

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

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2014

Subject: Decision Number 14/00002: Proposal to expand Chantry
Community Academy

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 14 January 2014

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Gravesend East

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to commission an enlargement of Chantry Community Academy Primary from 1FE to 2FE for September 2014.

Recommendation(s):

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Chantry Community Academy, by 30 Reception places from 1FE to 2FE.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £6000 per classroom from the 'revenue re-organisation' for classroom improvements
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a significant pressure in Reception year places. The planning area of Gravesend North is forecasted to have a deficit of up to 18 Reception year places for September 2015 and up to 53 Reception Year places for 2016.
- 1.2 It is proposed to enlarge Chantry Community Academy by 30 reception year places, taking the published admissions number (PAN) from 30 to 60 (2 Forms of Entry) for the September 2014 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils.

- 1.3 On 21 June 2013, the Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation takes place on the proposal to expand Chantry Community Academy.
- 1.4 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 23 September to 21 October 2013. A public meeting was held on Thursday, 3 October 2013.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Chantry Community Academy by 30 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.
 - a. The enlargement of the school requires the re-provisioning of existing teaching accommodation, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost to the Basic Need Budget is nil. There is a small cost of £6,000 per classroom for refreshment and refurbishment which is from DSG funding set aside for schools and Academies for this purpose. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.
 - b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
 - c. Human – Chantry Community Academy will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 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 Kent’.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ has identified the demand for up to x Reception Year places within the planning area of Gravesend North.

4. Consultation Outcomes

- 4.1 A total of 72 written responses were received: 69 respondents supporting the proposal; 3 objecting to the proposal and no respondent undecided.
- 4.2 A summary of the comments received at the time of writing is provided at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Views

5.1 The view of the Local Members:
Colin Caller said:

“I welcome the proposal to enlarge Chantry Community Academy to a 2FE. I believe this will not only provide the much needed additional primary school places in the Gravesham East Division generally but will give the parents in the immediate area greater opportunity to get school places within easy walking distance of the town centre and Milton areas. Any proposal that means parents get a greater opportunity to get their children into a school of their choice will get my support.”

Jane Cribben has been informed of the proposal.

5.2. The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:
The Headteacher and the Governing Body are supportive of the sustainable long term solution that has been proposed by KCC to enable Chantry Community Academy to move from 1 form entry to 2 form entry.

5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
The Area Education Officer for North Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution to increase demand in the area. All other schools in the planning area were considered.

Chantry Community Academy is a popular and inclusive school. It has recently converted to Academy status and has not got an Ofsted grading. The school's location in Gravesend District means it is ideally placed to meet the forecasted demand for primary school places.

6. **Proposal**

6.1 The proposed expansion of Chantry Community Academy will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.

6.2 The proposed expansion of Chantry Community Academy is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

7. **Delegation to Officers**

7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution, provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. **Conclusions**

- 8.1 Forecasts for the planning area Gravesham District indicate an increasing demand for primary school places. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2013 – 2018).

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Chantry Community Academy, by 30 places from 1FE to 2FE.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

10. Background Documents

10.1 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

10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

10.3 Education Cabinet Committee report– 21 June 2013 – Primary Commissioning in Gravesham District.

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

11. Contact details

Report Author

- Richard Dalziel, Area Education Officer, North Kent
- 01732 5051109
- Richard.dalziel@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

- Kevin Shovelton`
- Director of Education Planning and Access
- 01622 694174
- Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk

The proposed expansion of Chantry Community Academy, Gravesham to increase the PAN from 30 to 60 places

Summary of written responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed: 500

Consultation responses received: 72

A summary of the responses received showed that:

	In Favour	Undecided	Opposed
Governors			
Staff	12		
Parents	55		3
Pupils			
Other	2		
Totals	69		3

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- The headteacher, Governors and Staff are in favour of the proposals and wholeheartedly support the local authority.
- Agree with expansion will be good for the community.
- School is close to us and would like to see the best in town.
- Fantastic proposal. Great opportunity to increase amount of children attending school as it is very popular.

Comments against the proposal:

- Would prefer to keep school small & intimate as children may feel 'lost' in bigger school.
- Parking and pedestrian areas need to be considered.

Appendix 2

Proposal to expand Chantry Community Academy Gravesend Public Consultation Meeting 3 October 2013

Panel	Cllr Leyland Ridings	Chair ELS Cabinet Committee & County Member
	Richard Dalziel	Area Education Officer, West Kent
	David Hart	Area Schools Organisation Officer
	Ann Drury	Public Meeting Recorder
	Martin Clinton	Executive Headteacher
	Michelle Munns	Head of School

Introduction

Cllr Leyland Ridings welcomed parents, staff and members of the public to the meeting.

The chairman asked that any comments or questions should be addressed through the Chair. All Public Consultation meetings are recorded so an accurate record can be kept.

Purpose of the Meeting

- To explain the proposal to expand Chantry Community Academy.
- To give members of the public an opportunity to ask questions and comment.
- To listen to views and opinions.

