

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00004

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Iwade Community Primary School

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to expand Iwade Community Primary School, by 210 places from 2FE (60) to 3FE (90).

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

- (ii) Expand the school
- (iii) Allocate £3,500,000 from 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 87 additional Reception Year places within Swale district.

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

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 18 November, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the Borough and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; 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 Iwade Community Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2015 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3,500,000 of which £1,946,501 will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and the remainder from the Basic Need Budget. 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 – Iwade Community 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 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 (1/00004) to

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

- (ii) Expand the school
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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.

The View of the Local Members

Lee Burgess has commented as follows:

'I have discussed this fully with the Parish Council and fully support the comments they have put forward which also reflect my views on the proposal.' Full comments can be found in the report to the Cabinet Member

Roger Truelove has provided the following comments:

'Whilst I appreciate the demographic pressure I am a little concerned about the proliferation of 3 form entry schools emerging in the Sittingbourne area. There will be strong local concerns about traffic and parking in the School Lane area. This has presented problems in the past and local residents naturally fear an increase in numbers.'

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

20 February 2014