

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Shellina Prendergast

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

21/00070

For publication**Key decision: YES**

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 Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School from 192 places to 240 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 48 to 60 for Year three entry in September 2022

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- (i) Expand Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School from 48 to 60 PAN from September 2022.
- (ii) agree to provide £1.8 million from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the permanent expansion of Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School from 48 to 60 PAN from September 2022.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:**Background**

Whistable has two junior schools and they historically have operated for many years with inoperable Published Admission Numbers (the number of pupils it can take in each year group). In December 2018 Whitstable Junior School ran a consultation to reduce its Published Admission Number from 75 to 60 with effect from September 2020 onwards. This reduction was agreed by the School's Adjudicator but conditional on Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed consulting on a proposal to

increase its PAN from 48 to 60 to ensure that there were sufficient Junior places to match the number of places in the Whitstable Infant schools.

Financial Implications

The project costs for this proposal are £1.8million. The costs will be met through the allocation of funding from the Basic Need Capital budget.

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.

Legal implications

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. If this decision does not take place there will be a risk that we cannot meet our statutory duties to provide education provision.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced as part of the consultation process and is attached. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Sufficient local junior provision for children in Whitstable.
- Future financial viability of the school.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment. The outcome of the public consultation and community consultation will enable the Local Authority to test out these assumptions.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 14 September 2021..

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

There are only two Junior Schools in Whitstable and Whitstable Juniors consulted in Dec 2018 to reduce its PAN from 75 to 60 from September 2020 as it had never been able to operate to its Pan of 75. This reduction was agreed but conditional on Whitstable and Seasalter CE Endowed consulting on a proposal to increase its PAN from 48 to 60 to ensure that there were sufficient Junior places to match the number of places in the Whitstable Infant schools. If this does not proceed the Junior PANs will not match the Infant PANs in Whitstable and a number of children may not be allocated a Junior place in Whitstable, thereby undermining the future viability of the Infant schools.

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

None



30/09/21

.....
signed

.....
date