

EXECUTIVE DECISION

From: **Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**
Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: **Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2022**

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Abbey Place, Faversham, ME13 7BQ from 150 to 180 places for September 2023**

Decision Number: **21/00115**

Proposal to permanently expand Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Abbey Place, Faversham, ME13 7BQ from 150 to 180 places for September 2023

Key decision

- *It involves expenditure or savings of more than £1m*

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report: N/A

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Anthony Hook - Faversham

Summary: This report sets out the need for additional grammar school capacity in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning area. Forecasts indicate a deficit of up to -34 Year 7 places for 2023 and a continual need throughout the plan period. The proposal is to expand Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham by 1FE from 150 PAN to 180 PAN from 2023.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member, on the proposed decision to:

- to provide £5m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the permanent expansion of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School by 1FE from 150 to 180 PAN from September 2023.
- Authorise the Director of Education in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2021-25 identifies the need to commission additional capacity in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. Forecasts indicate a deficit of year 7 and year 7-11 places across the plan period with a deficit of -34 for year 7 in 2023.
- 1.2 The tables below show the additional selective places required 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

Planning Group name	2019-20 capacity	2019-20 (A)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2026-27 capacity
Canterbury & Faversham Selective	605	-40	-33	-27	-30	-34	-30	-21	-23	605
Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective	270	-11	-46	-64	-47	-72	-66	-62	-49	240

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

Planning Group name	2019-20 capacity	2019-20 (A)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2026-27 capacity
Canterbury & Faversham Selective	2,905	-139	-152	-137	-140	-147	-140	-128	-121	3,025
Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective	1,260	-51	-73	-123	-157	-220	-275	-291	-276	1,200

2. The Proposal

- 2.1 The increase in the birth rate from 2008 to 2012, inward migration and house building in and around Faversham has increased the forecast need for selective school places in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group.
- 2.2 There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School. Simon Langton Girls Grammar school has recently been rebuilt through the DfE Priority School Build Programme. Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys has a current build programme to facilitate their expansion to 5 forms of

entry and Barton Court Grammar school was expanded to 5 forms of entry in 2017 and is at capacity on their site.

- 2.3 Neighbouring planning groups, including Sittingbourne and Sheppey selective planning group and Thanet selective planning groups also have a deficit of year 7 places and therefore would not be able to accommodate students from Canterbury and Faversham.
- 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 initial feasibility has been undertaken at Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar school to identify the requirements and scope of the 1FE expansion. Through discussions with the Trust, it has been agreed that the school are willing and able to manage and deliver the project themselves. A funding agreement will be put in place between the Trust and KCC related to the allocation of £5m of capital funding and the delivery of the accommodation and provision of the additional places to take Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School to 6 forms of entry on a permanent basis from September 2023.
- 2.6 Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School are undertaking a public consultation from 3 November 2021 to 15 December 2021 as part of the delivery of the project. Consultation results will be included in the fast-track case for expansion the Trust will be required to submit to the DfE.
- 2.7 The Headteacher and Governing body of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School are fully supportive of the expansion project.
- 2.8 Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School is a well-respected and popular school in the local area and has an Ofsted judgement of Outstanding. The Area Education Officer for East Kent fully supports the expansion of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School.
- 2.9 The Local Member, Anthony Hook has been consulted on this proposal and fully supports the proposal to increase school places in Faversham. However, he also raised the requirement to ensure a thorough transport impact assessment and sustainable solutions are found.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The capital allocation of £5m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the permanent expansion of Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School by 1FE from 150 to 180 PAN from September 2023. The proposal will deliver a programme that provides the additional general and specialist accommodation required to meet the additional pupil place need. The funding allocation will be subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the Trust to expand permanently by 1 form of entry from September 2023. The £5m has been agreed based on a curriculum and space needs analysis of the school’s current accommodation and this figure is in line with the DfE’s

benchmark figures for an expansion of a secondary school by 1FE. Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School has agreed to deliver, and project manage the programme.

- 3.2 The school will receive increased revenue funding through their Delegated Budget. The rising rolls will be protected in line with KCC's 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 funding allocation is subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the Trust to offer of 180 Year 7 places from September 2023. The school's current published admission number (PAN) is 150.

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 for September 2023 intake.
- 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 None identified.

7. Governance

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Education will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Without the additional selective capacity created by the permanent expansion at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, there will not be sufficient Year 7 grammar places available in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning to meet the predicted demand. This would result in children 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 Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member, on the proposed decision to:

- i. to agree to provide £5m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the permanent expansion of Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School by 1FE from 150 to 180 PAN from September 2023.
- ii. Authorise the Director of Education in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.2 Consultation documents

Queen Elizabeth's Website

<http://www.queenelizabeths.kent.sch.uk/3029/expansion-consultation>

KCC Website

[Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham | Let's talk Kent](#)

10.3 Setting the Course Kent County Council's Interim Strategic Plan

[Setting the Course - Our Interim Strategic Plan - Kent County Council](#)

11. Contact details

Report Author: Marisa White

Name, job title: Area Education Officer -
East Kent

Telephone number 03000 418794

Email address: marsia.white@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director: Christine McInnes

Name, job title: Director -
Education, Planning and Access

Telephone number: 03000 418913

Email address: Chrisine.mcinnnes@kent.gov.uk