

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Subject: Targeted Basic Need Funded Projects

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – as necessary

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report informs the Education Cabinet Committee of successful capital bids, worth £31m, which will enable the Local Authority to commission 5 new Primary schools, and to provide additional places in a further 8 Primary schools and 7 Special schools by September 2015. Consultations on the proposals are currently being undertaken.

Recommendation(s):

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the increased funding available through the Targeted Basic Need grant and to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform in respect of the proposed decisions to expand or build at the schools and in the areas identified.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The rising demand for Primary school places is a well publicised National issue, and has been for the last several years. Members of this Committee received a report in June 2013 which set out for September 2013 that an additional 22 permanent and 15 temporary forms of entry of Reception Year places had been created. This equates to 1110 additional school places for the start of the new school year.
- 1.2 For 2013/14 and 2014/15 the Local Authority has received a basic need capital grant of £38.6m from Government, to fund additional school places. However, Government had a further £982m to allocate under its 'Targeted Basic Need' programme. Access to this funding was through a bidding process, intended to support those authorities experiencing the greatest demand for additional places through creating new schools, and permanently expanding good or outstanding schools in areas of high levels of demand.
- 1.3 Kent submitted 26 school bids for this Targeted Basic Need fund and on 18 July 2013 we were informed that we had been successful with 19 of these, gaining £31m in additional capital grant.
- 1.4 The following tables detail the 19 projects for which Targeted Basic Need funding has been agreed. Table 1 shows the Special schools that are proposed to be

expanded and/or relocated; Table 2 shows the Primary schools that are proposed to be expanded; and Table 3 shows the proposed new schools, all of which will include Specialist Resource Based SEN Provision for pupils with either Autistic Spectrum Disorder needs (ASD) or Behavioural and Emotional needs (BESD).

Table 1 – Special School Expansions and/or Relocations

| District | School | Proposal | Additional places |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Dover | Portal House School | Expansion and relocation | 12 |
| Maidstone | Five Acre Wood School | Expansion and relocation | 50 |
| Shepway | Highview School | Expansion and relocation | 28 |
| Thanet | Foreland School | Expansion | 40 |
| Thanet | St Anthony's School | Expansion | 16 |
| Tonbridge & Malling | Ridgeview School | Expansion and relocation | 67 |
| Tunbridge Wells | Broomhill Bank School | Expansion | 56 |

Table 2 – Primary School Expansions (of up to 1FE)

| District | School | Additional places |
|---------------------|---|-------------------|
| Ashford | Furley Park Primary School | 210 |
| Canterbury | Canterbury Primary School | 210 |
| Dover | White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts | 210 |
| Maidstone | St John's CEP Academy | 150 |
| Swale | Iwade Primary School | 210 |
| Swale | Tunstall Primary School | 210 |
| Tonbridge & Malling | Slade Primary School | 105 |

Table 3 – New Schools

| District | School | No. of places | Specialist Resource Based Provision |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Shepway | East Folkestone Primary Academy | 210 | 15 - ASD |
| Swale | Thistle Hill Primary Academy | 420 | 15 - BESD |
| Tonbridge & Malling | Kings Hill Primary Academy | 210 | 15 - ASD |
| Tonbridge & Malling | Leybourne Chase Primary Academy | 210 | 8 - BESD |
| Tonbridge & Malling | Holborough Quarry Primary Academy | 210 | 8 - BESD |

2. New School Provision

- 2.1 The presumption in legislation is that any new school will be an academy or a free school.
- 2.2 The expectation is that the places delivered with this funding will be available by September 2015 at the latest. In order to achieve the deadlines set by the DfE,

we issued detailed specifications for each of the five new schools, inviting academy and free school sponsors to come forward with proposals to run the five new schools. The decision to select a sponsor rests with the Secretary of State. That decision is informed by an assessment and expression of preference which must be carried out by the local authority.

- 2.3 The timeline for selecting a sponsor for each of the new academies is set out below:

| Process | by Date |
|---|----------------|
| Details of the new academies placed on KCC website | 2 August |
| Closing date for expressions of interest | 22 August |
| Expressions of interest forwarded to DfE | 23 August |
| Closing date for proposals | 2 October |
| Details of sponsors to DfE | 4 October |
| Assessment of proposals and preferences made on each sponsor (where appropriate) | 17 October |
| All proposals submitted to DfE (including, where appropriate, our preferred choice of sponsor in each case) | 18 October |
| DfE confirm sponsor for each academy | 12 December |

3. Primary School Expansions

- 3.1 The timeline for the expansion of existing schools is set out in the Education Commissioning Plan as part of the plans for September 2015. Decisions will be taken according to statutory procedures, including a 5 day proposed decision publication period before the decision is taken and a 5 day call-in period after the decision is taken. In addition comments will always be sought from Local Members for consideration by the Cabinet Member. However, in order to meet the critical timelines involved in delivery further reports will not be forthcoming to committee unless requested here. Details are given below of any projects where public consultation has started, or is due to start, before mid-October. Where expansion of an academy is suggested, the process involves a business case being sent to the Secretary of State for Education, rather than a public notice being issued, as he is the decision maker.

