

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long TD

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00100

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021. (allocation of funding)

Decision:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- i. agree to provide £3.7m from the school's basic need capital budget to progress the proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021, and
- ii. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council
- iii. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

[KCC council strategies and policies - education provision](#)

KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.

To expand Mayfield Grammar School, KCC will remove the old wooden block and build a new block at the school, together with other infill and enhancement work to social spaces. This work would be completed before the September 2021 intake. This build would enable the school to offer 210 Year 7 places for September 2021.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and identified no negative impacts with the following positive impacts being identified:

- i. The proposal will increase in total number of places available to meet the needs of students with disabilities and/or SEN.
- ii. More families will be able to access good and outstanding school places.
- iii. School places available to students with and without faith.

The full assessment can be viewed via this link: [Mayfield EqIA](#)

Financial Implications

Capital

A feasibility study was carried out which estimated the cost to the KCC school's basic need capital budget. The amount estimated was £3.7m.

The planning process has now been completed and the estimate was accurate in that the cost to the basic need budget remains £3.7m. The total project cost is c£5.8m, with £2.080m being provided by the DfE through PSBP funding. This funding is specifically to remove an old building on the school site.

In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 will be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Revenue

An allocation of £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

Legal Implications

The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".

A license has been granted which allows KCC to undertake the construction works on the Academy site.

This project is funded jointly between the KCC Basic Need Programme and the DfE PSBP2. The funding breakdown is included above. KCC are delivering the entire project on behalf of both the DfE and themselves. The DfE contribution covers the cost of the DfE element of the scheme.

The DfE contribution is capped with the exception of two risk items. The DfE have agreed to pay any additional costs towards asbestos removal and mitigation relating to the demolition of the old building. The DfE have also agreed that they will pay a proportional contribution towards the

remediation of any contamination in the ground that is discovered once foundation work begins. Any overspend that is not attributable to these two items will need to be funded by KCC, however there is a contingency fund within the project which will be reviewed and managed regularly throughout the construction.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on 11 March 2020. At the meeting, the Committee RESOLVED to endorse the proposal.

The Academy Trust held a consultation from 27 January 2020 to 28 February 2020, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 11 February 2020.

The Academy Trust have considered the response received from the consultation and have confirmed that they will proceed with the expansion proposal.

The consultation details can be found via this link: [Mayfield consultation](#)

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Mayfield Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in 2013.

The school site lends itself to expansion for a number of reasons including the age and sustainability of existing structures, proximity to local demand and sympathetic leadership and governance.

The school is the only girl's grammar school in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group, so is therefore the only option.

If no action is taken, Kent County Council will find it extremely difficult to provide sufficient local selective secondary school places in Gravesham borough.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None



28 October 2020

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signed

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date