

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CHILDREN'S, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION CABINET COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee held at Council Chamber, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone on Friday, 13th October, 2017.

PRESENT: Mr G Cooke (Chairman), Mrs A D Allen, MBE (Vice-Chairman), Mr D Brunning, Mrs S Chandler, Mrs P T Cole, Mrs T Dean, MBE, Mrs S Gent, Ms S Hamilton (Substitute for Mrs R Binks), Ida Linfield, Mr R C Love, Mr D Murphy, Mr M J Northey, Mrs S Prendergast, Dr L Sullivan and Mr I Thomas (Substitute for Mrs L Game)

OTHER MEMBERS: Roger Gough

OFFICERS: Patrick Leeson (Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education), Keith Abbott (Director of Education Planning and Access), David Adams (Area Education Officer - South Kent), Jared Nehra (Area Education Officer - West Kent), Ian Watts (Area Education Officer – North Kent), Marisa White (Area Education Officer - East Kent) and Emma West (Democratic Services Officer)

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

34. Apologies and Substitutes
(Item 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs R Binks, Mrs S Chandler, Mr J Constanti, Mrs L Game, Mr S Manion and Mr Q Roper.

Mr S Hamilton and Mr I Thomas attended as substitutes for Mrs L Game and Mrs R Binks respectively.

35. Declarations of Interest by Members in items on the Agenda
(Item 3)

No Declarations of Interest were received.

36. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2017
(Item 4)

1. Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee held on 7 September 2017 are correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

37. Verbal Updates
(Item 5)

1. Mr Gough (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) summarised the latest developments on the National Funding Formula (NFF) and the significance that the NFF had had for Schools in Kent. Central

government had found it challenging to establish a formula for distributing funding which satisfied the aspirations of areas of deprivation. Consultation had been undertaken at the beginning of the year to scrutinise the first attempt at the formula. Secretary of State had announced a new approach for the formula in July 2017 and Kent were in the process of responding and consulting with schools. He said that Kent would receive an additional £50m in the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) over the next 2 financial years. He said that although there had been positive movement, there were still financial constraints.

2. The Chairman suggested holding a Members briefing on the National Funding Formula and High Needs Funding before the next meeting of the Committee.
3. Patrick Leeson (Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education) said that the demand for High Needs Funding had increased from schools and Kent's budget had risen from £8m a year in 2013/14 to £23m in recent years. He added that these figures were expected to increase further over the next few years. The increase in demand for HNF had put a significant amount of pressure on the DSG and options were being considered to allocate more money to HNF or potentially capping the budget for Special Educational Needs (SEN) in Kent.
4. RESOLVED that the verbal updates be noted.

38. Commissioning Secondary Capacity in Thanet District
(Item 6)

1. Keith Abbott (Director of Education, Planning and Access) introduced the report which set out the provision of a new 6FE secondary school in Margate, the permanent 2FE expansion of Ursuline College from September 2019, and some temporary expansions of existing secondary schools in Thanet which would be required in order to ensure that sufficient Year 7 places were available for entry in September 2018 and 2019.
2. Marisa White (Area Education Officer – East Kent) said that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education had not yet taken the decision to acquire the site. She said that the earliest time that the decision could be taken was 18 October 2017. Current figures set out in the report did not take full account of children that may come forward from the strategic housing development.
 - a) In response to a question, Marisa White said that advice had been sought from colleagues in Property and Infrastructure regarding the proposed cost of £20m and said that feasibilities were undertaken with all of the secondary schools in Thanet. She added that she had been in consultation with head teachers and a number of governors from the schools. She said that parental preference was taken on board when looking to expand a school and any expansion proposal would be subject to full consultation.
3. Mr Gough (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) reminded the Committee of the potential difficulties that the process of school expansions can bring.

