

From: Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.

Decision Number and Title

20/00113 - Proposal to allocate £6,187,241 to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.

Key decision

- *It affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions*
- *It involves expenditure or savings of more than £1m*

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: N/A

Electoral Division:

Ida Linfield – Canterbury City South
Graham Gibbens – Canterbury City North
Michael Northey – Canterbury South
Robert Thomas – Canterbury North
Alan Marsh – Herne Villages and Sturry
Andrew Cook – Herne Bay East
Mark Dance – Whitstable West
Anthony Hook – Faversham

Summary: This report sets out the need for additional permanent grammar school capacity in the Canterbury and Faversham Selective planning group. Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys has offered over their 120 PAN since 2019 and in 2019 consulted to increase their PAN to 150 from 2020. The school has capacity to take one more year (September 2021 entry) at 150 before they require additional buildings to accommodate a permanent expansion to a PAN of 150.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to take the proposed decision to:

- i. the allocation of £6,187,241 from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.

- ii. authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with KCC General Counsel and the Director of Education to enter into any necessary agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- iii. delegate authority to the Director for Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into necessary contracts or taking other legal actions as required to implement the decision.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Kent Commissioning Plan 2020-2024 identified the need for additional selective places for the Canterbury and Faversham Planning group. Forecasts indicated a deficit of 20 Year 7 places for September 2021 and a continual need through the plan period of up to 37 additional places. However, as Simon Langton increased their PAN in 2020 before the agreed build programme, their expansion has already been factored into the forecast. The expansion at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys will also ensure that the Boys and Girls Grammar school's PANs are closer in the numbers offered, helping to secure equality of opportunity for boys and girls to attend a grammar school in the planning area. An additional 1FE expansion is required in the planning area to meet the need in addition to the Simon Langton Grammar expansion. A feasibility to expand Queen Elizabeth School in Faversham is currently being undertaken.

1.2 The tables below show the additional places required for selective places if no further action is taken across the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. These figures do not include any spare capacity required for in-year admissions, or growth related to housing from any new developments

Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

| | 2018-19 capacity | 2018-19 (A) | 2019-20 (F) | 2020-21 (F) | 2021-22 (F) | 2022-23 (F) | 2023-24 (F) | 2024-25 (F) | 2025-26 (F) | 2025-26 capacity |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Canterbury and Faversham Selective | 590 | -17 | -29 | -23 | -20 | -32 | -37 | -28 | -15 | 605 |

Years 7-11 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

| | 2018-19 capacity | 2018-19 (A) | 2019-20 (F) | 2020-21 (F) | 2021-22 (F) | 2022-23 (F) | 2023-24 (F) | 2024-25 (F) | 2025-26 (F) | 2025-26 capacity |
|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Canterbury and Faversham Selective | 2,865 | -95 | -92 | -104 | -107 | -118 | -142 | -144 | -137 | 3,025 |

2. Background

- 2.1 The increase in the birth rate in Swale, plus inward migration and house building across the Swale and Canterbury Districts has increased the forecast need for selective school places in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group.
- 2.2 There are four grammar schools in Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. We have commissioned a feasibility study to explore the expansion of Queen Elisabeth Grammar by 1FE. Barton Court Grammar School was expanded by 1FE in 2017 and Simon Langton Girls Grammar school has a Priority School Building programme nearing completion, rebuilding the majority of the school, and relocating them into new buildings on their current site.
- 2.3 Neighbouring planning groups, including Sittingbourne and Sheppey and Thanet planning groups also have a deficit of year 7 selective places therefore would not be able to accommodate students from Faversham and Canterbury planning group.
- 2.4 This proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2017 - 2022)’.
- 2.5 A curriculum analysis and feasibility has been undertaken at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys to identify the requirements and scope of the 1FE expansion. The school has already secured agreement to a modernisation programme to replace mobile accommodation that is no longer fit for use as classrooms, and this project would be included within the Basic need expansion programme.
- 2.6 Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys undertook a consultation in the in 2019/20 admissions round to increase their PAN to 150 in 2020 before the agreed build programme. The expansion at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys will also ensure that the Boys and Girls Grammar school’s PANs are closer in the number of places offered, helping to secure equality of opportunity for boys and girls to attend a grammar school in the planning area.
- 2.7 The Headteacher and Governing body of Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys are fully supportive of the expansion project.
- 2.8 Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys is an outstanding school and is a well-respected and popular school in the local area. The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the expansion.
- 2.9 The Local Members for Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group area were informed of the proposal and comments were received from the following.

Alan Marsh (Herne Villages and Sturry) and Mark Dance (Whitstable West) are supportive of the proposal.

Michael Northey (Canterbury South) is happy to see the expansion but has commented that he has concerns that SLBS is super selective, so defeating the object of general grammar school provision for all those who would benefit from it.

Anthony Hook (Faversham) believes that it would be far more preferable to meet the needs of secondary school age children in Faversham by providing spaces in the two Faversham schools.

Robert Thomas (Canterbury North) declared an interest in the project as an old Langtonian but is fully supportive, subject to a travel plan that can take account for increased travel movements.

Andrew Cook (Herne Bay East) Is supportive of Grammar School provision however he advises the more we increase grammar places in Canterbury we stop the opportunity to have a coastal grammar. I would have thought it a far more sensible solution is to move the schools to where they are needed. I also worry that in an environmental crisis, bussing students around is not appropriate and also creates the grid lock in Canterbury. All three grammar schools are on the south side of Canterbury in the district. The majority of children live on the north side.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The capital allocation of £6,187,241 is to deliver a programme that will provide the 17 additional classrooms required to meet the additional pupil place need and to replace the mobile accommodation that can no longer be used due to their condition. This will comprise of a new 2 storey teaching block. In addition, it is proposed to extend the dining area and carry out external works to deliver additional carparking facilities. It has been estimated that the costs for the replacement of the mobile accommodation (10 classrooms) will be in the region of £1.82m and the costs associated with the 1FE expansion including 7 additional classrooms, dining hall expansion and car parking facilities to be £4,367,241.
- 3.2 The school will receive increased revenue funding through their 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 online. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

4. Legal implications

- 4.1 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”.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and the assessment identified the following positive impacts:
 - Sufficient year 7 places will be provided.

- Year 7 pupils will be able attend Grammar school provisions in their locality
 - More pupils will be able to attend a good or outstanding school.
- No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

6. Other corporate implications

6.1 Planning and Highways will be consulted prior to and during the planning application.

7. Governance

7.1 The recommendation asks the Cabinet member to agree to 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 and 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, as set out in the Scheme of Delegations.

8. Conclusions

8.1 KCC forecasts show a growing demand for selective places across Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. Without the additional selective capacity created by the permanent building expansion at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, there will not be sufficient Year 7 grammar places available to meet demand. This would result in students having to travel to other districts or planning groups for their Grammar education and would further increase transport costs for KCC.

9. Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to take the proposed decision to:

- a) authorise the allocation of £6,187,241 from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.
- b) *authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with KCC General Counsel and the Director of Education to enter into any necessary agreements on behalf of the County Council.*
- c) delegate authority to the Director for Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into necessary contracts or taking other legal actions as required to implement the decision.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- 10.2 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

11. Contact details

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