- 3.2 Indicative Public Consultation timelines for proposed expansions of primary schools:

| Schools | Consultation | Public Meeting (week beginning) | Cabinet Member Decision | Public Notice / Business Case |
|--|---------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Furley Park PS | 19 Sept - 6 Nov 13 | 7 Oct 13 | Nov 13 | PN 24 Nov - 22 Dec 13 |
| Canterbury PS (Academy) | 30 Sept - 25 Nov 13 | 21 Oct 13 | Dec 13 | BC Jan - Feb 14 |
| White Cliffs Primary College (Academy) | 1 Oct - 21 Nov 13 | 4 Nov 13 | Dec 13 | BC Jan - Feb 14 |
| St John's CEP Academy | Already taken place | | | |
| Iwade PS | 30 Sept - 15 Nov 13 | 14 Oct 13 | Dec 13 | PN |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------|------------------------|
| (Proposed Academy Converter) | | | | 5 Jan - 2 Feb 14 |
| Tunstall PS | 30 Sept - 15 Nov 13 | 14 Oct 13 | Feb 14 | PN 23 Feb - 23 Mar |
| Slade PS | 14 Oct - 29 Nov 13 | 4 Nov 13 | Dec 13 | PN 5 Jan - 2 Feb 14 |

4. Special School Expansions

- 4.1 The Special School expansions will help to meet our commissioning intentions, as set out in the 'Strategy for SEND' to increase the number of commissioned Kent Special School places from 3491 to 3700. The current capacity in our Special schools has not kept pace with changing needs and demand. Children are also often being transported to schools away from their local communities or placed in more expensive out of county provision because of the lack of places in local schools.
- 4.2 Creating the additional places in our Special schools will require both expansion and, in some cases, relocation and rebuild. The funding available through the 'Targeted Basic Need' programme for the Special Schools will be added to the existing funding commitment from the Council to complete the programme of refurbishing and rebuilding the Special School estate. Over ten years Kent has invested over £100m in Special School buildings and the targeted basic need funding will help towards completing that programme.
- 4.3 The Special School projects – particularly those involving school relocations - are subject to feasibility studies being completed prior to determining Public Consultation timelines. All the projects are due for completion by September 2015.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 Targeted Basic Need Programme

a. Capital

- i. The Special schools identified in Table 1 are amongst the 9 remaining Special schools that are to be modernised or rebuilt and/or extended. The existing Capital programme includes £30m to support these 9 schools. The additional funding secured via the Targeted Basic Need programme will help secure the delivery of the broader proposals for these schools.
- ii. The DfE's funding allocation assumes accommodation is delivered which is in line with the new school baseline designs, which have smaller footprints than the Kent Standard of recent years. The Local Authority has had to confirm to the DfE that it will conform to these new expectations. The allocations received for each of these projects have to be spent on delivery of that project.
- iii. Developer Contributions from new house building schemes are expected to be available to support the delivery of four of the five new schools (Thistle Hill, Kings Hill, Leybourne Chase, Holborough Lakes).

b. Revenue

- i. The Local Authority has a pupil growth fund budget to support the expansion of schools and the opening of new provision. A scheme to ensure the fair and equitable access to this has been agreed by the Schools Funding Forum. It provides for guaranteed pupil funding for new classes opening, a contribution of £6k per classroom for equipment, and a lump sum of £50k to support the opening of a new school. In real terms the majority of the schools' budgets (existing and new) will be derived from the normal school budget process which is predominantly pupil number led.
- ii. The five new schools will be designated to host Specialist Resource Based SEN Provision for either pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Behavioural Needs (BESD). Service Level Agreements will be put in place between the school promoter and the Local Authority regarding these provisions. The Local Authority has in place a funding mechanism to commission such provisions from schools, with budget being dependent upon the designated pupil numbers. The costs are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The provision of additional Specialist Resource Based SEN Provision places is part of the Local Authority's strategy to broaden parental choice, to make more local provision, to promote the development of centres of excellence to support improving mainstream school practice in areas of SEN, and to reduce the need for increased out of county provision.

c. Human

The schools will recruit additional staff as needs demand and individual budgets allow.

6. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 6.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition "to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places" as set out in 'Bold Steps for Education'.
- 6.2 The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision' referred to additional demand for 2014 - 2016 to be met by commissioning additional places across Kent.
- 6.3 The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy identifies the need for at least 100 additional Specialist Resource Based Provision places in mainstream schools and the additional places in Special Schools .
- 6.4 An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each proposal.
- 6.5 The Officer Scheme of Delegation (under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution), provides a clear and appropriate link between these decisions and the actions needed to implement them. For information it is envisaged, following consultations, and if the proposals go ahead, that the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support will sign property related contracts on behalf of the County Council, while the Head of Special Educational Needs will sign Service Level Agreements with the new school promoters to deliver the Specialist Resource Based SEN Provision in main stream schools.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The proposals to expand school provision, as set out in this report, are included in the Education Commissioning Plan and are essential in order for the Local Authority to meet its statutory obligations in providing education provision to the children of Kent. The additional funding through the Targeted Basic Need grant helps the County to reduce the gap in our capital spending on schools between what is available and what is needed. In order to discharge the DfE conditions surrounding the targeted basic need funding, it is necessary to undertake the public engagement and consultation processes described.

5. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the increased funding available through the Targeted Basic Need grant and to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform in respect of the proposed decisions to expand or build at the schools and in the areas identified..

6. Background Documents

7.1 **Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities, policies and plans/priorities and plans/bold steps for kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx)

7.2 **Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017**

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/education and learning/plans and consultations/education plans.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans.aspx)

7.3 **Education Cabinet Committee report – 21 June 2013 – Review of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-17#**

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MIId=5047&Ver=4>

8. Contact details

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