

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Shellina Prendergast Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

21/00115

For publication

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)

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

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

Decision:

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

- i. 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Commissioning Plan has identified the need for additional selective places across the plan period due to population growth and new housing developments in the Faversham and surrounding area. The Kent Commissioning Plan (2021-2025) shows a deficit of -30 places for September 2022 and -34 places for September 2023 for the Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group.

Background

Queen Elizabeth Grammar school is part of the Canterbury and Faversham Selective planning group. There are 4 Grammar schools within this planning group, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Simon Langton Girls Grammar school, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Barton Court Grammar School. For September 2023 it is therefore proposed to permanently expand Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School by 30 places (1FE) to meet the need for additional places in Faversham and the wider planning area.

To help meet the need for additional grammar places in Swale both Highsted and Borden Grammar Schools are proposing to expand permanently by 1FE from September 2022.

Financial Implications

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 school will receive increased funding through its 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 on-line. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

Legal implications

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.

Equalities implications

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.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee consider the decision on 11 January 2022

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

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.

Neighbouring planning groups, including Sittingbourne and Sheppey selective and Thanet selective planning group also have a deficit of year 7 places therefore would not be able to accommodate students from Canterbury and Faversham.

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

.....
signed

.....
date