

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00003

For publication

Subject:

Proposal to relocate Tunstall CE Primary School and expand the school by 210 places from 1FE to 2FE.

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to relocate Tunstall CE Primary School and expand the school by 210 places from 1FE to 2FE.

And, following the expiration of the public notice:

- (ii) Relocate and expand the school subject to planning permission being agreed
- (iii) Allocate £4,818,000 from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget.
- (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
- (v) 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. This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Swale section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 has identified a need for up to 24 additional Reception Year places within the planning area of South Sittingbourne.

The expansion of Tunstall CE Primary School will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good and popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 22 October, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillors; The Diocese of Canterbury; 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 Tunstall CE Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 60 (2FE)

for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 420 places.

- a. Capital – The school will be rebuilt as a 2FE school on a site owned by KCC located approximately 500 metres to the north east of the existing school. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £4,818,000. 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 – Tunstall CE Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2012

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

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 (1/00003) to

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Views of the Local Members

Roger Truelove is in favour of relocation on educational grounds because the current site is not fit for purpose. He also accepts the case for expanding to two forms of entry to meet need in the Sittingbourne area.

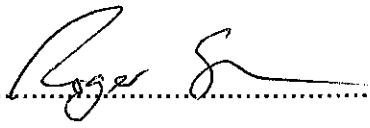
Lee Burgess has declared his interest in the proposal as he is chairman of Tunstall Parish Council and lives in a property opposite the current school site. Mr Burgess has strong objections to the proposal which are contained in the report to the Cabinet Member.

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:

None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Roger S', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Signed

20 February 2014

date