

DECISION REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER TEMPLATE

From: Christine McInnes, Interim Corporate Director, Childre, Young People and Education

To: Beverley Fordham, Cabinet Member Education and Skills

Subject: Replacement of modular classrooms at Dover Grammar School for Girls

Decision no: 21/00001

Key Decision : It involves expenditure or savings of maximum £1m

Classification: *Unrestricted*

Past Pathway of report: CYPECC 17th March 2026

Future Pathway of report: *Cabinet Member Decision*

Electoral Division: Dover Town, Cllr James Defriend and Cllr Albert Thorp

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary: KCC has a mobile refurbishment/replacement programme as part of the modernisation programme. The condition of each mobile building on a maintained school site has been assessed. From the assessment, the refurbishment or replacement of each modular building has been prioritised. Two mobile blocks at Dover Grammar School for Girls have been identified as needing replacement in the next 12 months at a cost of £1,400,000.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills consider the following proposal:

1) APPROVE the allocation of £1,400,000 from the Children, Young People and Education Modernisation Capital Programme to enable the replacement of mobile buildings at Dover Grammar School for Girls;

2) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Education and SEND, and the Head of Law to take relevant actions, including but not limited to negotiating, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts, contract variations or other legal agreements, as required, to implement the decision; and

3) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant contractual agreements and to enter into such variations as envisaged under any of these contracts.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 KCC has a mobile refurbishment/replacement programme as part of the modernisation programme. The condition of each mobile building on a maintained school site has been assessed. From the assessment, the refurbishment or replacement of each modular building has been prioritised.
- 1.2 Two mobile blocks at Dover Grammar School for Girls have been identified as needing replacement in the next 12 months.
- 1.3 A feasibility process has been completed to RIBA stage 3 which has identified the most cost effective solution is to replace the buildings whilst ensuring they will meet the needs of the pupils in terms of both curriculum provision and accessibility.

2. Key Considerations

- 2.1 KCC has the capital responsibility for community, voluntary controlled and foundation schools.
- 2.2 Dover Grammar School for Girls is a community school. As such, we are responsible for the capital costs require to replace the mobiles, ensuring that, not only are there sufficient school places are available, but that the buildings support the delivery of the curriculum.

3. Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

- 3.1 Refurbishing the mobile units was considered and rejected. The condition of the buildings is such that refurbishment works would not provide good value for money.
- 3.2 The option of doing nothing was discarded. The buildings are life-expired and the space they provide is required by the school in terms of school places and curriculum delivery.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Across the three financial years 2025/26 to 2027/28, £18,900,000 has been budget to the Children, Young People and Education Modernisation Programme. The Programme is funded from a combination of the Schools Condition Allocation Grant (provided by Department of Education), developer contributions and prudential borrowing. This programme is used to upgrade existing facilities in KCC maintained schools along with the repair and replacement of mobiles on KCC maintained school site where they remain an essential part of the school's accommodation.
- 4.2 The cost of replacing the two mobile blocks at Dover Grammar School for Girls is expected to be £1,400,000. This is affordable within the current programme commitments.

4.3 No revenue funding is required to support the proposal unless, the project was aborted, which is considered low risk.

5. Legal implications

5.1 Planning permission will be required for the necessary related works.

5.2 KCC is responsible body for maintaining Dover Grammar School for Girls and receives its School Condition Allocation grant to assist it discharge its responsibilities to this and other maintained schools. Also, pursuant to the Education Act 1996, KCC has a duty to ensure sufficient school places are available for all pupils in its area. Replacement buildings are required by the school so as to ensure they can accommodate all pupils and therefore deliver the curriculum efficiently.

6. Equalities implications

6.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed. No adverse impacts on protected groups have been identified. Replacing the existing modular buildings with a new DDA complaint facility will have a positive impact for staff and pupils with a disability.

7. Data Protection Implications

7.1 There are no data protection implications.

8. Other corporate implications

9.1 Support from the Capital and Strategic Programmes team will be required to deliver the project.

9. Governance

9.1 This decision delegates authority to the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Director of Education and SEND and the Head of Law, to undertake the necessary actions, including but not limited to, negotiating, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts, contract variations or other legal agreements, as required, to implement the decision.

10. Conclusions

10.1 KCC's mobile refurbishment/replacement programme has identified that two mobile blocks at Dover Grammar School for Girls as needing replacement in the next 12 months.

10.2 The cost of replacing the two mobile blocks at Dover Grammar School for Girls is expected to be £1,400,000. This is affordable with the current programme commitments.

Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member consider the following proposal:

1) APPROVE the allocation of £1,400,000 from the Children, Young People and Education Modernisation Capital Programme to enable the replacement of mobile buildings at Dover Grammar School for Girls;

2) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Education and SEND, and the Head of Law to take relevant actions, including but not limited to negotiating, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts, contract variations or other legal agreements, as required, to implement the decision; and

3) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant contractual agreements and to enter into such variations as envisaged under any of these contracts.

10. Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment

11. Appendices

Appendix A: ROD

12. Contact details (please insert details below)

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