

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL -RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00042

[For publication

Subject:

The Ellington & Hereson School's Governing Body and Trustees proposal to enlarge the school to provide for 1200 students with an admission number of 200 for Year 7 entry in September 2016. It is proposed that the enlarged school will operate over two sites:

- o The Lower School (Years 7, 8 and 9) will be located at Newlands Lane, Ramsgate, CT12 6RH
- o The Upper School (Years 10, 11, 12 and 13) will be located at Stirling Way, Ramsgate, CT12 6NB (currently the site of the Marlowe Academy which is proposed for closure by the Department for Education on 31 August 2015).

The Ellington & Hereson School's Governing Body and Trustees proposal to add a 6th form with capacity for 200 students, increasing the upper age limit of the school from 16 to 19 years.

Decision:

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

- (i) The governing body of The Ellington & Hereson School, Ramsgate implementing their decision to enlarge the school to provide for 1200 students, with an admission number of 200 for Year 7 entry in September 2016.
- (ii) The governing body and trustees of The Ellington & Hereson School, Ramsgate, implementing their decision to add a 6th form and increase the upper age limit of the school from 16 to 19 years.

Reason(s) for decision:

I believe that the proposal to provide one larger viable Secondary school for the students of Ramsgate will deliver the best opportunities for both current and future students, providing access to a broad based curriculum and good educational, vocational and sports facilities. It will also provide the capacity for future growth to respond to the increased numbers of pupils coming through from Thanet Primary schools over the next few years.

I believe that the proposal to add a 6th form provides the opportunity for the Local Authority to work with the senior leadership team and governors to develop the new 6th form provision, so that it is well coordinated with other post 16 provision in the area and offers a wide range of vocational, technical and academic learning pathways. The Kent 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy has the ambition for all young people in Kent to become better qualified and more employable, and to participate and to achieve success in education until the age of 18.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- a the views expressed in response to the consultation;
- o that there were no responses to the statutory public notice;
- o the views of the Area Education Officer and the Skills and Employability Team;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and any comments received regarding this;
- o The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained School) (England) Regulations 2013 and
The Department for Education – Guidance for Decision-makers issued in January 2014.

Financial Implications

Capital – The Marlowe site and buildings will transfer back into KCC ownership in line with provisions in the original agreement when Marlowe was established until such time as Ellington & Hereson transfers into the Coastal Academies Trust, when the land and buildings will be subject to a 125 year lease.

Revenue – There are cost implications related to bringing the two school sites together, aligning ICT systems and potential redundancy costs. Detailed costs are being established and discussions are taking place with the Education Funding Agency in order to mitigate any financial risk for the school and the Authority.

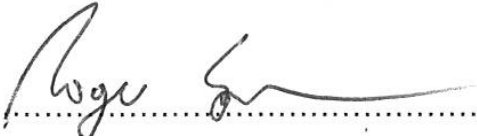
Human – All staff of Marlowe Academy with employment rights will be subject to TUPE. Following transfer, a revised staffing structure will need to be implemented. Both sets of staff are being consulted and supported through the process.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

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

Any alternatives considered:

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

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..... 17th June 2015

Signed

Date