

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

18/00039

For publication

Subject: Allocation of capital funding to enable Norton Knatchbull Grammar School to expand from 5FE to 7FE (149 to 210 places per year)

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I propose to agree to:

1. Agree to release £100,000 from the CYPE capital budget to enable Norton Knatchbull Grammar School to complete design work and secure planning approval for replacement/expanded buildings.
2. Subject to the Academy being successful in its Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) bid, agree to release £1,900,000 of the CYPE capital budget to Norton Knatchbull Grammar School to enable the permanent expansion from 5FE to 7FE (149 to 210 places per year).

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 Since the 2014-15 academic year capacity has increased in Ashford District non-selective schools by 4FE. This was due to the opening of the Wye Free School (3FE) and an increase in the Published Admissions Number at Homewood School by 1FE. Further non-selective capacity will be added via the proposed Chilmington Green Secondary School which is expected to come on line in 2022/23.

1.2 There are 2 selective schools in Ashford District: The Norton Knatchbull Grammar School for Boys and Highworth Grammar School for Girls. While we have seen a significant permanent increase in non-selective provision since September 2014, this has not been matched with permanent increases to the capacity of the selective sector. Therefore, the Published Admissions Number (PAN) at The Norton Knatchbull School and Highworth Grammar remain at 149 and 184 respectively. This decision will increase the permanent capacity in the area.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below.
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this proposal.

Financial Implications:

Capital –The additional facilities needed to permanently increase Norton Knatchbull School from 5FE to 7FE (149 to 210 places in each year) as outlined in 3.1 will be funded from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget. Prior to the School submitting its CIF bid, KCC will release £100,000 to enable the School to complete its design work. KCC will make a commitment that, if the CIF bid is successful, it will provide a further £1,900,000 to facilitate the expansion to 7FE. If the bid is unsuccessful KCC will need to reassess how it might provide further places in the School. A maximum

of £2,000,000 will need to be committed from the Children, Young People and Education Capital budget.

Developer contributions have been and will continue to be sought to fund the the different phases of the expansion. Developer contribution requests totalling £2,250,000 have been made towards this project of which £442,000 has been secured in agreements.

Revenue – When expansion takes place the School will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. The rising rolls will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line. At present that is at a value of £6,000 per classroom. Deferral of the school expansion will correspondingly pushback the revenue expenditure.

Human – The School will appoint additional staff as required, as the School size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:
Should the CIF bid be unsuccessful alternative solutions will need to be identified in order to increase selective provision for boys in Ashford. If this was the case than we may only be able to achieve 6FE of provision rather than the 7FE outlined in this paper. Consequently, there may not be sufficient selective places for the forecast number of boys deemed selective.

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

.....

.....

Signed

Date