

EXECUTIVE DECISION

From: Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Subject: Proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary school, Pilgrims Way, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1XU by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places from September 2024.

Decision number: **20/00007**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of report:

**Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee
13 September 2022 (postponed)**

**Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee –
10 January 2020**

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division:

Canterbury City South – Mel Dawkins

Summary: This report updates the Cabinet Member on the proposal to expand Pilgrims Way Primary school by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places for September 2024. The proposal was originally presented to the Cabinet Committee on 10 January 2020 where the proposal was supported by the committee, however a Record of Decision (RoD) was not issued at the time as planning permission had not been granted. The proposal was put on hold due to historic maintenance issues which totalled an additional £2m.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Education is asked to agree to:

- i) Allocate £1.9m from the Children, Young People and Education Basic Need Capital Budget to expand Pilgrims Way Primary school, by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 45 places to 60 places from September 2024
- 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 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2019-2023 identified the need for additional places in the Canterbury City Planning Area due to pressures from new housing developments in Canterbury City and specifically the housing development on the former Howe Barracks Site, Littlebourne Road. To mitigate the need for places, it was proposed that Pilgrims Way will expand by 0.5 forms of entry (FE) to become a 2FE Primary school. Pilgrims Way is the nearest primary school to these developments and was named for any developer contributions linked to the development of housing on the former barracks site.

2. Background

- 2.1 The original proposal to expand Pilgrim's Way Primary School by 0.5 FE was presented to the Children and Young People's and Education Cabinet Committee on 10 January 2020 where the Committee was supportive of the proposal. As planning permission had not been granted and the project costs were being finalised a ROD was not issued.
- 2.2 The proposal was put on hold as the final costs of the project were developed and additional costs to the project were identified totalling an additional £2m. These were historic maintenance costs which had not been addressed and could not be attributed to the Basic Need capital budget.
- 2.3 Pilgrims Way Primary School is part of the Veritas Academy Trust and they were unable to finance the additional maintenance cost for the project.
- 2.4 An application was made to the DfE and the school is now currently being rebuilt under the DfE Schools Rebuilding Programme. The new buildings will be ready for occupation by September 2024 and the expansion will be implemented in line with the re-building and expansion of the school.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 KCC will contribute to the DfE project related to the cost of the 0.5FE expansion. The feasibility study which was carried out by us identified the costs for the 0.5FE expansion to be £1.9m, to be funded by the CYPE Basic Need capital budget and developer contributions.
- 3.2 £81,473.63 in developer contributions has been collected by Canterbury City Council towards the 0.5FE expansion of Pilgrims Way Primary School. A further £843,560 is expected but not yet received and £4,986 has been requested but not agreed. A total of £930,019.63 is therefore expected from developer contributions towards the costs of this expansion.
- 3.3 Up to £2,500 is provided for each newly provided learning space for ICT equipment from the Capital budget. Totalling £10,000 for this project.
- 3.4 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 (Section 151 letter) between KCC and the DfE Schools Rebuilding Programme (appendix 1).
- 4.2 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”.

5. Equalities implications

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and the assessment identified the following positive impacts:
- Sufficient local primary provision for children in Canterbury to meet the growing need from new housing.
 - Future financial viability of the school.

6. Other corporate implications

- 6.1 None identified.

7. Governance

- 7.1 It has been necessary to take this decision outside of the committee cycle as the Children’s, Young People and Education (CYPE) Cabinet Committee on 13 September 2022 had to be postponed following the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II. The reason this decision cannot wait until the next CYPE Cabinet Committee is that the DfE have confirmed that they need to receive a signed s151 letter for Pilgrims Way by 30th September at the latest. Failure to do this will cause a delay to the project and additional costs will be incurred to ensure the project is completed on time.
- 7.2 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 Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 The proposed expansion of Pilgrims Way Primary School can now be taken forward with the decision by the DfE to rebuild the whole school under the Schools Rebuilding Programme. The proposal will provide a new school and the additional primary places in the Canterbury City planning area, where pressure on places has been identified.

9. Recommendation(s):

9. The Cabinet Member for Education is asked to agree to:

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- 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 CYPE CC January 2020 report

[20/00007 - Proposal to permanently increase the capacity at Pilgrims Way Primary School, Pilgrims Way Canterbury CT1 1XU](#)

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

10.3 Setting the Course - Our Interim Strategic Plan

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

11. Contact details

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