

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00012 (b)

For publication

Subject: Proposal to merge and relocate Foxwood and Highview Schools

Decision:

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

- (i) close Foxwood School
- (ii) relocate Highview School and increase the designated number from .282 to 336 for September 2015.
- (iii) Allocate £16.8m from the Education, Learning and Skills Capital Budget in order that the proposal may go ahead.
- (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
- (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.

This decision is conditional upon the grant of planning permission under part 3 of the town and country planning act 1990.

Reason(s) for decision:

The SEND Strategy sets out an aim to increase the number of places in special schools from 3,491 to 3,700 (209 places). This proposal will add 54 of those places to special schools in South Kent, whilst at the same time it will improve the educational opportunities for the pupils currently at both schools. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 10 December, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillors; the Executive Headteacher and Governing Body of the schools;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below
- the responses to the Public Notice

Financial Implications:

- a. **Capital:** The proposal requires the provision of a new purpose built building on KCC owned land at Park Farm Road, Folkestone. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £16.8m. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme, which includes funding from the Targeted Basic Need allocation from the DfE made in August 2013. 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 schools delegated budget will be allocated on the combined numbers of the two predecessor schools.

The Place Plus funding rate will include an element to reflect a lump sum. The Place Plus funding rate for the amalgamated school will only include one lump sum element and will result in a reduction of £360,148 over time when compared to the total of the two predecessor school budgets.

Full protection will be provided on the lump sum elements for the period from the point of amalgamation to the end of the financial year and at 85% of the combined lump sums for the full financial year following the year in which the schools amalgamated.

- c. Human: The school will appoint additional teachers and support staff as required.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan on 27 September 2013, which identified a need to enlarge both Foxwood and Highview Schools. The County Council's commitment to rebuilding and/or refurbishing its special schools has been well recorded over the years

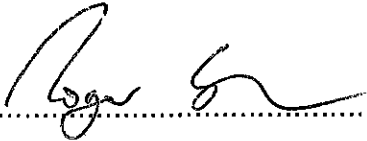
2 December 2013

The Education Cabinet Committee was informed of the public consultation on this proposal by email on 2 December 2013.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and this proposal is the only suitable option for these schools.

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


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Signed

3 April 2014
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Date