

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 and Young People's Cabinet Committee 10 May 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 and Title

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: Children and Young People's Cabinet Committee - 11 January 2022 (Decision Number 21/00115)

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Anthony Hook - Faversham

Summary:

This report reiterates the need for the expansion of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School from a PAN of 150 to 180. The rationale for the expansion was set out in the report to Cabinet Committee of the 11 January 2022. It requests permission to allocate an additional £0.4m from the Basic Need capital budget to the build programme. This will take the cost of the build programme from £5m to £5.4m which was agreed in January 2022. Forecasts indicate a deficit of up to -44 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. The expansion will ensure sufficient Grammar School places for students in Faversham and Canterbury.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and agree to:

i. increase the funding allocated to expand Queen Elizabeth Grammar School from £5m to £5.4m through providing an additional £0.4m million from the Basic Need capital budget.

ii. 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.

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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2021-25 identified the need to commission additional capacity in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. The Commissioning Plan for 2022-26 forecasts indicate a deficit of up to -44 Year 7 places for 2023 and a continual need throughout the plan period

1.2 The increase in the number of births from 2008 to 2012, inward migration and house building has increased the forecast need for both non-selective and selective school places in the Faversham and Swale secondary planning areas.

1.3 The tables below show the additional selective places required if no further action is taken across the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. (KCP 2022-206) 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	2020-21 capacity	2020-21 (A)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 capacity (F)	2027-28 capacity (F)	2027-28 capacity
Canterbury & Faversham Selective	605	-34	-29	-50	-44	-22	-9	-24	-21	615

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

Planning Group	2020-21 capacity	2020-21 (A)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 capacity (F)	2027-28 capacity (F)	2027-28 capacity
Canterbury & Faversham Selective	2,935	-159	-143	-157	-170	-165	-143	-137	-106	3,075

2. Background

- 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 The outcome of the consultation was reported to the January 2022 Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee.
- 2.4 The report taken to the Children and Young People's and Education Cabinet Committee on 22 January 2022 agreed to the allocation of funding of £5m (Decision Number 21/00115) stated:

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. The capital allocation of £5.m is for a school delivered project providing the additional general and specialist classrooms to meet the additional pupil place need.

- 2.5 The proposal has since been developed further by the school and the cost for the project has now been revised following detailed feasibility. The cost has increased from £5 m to £5.4m and the additional funding of £0.4m is due to the increase in cost of materials and labour.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The additional capital allocation of £0.4m, taking the cost of the build project from £5m to £5.4m, will enable the delivery of a programme that will provide the additional general and specialist classrooms to meet the additional pupil place need. Developer Contributions amounting to £1,118,815.27 have been requested towards Queen Elizabeth Grammar expansion. Of this £70,315.20 has been received. £1,058,500.00 has been requested but is currently unsecured.
- 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 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.
- 4.2 Queen Elizabeth Grammar School will be required to complete and submit a fast track Business Case to the ESFA regarding the expansion of the school by 1FE once planning permission has been granted.
- 4.3 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 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.

<h4>9. Recommendation(s):</h4>

The Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and agree to:

- i. increase the funding allocated to expand Queen Elizabeth Grammar School from £5m to £5.4m through providing an additional £0.4m million from the Basic Need capital budget.
- ii. 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.
- 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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee report for Queen Elizabeth Grammar School January 2022 Decision Number 21/00115
- 10.2 [Decision - 21/00115 - Proposal to Permanently Expand Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School by 1FE from 150 to 180 PAN from September 2023 \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)
- 10.3 Consultation documents
[Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School, Faversham | Let's talk Kent](#)
- 10.4 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision
- 10.5 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

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:
Christine.mcinnis@kent.gov.uk