

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

**To:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health  
Reform

**Subject:** 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:** Following the recommendations from Education Cabinet Committee on 14 January 2014, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to agree to expand Chantry Community Academy Primary from 1FE to 2FE for September 2014.

*Recommendation(s):*

that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform take 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.
- 1.5 On 14 January 2014, the Cabinet Committee considered the proposed decision and discussed the concerns raised. and resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform he agree to decision (14/0002).

## **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.

## **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 Cribbens 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)

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that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform take the decision to:

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

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## 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](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

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

10.4 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

## 11. Contact details

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