

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

DECISION NO.

MIKE WHITING
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

12/01962

Unrestricted

Subject: Proposal to expand The Discovery School, Kings Hill

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills, I agree to:

- (i) ISSUE a public notice to expand The Discovery School, Kings Hill

Reason(s) for decision

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 identifies the need for additional primary school places in the Kings Hill area of the Tonbridge and Malling District for September 2013 and beyond. In reaching the decision to issue the Public Notice, and thereby commence a statutory consultation on the proposal to enlarge The Discovery School, I have considered the following issues:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 27 November 2012, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local MP, District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below.

There was consistent agreement that more school places are needed in the Kings Hill area. In light of the responses received about the school's ability to cope with additional pupils, and in particular the possible negative impact on pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, I have visited the school before reaching this decision. I am satisfied that it is appropriate to continue with this proposal.

In light of comments received regarding the Equalities Impact Assessment I have asked that this be updated ahead of the Public Notice being issued.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation

The proposed decision was considered by the Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting held on 18 January 2013. The Committee unanimously supported the temporary expansion of The Discovery School, Kings Hill and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that the proposal should proceed.

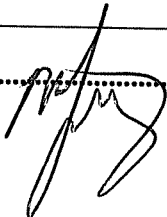
Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 identifies the need to expand Discovery School, and make further places available at Kings Hill Primary School in September 2013 and 2014. The Plan also sets out the need for a third primary school, subject to further housing development. Other options have previously been explored and have been unsuccessful.

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

None

signed



date

25/1/13