

From: Gary Cooke, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services
Rebecca Spore - Director of Infrastructure

To: Property Sub-Committee - 23rd September 2015

Decision No. 15/00077

Subject: Approval to enter into new lease at the Detached Playing Field at the former Chaucer Technology College, Spring Lane, Canterbury for the benefit of Barton Court Grammar School, Canterbury

Classification: For Publication

Past Pathway of Paper: Published on Forward Executive Decision List

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Canterbury

Summary: This report seeks approval to enter into a new long lease with the Governing Body to Barton Court Grammar School, Canterbury.

Recommendation(s):

The Property Sub-Committee is asked to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services on the proposed decision to enter into a new lease at the detached playing field to the former Chaucer Technology College and for the Director of Infrastructure to finalise terms and complete the transaction.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Chaucer Technology College was a maintained School, which entered the former grant-maintained sector on 1st September 1993. The Transfer of the County Council's land to the Governing Body of the College was completed on 5th May 1995. The College became a Foundation School on 1st September 2009.
- 1.2 Most of the land which transferred to the Governing Body comprised of the traditional College building site in Spring Lane, Canterbury. A small part of a large detached playing field in Spring Lane also transferred to the Governing Body, as this was both held for and used by the College. The portion of playing field has an area of approximately 2 acres.
- 1.3 The remainder of the detached playing field transferred to the Governing Body to Barton Court Grammar School, Canterbury, as this School also entered the former grant maintained sector on 1st September 1993. Barton Court Grammar School has since converted to a Foundation School and an Academy.
- 1.4 Chaucer Technology College formally closed on 31st August 2015. It is anticipated that the land and property owned by the Governing Body will revert

back into the County Council's ownership, in its capacity as former maintaining authority. A formal notification to this effect is currently awaited from the Department for Education.

- 1.5 Barton Court Grammar School is likely to be expanding by another 1 Form Entry (1FE) in 2017 in line with the commissioning plan. To provide the School with enough playing field to meet prevailing Regulation requirements, the School have expressed interest in taking a lease of the portion of playing fields previously owned by the College's Governing Body, on the terms set out in the exempt report (Approval to enter into a new lease at the Detached Playing field at the Former Chaucer Technology School, Spring Lane, Canterbury, for the benefit of Barton Court Grammar School, Canterbury).

2. Facing the Challenge and Corporate Objectives

- 2.1 The granting of the lease will enable the Grammar School to expand and deliver its physical education function in accordance with prevailing Regulation requirements.
- 2.2 Granting the proposed lease will assist with the following Supporting Outcomes as part of the Strategic Outcome to ensure children and young people in Kent get the best start in life:-
 - provision of a strong and safe environment to successfully raise children and young people,
 - children and young people have better physical and mental health,
 - all children are engaged, thrive and achieve their potential through academic and vocational education.
- 2.3 The proposed decision does not relate to a plan or strategy set out in the Council's Policy Framework.

3. Consultations

The Local Member has not been formally consulted with regard to the granting of the proposed lease.

4. Conclusion

The granting of the lease will enable the Grammar School to operate with playing fields of a size which will comply with prevailing Regulation requirements.

It should be noted that the granting of the lease is conditional upon the former Chaucer site reverting to the County Council's ownership. An oral update in respect of this will be supplied to Members at the meeting prior to this Report being considered.

5. Recommendation

Recommendations:

The Property Sub-Committee is asked to consider and either endorse or make recommendations on the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services on the proposed decision that subject to the County Council becoming owners of the playing field, to enter into a new lease at the detached playing field at the former Chaucer Technology College, Canterbury and for the Director of Infrastructure to finalise the selected purchaser and terms of the proposed sale.

6. Contact details

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