

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

DECISION NO.

MIKE WHITING
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

12/02030

Unrestricted

Subject:

Proposed change of status of Watringbury Church of England Primary School from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided

Decision:

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

- (i) approve the proposal from Watringbury CEPS to change status from 'Voluntary Controlled' to 'Voluntary Aided' School with effect from 1 April 2013
- (ii) Authorise the AEO for Mid Kent to complete and sign Form 18.

Reason(s) for decision

3.1 Watringbury Church of England Primary School has a strong church ethos and strong connections with St John the Baptist Church at Watringbury. The Governing Body believes that Government policy of requiring some schools to become academies threatens that link and therefore the school ethos. The governors feel that by becoming a Voluntary Aided school it would change the constitution of the Governing Body to increase the formal church presence on it. If, at a later stage the school was compelled to become an academy that change could not remove the distinctive Church ethos and character of the school.

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 although concerned about the change of status appreciated why the school had chosen to change the status of the school from Voluntary Controlled to Voluntary Aided and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills that the change should proceed.

Any alternatives considered:

The Public Notice expired on 17 December 2012 and the LA must determine, within two months, whether to:

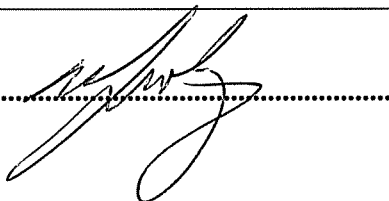
- reject the proposal
- approve the proposal
- approve the proposal with a modification (e.g. implementation date)
- approve the proposal subject to it meeting a specific condition

If the Local Authority rejects the proposal the Governing Body would have the right of appeal, to be heard by the Schools Adjudicator (please explain why won't do this).

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

None

signed



date

25/1/13