to the structure be required.

We will need to seek planning consent, following which detailed plans will be drawn up before construction of the new building can begin. This is likely to start in July 2014 and finish in December 2015 ready for the relocation of staff and pupils in January 2016. There will be opportunities for you to see plans and details as we move through the process.

4. What happens next?

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<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2014</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>
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<td><strong>Public Notice:</strong> 9 Feb - 23 Mar 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 6 weeks.</td>
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<td>Apr 2014</td>
<td>The Cabinet Member considers all responses made and decides whether to go ahead. If so, two further steps will take place.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 2015</td>
<td>The schools merge and expand to 336 places.</td>
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<td>Jan 2016</td>
<td>The school relocates to the new building in Park Farm Road.</td>
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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 below to:**
  David Adams, Area Education Officer, South Kent Office, Kroner House, Eurogate Business Park, Ashford, Kent TN24 8XU. Fax: (01233) 898500

- **Come to the Public Meeting at:** Foxwood School, Seabrook Road, Hythe CT21 5QJ on 10 December 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).

We have completed an Equality Impact Assessment to see if the options 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.
Deadline for responses

Public Consultation Response Form: Foxwood and Highview Schools

Please return no later than: 11am on Friday 17 January 2014

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

Do you agree with the following proposals?

Merge the schools to become one school for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs?  
Yes ☐  No ☐

Provide a new building for the school on a site in Park Farm Road, Folkestone?  
Yes ☐  No ☐

Change the designated number of pupils that the school can admit to 336?  
Yes ☐  No ☐

I am: *A Parent/Carer; Member of Staff; Governor; Pupil of Foxwood / Highview School; OR - Other interested party...............................................................................................(please state). * Please delete as appropriate

Name: ..............................................................................................

Address: ..........................................................................................

Your comments: