

By:	Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health
	Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 21 June 2013
Subject	Decision number: 13/00042 The Charles Dickens School's Governing Body proposal to expand the school by adding a sixth form.
Classification:	Unrestricted
	Cabinet Member decision
Electoral Division	Broadstairs and Sir Moses Montefiore

Summary:	This report sets out for consideration the results of the public notice period recently closed for the proposal published by the Governing Body of The Charles Dickens School to expand the school by adding a sixth form for 200 students, increasing the school's upper age limit from 16 to 19 years
Recommendation	The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Note the outcome of the Statutory Public Notice; (ii) Comment, endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to agree that The Charles Dickens should implement the expansion by adding a sixth form.

1. Introduction

1.1 The school seeks to provide a sixth form that contributes to local provision and capacity and has for some time been discussing the idea of adding a sixth form with other secondary schools and further education providers in Thanet. Both parents and pupils have expressed a wish for The Charles Dickens School to provide opportunities post-16 as an extension of their existing pathways pre-16 and to reduce the number of pupils who do move on from the school and who drop out of education at their destination institution.

1.2 The Skills and Employability team has been working with the school to inform the proposal to establish a new sixth form and develop an appropriate curriculum offer. The original proposal was not considered broad and flexible enough to meet the gaps in provision evidenced through recent analysis of post-16 learning in Thanet. Further work and discussion with the school has taken place in order to review the original curriculum proposal and enable the school to develop an offer which takes advantage of the flexibilities available through the new Key Stage 5 Study Programme and to complement the post-16 offer in other local secondary schools.

2. Area Education Officer Views

2.1 Charles Dickens is a good and popular school and we support its proposal to develop a sixth form based on an amended curriculum offer that better reflects the

current gaps in local provision and the need to provide a more flexible Key Stage 5 Study programme.

3. Public Consultation

3.1 Consultation Timetable:

Consultation Period	25 February to 05 April 2013
Governing Body decision to issue a Public Notice	April 2013
Public Notice period	2 May to 30 May 2013
ECC following the Public Notice period re recommendation for expansion	21 June 2013
Cabinet Member decision on expansion	27 June 2013
Implementation	31 August 2013

3.2 Responses to the consultation:

	Support	Against	Undecided	Total
Parents/Carers	96	0	0	96
Members of Staff	11	1	0	12
Students	717	74	123	914
Interested Parties	9	6	0	15
Total	833	81	123	1037

4. Responses to the Statutory Public Notice

No comments or statutory objections to the notice were received.

5. Recommendations

Education Cabinet Committee is asked to

- (i) Note the outcomes of the statutory public notice;
- (ii) Comment, endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to agree that The Charles Dickens School should implement its proposal to expand the school by adding a sixth form.

Background Documents (and links to them)

COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s34295/FINAL%20VERSION%20Kent%20Comm%20Plan%20Ed%20Prov%202012-17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf>

Education Cabinet Committee report – 19 March 2013

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s38873/Item%20C4%20St%20Philip%20Howard%20RC%20Primary%20School%20Herne%20Bay.pdf>

The public consultation document is available via the following link:

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/StPhilipHoward/consultationHome>

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