

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

13/00013/2

For publication

Subject: Proposed Relocation of Laleham Gap (Special) School and increase the designated number from 152 to 170.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to relocate Laleham Gap (Special) School and increase the designated number from 152 to 170.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 The Special Educational Needs section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 identifies the current provision available across the County and outlines plans for providing new/enhanced accommodation for ten Special schools including Laleham Gap School.
 - 1.2 The proposal is coming forward following a successful bid for funding to rebuild the school through the Government's Priority Schools Building programme. This will mean that for the first time the school can be consolidated in purpose built buildings on a single site. The proposed new site is at New Haine Road in Ramsgate currently owned by EKO at Westwood Cross, adjacent to the Marlowe Academy
 - 1.3 A consultation has been conducted regarding the proposed relocation of Laleham Gap (Special) School, Margate and the increase in the designated number of the school from 152 to 170 and took place between 15 April 2013 and 27 May 2013. A public meeting was held on 2 May 2013.
 - 1.4 On 5 June 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, following consideration of the consultation responses, took the decision to issue a Statutory Public notice regarding the proposed relocation of Laleham Gap (Special) School, Margate and the increase in the designated number of the school from 152 to 170. The Notice ran between 13 June 2013 and 28 July 2013.
 - 1.3 Following the receipt of 3 objections to the Statutory Public Notice the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is required to consider these responses before taking his final decision.
- 2. Local Urgency Procedures**
- 2.1 If the decision is not taken outside of the Cabinet Committee cycle, via the procedures outlined in the council's constitution there will be insufficient time to procure and deliver the works. This would lead to a negative impact on the implementation of the project and necessary building works would be delayed with the real possibility of the school not being built in time. The County could fail to meet its statutory obligations to provide school places, and would incur significant reputational risk.
 - 2.2 In accordance with the procedures set out in the Council's Constitution the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, and other required consultees agreed that the decision could not reasonably be deferred until the Cabinet Committee in order to follow KCC's normal governance procedures. Comments were requested from those contacted and these are included within the report for consideration when taking the decision.
 - 2.3 Senior Managers Rebecca Spore, Director of Property and Infrastructure Support and Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education, Learning and Skills also agreed that the decision could not be reasonably deferred to the next Cabinet Committee meeting.

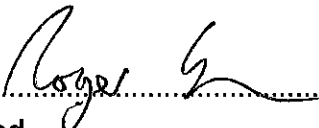
4. Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

- 3.1 A report was presented to Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 19 March 2013 outlining the proposal and the financial implications. It was also explained that the decision to issue a Statutory Public Notice will be taken outside of Committee under the provision set out in the Councils constitution.
- 3.2 A public consultation was conducted, the result of which the cabinet member took regard of in taking the decision to issue a Statutory Public Notice (Decision – 13-00013).
- 3.3 A Statutory Public Notice was issued, the outcome of which the cabinet member will consider in taking this decision. They are also referred to in the appendices.
- 3.4 The local members Mr Alan Terry, Ms Zita Wiltshire, Ms Mo Elenor, Mr William Scobie, Mr Trevor Shonk and Mr Martyn Heale have been informed and as per the council's constitution are included in the report to the Cabinet member, to which he will have regard on taking the decision.

4. **Any alternatives considered:**

- 4.1 Alternatives were considered fully as part of the Commissioning Plan and the conclusion of those investigations was that the relocation and increase in designated number of pupils of this school was the most appropriate solution to issues identified.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:
None


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Signed

21 August 2013
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date