

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00122

For publication

**Subject: Proposal to increase the designated numbers of St Anthony's (Community Special) School, Margate**

Decision:

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

- (i) Issue a public notice to increase the designated number of St Anthony's School from 96 to 112

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

- (ii) Increase the designated number of St Anthony's (Community Special) School from 96 to 112
- (iii) Allocate £1.5m, of which £528,605 will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and £971,395 from Capital Projects budget and Special Schools Review 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

This decision conditional upon planning permission being granted

Should any 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 proposals and allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 In May 2012, KCC Education Cabinet Committee agreed to the development of a Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disability for the children and young people of Kent.
- 1.2 The one the central aims of the strategy is to support every child and young person in Kent to achieve their full life potential, whatever their background. An important aspect of this is to develop a well-planned continuum of provision that meets the needs of children and young people with the most complex special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). We therefore are reviewing and developing the capacity of special schools to serve their locality – defining their offer and building in capacity to respond to future need.
- 1.3 Over time, in order to meet our responsibilities a number of our special schools have been asked to admit additional pupils. In some cases this has led the schools involved to exceed their designated numbers to the extent that we now need to complete a statutory consultation process to permanently increase the designated numbers and regularise the situation. These proposals will help to secure our ambition, "to ensure every child can go to a good school where

they make good progress and to support vulnerable pupils, including pupils with special education needs and disabilities, so that they achieve well and make good progress”,

1.4 The Special Educational Needs section of the Kent Commissioning Plan 2013-2018 relating to the future provision for children with special educational needs will be updated in line with the development of Kent’s Strategy for SEN and Disability. The overarching aim of the strategy is to improve the health, well-being, attainment and progress, and quality of provision for children and young people with SEN. An important aspect of this is to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector.

1.5 In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. the views put in writing in response to the consultation;
2. the views of the District Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the parents and staff
3. the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
4. the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

**Financial Implications:**

2.1

- a. To facilitate the increase in the designated number it is proposed that KCC funded improvements to the school will provide new indoor sports facilities, changing rooms and ancillary spaces necessary to meet the needs of students. It is proposed that KCC funded improvements to the school will provide new indoor sports facilities, changing rooms and ancillary spaces necessary to meet the needs of students. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £1.5 million of which £528,605 will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and the remainder from the capital projects budget and Special Schools Review 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 schools delegated budget will be allocated on an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the High Needs funding methodology of ‘Place Plus’.
- c. Human –St Antony’s 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 that identified the need to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that a consultation commence.

Any alternatives considered:

These proposals will regulate the designated numbers of both schools and allow the local authority to continue to meet its responsibilities with regard to providing sufficient places for pupils for whom an appropriate placement is at a special school.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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**Signed**

..... 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014

**Date**