

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

For publication

**Subject: Proposed expansion of West Minster Primary School**

Decision:

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

- i. Issue a public notice to expand West Minster Primary School from 2FE to 3FE increasing the published admission number to 90 and adding a 15 place specialist resource base provision for children with speech, language and communication needs.

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

- ii. Expand the school and add a SRBP.
- iii. Allocate £3,000,000 from Education & Young People's Services 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

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted

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 allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 has identified a need for up to 213 Reception Year places in Sheerness, which exceeds the number of places available. Expanding West Minster Primary School from 2FE to 3FE will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. The SEND Strategy forms the County Council's policy and strategy for special educational needs, and was approved by Cabinet in July 20-13. It identifies key priorities to improve and expand our provision and close the attainment gap for children with special educational needs and disabilities. It identified the need to increase capacity, including opening SRBPs in mainstream settings so that additional children can have help in a local mainstream school.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. the views expressed by those attending the consultation meeting on 13 May 2015, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
2. the views of the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school and Staff;
3. the Equalities Impact Assessment and any comments received regarding this; and
4. the views of the Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to enlarge West Minster Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places. It is proposed to add a 15 place specialist resource base provision for children with speech, language and communication needs.

a. Capital: The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities, plus a classroom for the SRBP. A feasibility study has been completed the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £3,000,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme. 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: For a period of three academic years from September 2016 the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils at the rate of £2,740 per pupil. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs. The school will receive funding for its SRBP; the funding will be allocated at £10,000 per place, for a guaranteed number of places and top up funding will allocated in addition to this based on the actual attendance of the pupil.

c. Human: West Minster Primary School will appoint additional teachers, including a specialist teacher for the SRBP, as the need arises and the school size increases.

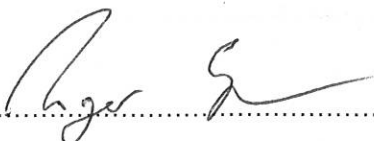
**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

On 24 September 2014 Cabinet Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places in the Swale District.

**Any alternatives considered:**

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 explored all options for providing additional primary school places. This proposal to expand West Minster Primary School was deemed the suitable option.

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



10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015

Signed

Date