

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

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

**Subject:** Decision number: 14/00122 Proposal to increase the  
designated numbers of St Anthony's (Community Special)  
School, Margate

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education Cabinet Committee: 4 December 2013 –  
Increasing capacity: creating SEN Provision; 4 March 2014 – Re-designation of  
Special Schools across Kent.

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Divisions:** St Anthony's School – Margate & Cliftonville

**Local Members:** Margate & Cliftonville – Mo Elenor and William Scobie

**Summary:** This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposals to increase the designated numbers of St Anthony's (Community Special) School from 96 to 112

*Recommendation(s):*

**The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision 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.

## **1. Introduction**

- 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.

The overarching aim 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.

- 1.2 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.

- 1.3 This report sets out the results of the public consultations, which took place between 8 September and 6 October 2014. Public meetings were not held, but consultation letters were sent to parents/carers, members of staff and governors of the school explaining the reasons for the consultation and providing the opportunity to send in a response.

## **2. 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.

### **3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

- 3.1 This proposal 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 As set out in our SEN and Disability Strategy this proposal supports our aim for every child and young person in Kent to achieve their full life potential, whatever their background.
- 3.2 The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ referred to the need to review the future capacity of specialist SEN provision within special schools and within the mainstream sector.

### **4. Consultation Outcomes**

- 4.1 The consultation ended on 6 October 2014.
- 4.3 The only response to the St Anthony’s consultation was from Thanet District Council, indicating their support for the proposal.

### **5. Views**

- 5.1 The view of the Local Members: The Local Members have been consulted.
  - Mo Elenor, Local Member for Margate and Cliftonville, responded to the St Anthony’s consultation saying that she supported the proposal as the increase is not excessive and in the current climate seems necessary.
- 5.2. The view of the School – St Anthony’s School

From a school point of view we are happy to extend the designated number from 96 to 112 as in reality this is in line with historic actual numbers. The transition to a more Secondary resource would also be welcomed but realise that pressures may make the aspiration of developing primary units on mainstream school sites unlikely in the short term.

We would welcome further advice on the capital improvements that will be needed to transform the primary area into a secondary resource area, along with building considerations which are well overdue, e.g. replacement roof and heating system.

In conclusion we realise there is a need to have flexibility in the plans so that we can meet the complex needs of a growing B & L cohort in the Thanet area.

The view of the Area Education Officer:

The Area Education Officer fully supports the proposal to increase the designated number of the school to reflect the number of children that have

been admitted over time to ensure the local authority meets its responsibilities. The permanent increase will enable 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.

## **6. Proposal**

6.1 The proposals are to increase the designated number of St Anthony's School from 96 to 112.

6.2 The proposed increase in the designated number **is** subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposal as part of the consultation and can be found via the following link:

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

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.

## **8. Conclusions**

8.1 These proposals will regulate the designated numbers of the 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.

## **9. Recommendation(s)**

### **Recommendation(s):**

**The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision 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.

## 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– 27 September 2013

<http://kent590w3:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=5033&Ver=4>

10.4 Consultation Documents and Equalities Impact Assessments

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

## 11. Contact details

Report Author

- Marisa White, Area Education Officer –East Kent
- Tel number 01227 284407
- [marisa.white@kent.gov.uk](mailto:marisa.white@kent.gov.uk)

Relevant Director:

- Kevin Shovelton`
- Director of Education Planning and Access
- 01622 694174
- [Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.shovelton@kent.gov.uk)