4. In response to a question, Marisa White said that the former Royal School for the Deaf site would have a new school built and ready for use by September 2020. She said that the current vacant site in Walmer was fit for occupation and there would be minimal costs for this site to be used. She discussed the 7FE pressures due to arise in 2019 and said the pressure could be dealt with by a range of temporary expansions in current Thanet secondary schools, or to temporarily use the Walmer site to house pupils. However, the Walmer site could not be used for this reason due to the current admissions code. Mr Gough said that although the Walmer site could not be used for this purpose, other options for the site needed to be looked at. He said that although there was a good site available, the pupil demand was elsewhere. Therefore transport costs would be significant if temporary use was made of the site.
5. In response to questions, Marisa White said that there was more capacity for sixth form provision in Thanet and that there were a range of post 16 options across the district. She said that it would not be an issue if schools did not start with a sixth form. This would be something that would be reviewed if pupil pressures started to increase.
6. Patrick Leeson (Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education) agreed with Marisa White and said that it was no longer a requirement for schools to start with a sixth form. He added that there were 1,800 children and young people placed in Kent by other Local Authorities who were looked after by those Local Authorities. He said that the requirement for additional school places was being driven by the general rise in population overall and new housing developments.
7. The Chairman said that many schools across the county had closed their sixth forms in order to focus on the agenda for KS3 and KS4 more accurately.
8. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, to:
 - i. Agree that a Free School Presumption Competition process can commence in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Secondary School in Thanet on the former Royal School for the Deaf site in Margate,
 - ii. Allocate £20m from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the building of the new Secondary School,
 - iii. Allocate £3m for the permanent expansion of Ursuline College and agreement for the Local Authority (LA) to hold a joint consultation on a proposal to permanently expand the school,
 - iv. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council, and
 - v. 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. Variations to contract value to be no

more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision,

be endorsed.

39. Tunbridge Wells Secondary School Pressure
(Item 7)

1. Jared Nehra (Area Education Officer – West Kent) introduced the report and registered his thanks to all of the schools who had helped to admit additional children for the September 2017 admissions across Tunbridge Wells and provided 4FE additional provision which was required in order to meet the demand for year 7 school places.
2. In response to questions, Jared Nehra said there was a high demand for boy's grammar school places and said a balance needed to be maintained for selective and non-selection provision. He said there were limited options for the temporary expansion of schools as there were a number of constraints across the Tunbridge Wells area. He added that children would not have to move from school to school during any temporary expansions. He said that proposals with Highways colleagues were being brought forward to ensure traffic issues were considered and said he was confident that securing development contributions across West Kent would be successful.
3. Mr Gough (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) said the Committee would be looking at how school expansions were funded in November's meeting.
4. RESOLVED that the measures proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to mitigate the pressure for Year 7 Secondary school places in Tunbridge Wells Borough, be endorsed.

40. Commissioning Primary and Secondary Capacity in Ebbsfleet, Dartford
(Item 8)

1. Ian Watts (Area Education Officer – North Kent) introduced the report which set out the need for a new Secondary School of up to 8 forms of entry (FE) and a new 2FE Primary School in Dartford and requested endorsement to commence Free School Presumption Competition processes to seek sponsors to run the new schools.
 - a) In response to comments and questions, Ian Watts referred to the use of 'pupil product ratios' to determine the age-band of people who were likely to move into the new build homes. He said that the large sites each had Education Review Groups to undertake assessments with developers and Councils to review the provision. He said there would be scope to look at further expanding some of the sites that would be coming online. There were good relationships with Dartford Borough Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and they were very open to working with Kent to look at additional land if required.

- b) In response to comments, Ian Watts Kent had been working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and confirmed that Springhead Park in Ebbsfleet would be coming online.
2. Mr Gough (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) discussed the need to plan ahead and said that temporary expansions were usually put in place to fill gaps before new schools were put in place.
 3. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, to:
 - i. Commence a Free School Presumption Competition process in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Secondary School in Dartford, within the Alkerden development on Eastern Quarry, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City;
 - ii. Commence a Free School Presumption Competition process in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new 2FE Primary School in Dartford, within the Ebbsfleet Green development, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City;
 - iii. Allocate £2.5m from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the provision of the second FE of the proposed 2FE Primary School on Ebbsfleet Green;
 - iv. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
 - v. 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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision,

be endorsed.

41. Alteration of the decision to expand Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE
(Item 9)

1. David Adams introduced the report which set out the request to delay the expansion of Sellindge Primary School until September 2020.
2. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, to
 - a) Delay until 1 September 2020 the expansion of Sellindge Primary School by 0.5FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 30,

be endorsed.