

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

To: Shelina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: Proposal to Expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF, by confirming the permanent expansion of Thamesview School from a PAN of 150 to a PAN of 180 and to then further expand Thamesview School from a PAN of 180 to a PAN of 210 from September 2023 - Allocation of Funding

Decision number: 21/00085

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway: Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee—14 September 2021 of Paper

Electoral Division: Gravesend East, Jordan Meade and Alan Ridgers

Summary:

Decision 19-00071 was taken on 15 October 2019 whereby the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, agreed to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021.

This report asks the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to consider the proposed decision to allocate the funding for the proposal to expand Thamesview School from 150 places to 210 places. In light of the most current forecasts, and following discussion with the school, the final expansion from a PAN of 180 to a PAN of 210, should take place for the September 2023 intake.

Recommendation:

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

- i. Allocate £5m from the Children Young People and Education Services Capital Budget to the scheme to expand Thamesview School to a PAN of 210.
- ii. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel and the Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- iii. 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.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This paper follows on from the Decision 19-00071, taken on 15 October 2019 the Cabinet Member for Children, Young people and Education agreed to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021 by confirming the school's Published Admission Number at 180 and add an additional 30 places taking the school PAN up to 210 for September 2021
- 1.2. The Public Notice could not be published until the feasibility studies were concluded.
- 1.3. KCC continually monitors the provision of school places through the County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision. The plan is a five-year rolling plan that 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:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

- 1.4. In 2019, the Commissioning Plan indicated that there was a growing demand for Year 7 non-selective places in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning area from the start of the 2019-20 academic year.
- 1.5. Early forecast figures that will populate the next iteration of the Commissioning Plan (2022-2026) now indicate that Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a small surplus of 38 Year 7 places (1FE) for the 2022/23 intake. However, the following year shows a deficit of 75 places (2.5FE) by 2023/24. This deficit fluctuates in succeeding years but is not forecast to return to a surplus.
- 1.6. Following discussions with the school, the decision has been taken to expand the school from its current PAN of 180 to 210 from September 2023 to address the forecasted deficit in that year.
- 1.7. Thamesview School is a popular school and the proposal to increase the number of Secondary places at the school is therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular & successful schools. The proposal will confirm the school's admission number of 180 and add an additional 30 places taking the school PAN up to 210 for September 2023. It will be achieved through building additional accommodation and service space on the Thamesview site.
- 1.8. The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education took decision (19-00071) to issue a public notice to expand the school. The notice was published on 30 August 2021, once the full costs of the project were known.

There are at the time of writing, no responses, but the Cabinet Member decision would be pending until after the public notice period has closed on 28 September.

- 1.9. A consultation was held from 24th June 2019 to 19th July 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 4 July 2019. There were no responses. Four members of staff attended the drop-in session, but no formal responses were completed.

2. Financial Implications

2.1. Capital

- 2.2. An initial feasibility study was carried out which estimated the cost of delivery being between £4.0m and £4.5m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.
- 2.3. In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure reported to the Cabinet Committee was a budget estimate, pending a full costings exercise.
- 2.4. Following a more detailed feasibility study, the refined cost estimate is £5m. The reason for the increase over the two years is due primarily, to the cost of materials rising significantly due to Covid and logistical challenges from contractors.
- 2.5. KCC Officers have determined that the cost increase is entirely proportionate to that being experienced in other projects and maintain that the project provides value for money.
- 2.6. In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

2.7. Revenue

- 2.8. Should the scheme progress, £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.

2.9. Pupil Growth Funding

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

2.11. Human

The school will appoint additional staff as it grows over the years.

3. Kent Policy Framework

- 3.1. The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2019-23 identified a pressure on 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.
- 3.2. 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".

4. Consultation

- 4.1. A consultation was held from 24th June 2019 to 19th July 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 4 July 2019. The results of the consultation were reported to members of the CYPE Cabinet Committee on 1 October 2019 and informed the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education of the decision to expand the school.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

An EqlA has been completed and can be viewed here:

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Thamesview/consultationHome>

6. Conclusions

- 6.1. Forecasts indicated a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesend from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 74 Year 7 places (2.5FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 316 places (10.5FE) by 2023/24.
- 6.2. Early forecast figures that will populate the next iteration of the Commissioning Plan (2022-2026) now indicate that Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a small surplus of 38 Year 7 places (1FE) for the 2022/23 intake. However, the following year shows a deficit of 75 places (2.5FE) by 2023/24. This deficit fluctuates in succeeding years but is not forecast to return to a surplus
- 6.3. All other schools in the planning group are either being expanded or are the subject of a future proposal to expand. Thamesview School is the only remaining candidate for expansion.

7. Recommendations

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

- (i) Allocate £5m from the Children Young People and Education Services Capital Budget to the scheme to expand Thamesview School to a PAN of 210.

(ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and the 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.

8. Background Documents

8.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes>

8.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

8.3. Equality Impact Assessment

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Thamesview/consultationHome>

7.4 Decision 19/00071 - Proposal to Expand Thamesview School from 150 places to 210 places in September 2021

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2286>

9. Contact details

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