A short presentation outlining the proposal for expansion was given by Richard Dalziel.

Kent County Council is proposing that Chantry Community Academy increase its Reception Year intake by 30. Successive reception intakes will offer 60 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 420 pupils. The school is increasing in popularity and standards are rising so the Academy would like to recognise that and put the increase formally in place.

The Area Education Officer is responsible for making sure there are enough school places in Kent. For more detail please look at our Commissioning Plan 2012-2017 on our website (kent.gov.uk) which outlines the proposals. We try to forecast the short, medium, long term birth rate and at the moment figures show in Gravesend there is a steep increase in the demand for school places. The local authority are looking to enlarge a number of primary schools in the Gravesend East planning area and will be talking to such schools as Holy Trinity CofE, Kings Farm, Raynehurst, Riverview Infant, Riverview Junior, St John's RC and Westcourt to see if expansion is a possibility.

Certain changes will be required of the school as it is envisaged that an additional 14 teaching rooms will be required. Chantry Community Academy currently has the space available but will need some internal refurbishment/refreshment. All work will be agreed with the Executive Headteacher, Head of School and Chair of Governors to minimise disruption and help maintain control over health & safety of pupils, parents and staff.

Timetable

Jun 2013	KCC Education Committee (recommendation to consult)
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Sep 2013	Start of consultation
Oct 2013	Public meeting
Oct 2013	Close of consultation (deadline for comments)
Dec 2013	KCC Education Committee (results of consultation)
Dec 2013	KCC Cabinet Member decision on the proposal
Dec 2013	Public Notice issued (if agreed by Cabinet Member)
Jan 2014	End of Statutory Representation Period
Jan 2014	Formal Cabinet Member decision
Tbc	Building work underway
Sep 2014	School opens as a 2FE school

No final decisions will be made until the consultation process has finished. We look forward to receiving your comments so please complete a response form and return it by 21 October 2013.

Q. The next generation is growing up and will need school places, so I appreciate what you are trying to do and hope it will continue.	Thank you for your support. Your comment has been noted.
Q. Is this the only school that is increasing its capacity or are there others in the Gravesham area?	We have either increased capacity or will be increasing capacity in a number of schools, it's simply not just about Chantry but part of an on-going programme to meet the demand for primary school places for the young people in this area. It's not just Chantry.
	There has been a significant increase in birth rate which is one of the reasons we need to provide more school places. There is also a considerable amount of house building which will attract more people into area and more children as a result. Inward migration from London and other parts of Kent is also a significant factor so that is why we need to expand some of the schools. The local authority are working closely with Gravesham Borough Council to help resolve these issues as we now know when the figures are going to peak and dive. This increased trend will continue into the Secondary Schools which will be another the local authority will have to address in a few years time.
Q. My family have, since 1967, gone to Holy Trinity CoE Primary School and we tried to get my son in there last year but failed. We have appealed and appealed	I can understand the family links but if you get a place at this school I can guarantee you a good level of education as it is a well-managed school and the standards

but it's quite important for us as a family, as all my family went there. It is part of our culture and I would still like to get my child into Holy Trinity so I am all in favour of expanding the schools.

are rising.

The Executive Headteacher extended a warm welcome to everyone and added the Meopham Academy Trust is fully supportive of the proposal to expand the school. The Trust Governors are very keen to expand to a 2FE school as we are concerned that everyone who wanted a place wouldn't be able to get into the school. To expand to 60 is probably as much the site can take and in the longer term we are optimistic that all children will get into the school. We feel that Chantry is heading back in the right direction and will continue to improve with the increased numbers. As the Executive Headteacher I am very happy to support this proposal.

The Head of School thanked everyone for coming this evening as it is important for the school to expand. The school want to meet the demands of the local community it's really about putting the children first.

As there were no further questions, Cllr Ridings asked Richard Dalziel to go over the dates again.

If you would like to respond to the proposals there are some forms available in reception. If you could fill those out either tonight or send them in with the children tomorrow it would be great. The consultation closes on the 21 October so we need to receive them by then.

I would like to thank you for attending this evening and we hope you found the meeting useful.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm and Cllr Ridings thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for the questions that had been asked.

3 people attended the meeting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00002

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Chantry Community Academy

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

- (iii) Issue a public notice to expand Chantry Community Academy, by 30 places from 1FE to 2FE.

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice

- (iv) Expand the school
- (iii) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iv) AUTHORISE the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts

Should objections, not already considered by the cabinet member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and expand the school to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Gravesham section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for up to 53 additional Reception Year places within the planning area of Gravesham North for 2016.

The expansion of Chantry Community Academy, will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at an outstanding, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 3 October 2013, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillors; 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

Financial Implications:

It is proposed to enlarge Chantry Community Academy by 30 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 existing classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is to the Basic Need

Budget is nil. There is a small cost of £6,000 per classroom for refreshment and refurbishment. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget on a 'per pupil' basis.
- c. Human – Chantry Community Academy will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

2 June 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the planning area of Gravesham District.

14 January 2014

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

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

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Signed

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Date