

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee
15 December 2015

Subject: Proposed alterations to Ridge View School (Tonbridge)

Decision number: 15/00091

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013;
14 March 2014.

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Tonbridge: Richard Long, TD, and Christopher Smith; Malling Rural North East: Peter Homewood.

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation of proposed changes to Ridge View School (Tonbridge)

Recommendation(s): The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Relocate Ridge View School to a site at Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge for 1 September 2017;
- (ii) Establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017; and
- (iii) Increase the designated number of places offered at Ridge View School, from 180 to 228 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no new objections to the public notice:-

- (iv) Allocate £14.5m from Special School Review budget and £2.3m from the Targeted Basic Need budget, superseding decision 14/00098 taken on 2 September 2014;
- (v) Implement the proposals according to the dates identified above;
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- (vi) 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.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add capacity across the County. The SEND Strategy shows how we will be creating 209 extra places in special schools and 164 in mainstream schools.
- 1.2 As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings. These proposals reflect KCC's aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19.
- 1.3 The numbers of children with profound, severe and complex needs (PSCN) is increasing which has resulted in pressure on places in Kent. Due to the complexity of needs of its pupils and capacity restriction of the school site, Ridge View School is unable to admit its current designated number (180) and currently has 112 pupils on roll. The need for additional places in the Tonbridge and Malling District was recognised by the Government and £2.3m was allocated from Targeted Basic Need funding to enable the relocation and expansion of the school.
- 1.4 Ridge View School is currently located in unsuitable buildings in North Tonbridge in a campus with two mainstream schools, preventing expansion. Despite the inadequate buildings Ridge View School continues to provide outstanding education, as recognised by Ofsted
- 1.5 The School has established outreach services which support all the mainstream schools within the Tonbridge and Malling District. Ridge View School is a vital part of KCC's strategy for ensuring special schools are at the heart of their communities so enabling many pupils with SEN to remain within their local mainstream school. To continue to provide this service Ridge View School must remain within the District of Tonbridge and Malling. The proposed relocation and expansion of Ridge View School would facilitate an increase in, and greater utilisation of, training facilities and shared resources to benefit all schools within the District.

Initial plans to move to Higham Lane, Tonbridge, Kent

- 1.6 A planning application for the relocation of Ridge View School to a site on Higham Lane, Tonbridge was submitted earlier this year but following significant difficulties, including a requirement for excessive drainage work, it was subsequently withdrawn.

Site at Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge, Kent

- 1.7 Another site search was undertaken by KCC and their agents as part of the planning application for Higham Lane. Each identified site was evaluated and considered on its merits. From this work we were confident that the Higham Lane site was the best available at that time. Subsequent to that, KCC identified that Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge is a more suitable alternative.

- 1.8 Yeoman's Field is currently used by the Judd School as sports playing fields, although it is on a remote site away from the main Judd campus. KCC has reached an agreement with the Judd School to release Yeoman's Field for Ridge View School, subject to planning approval.

Proposal to establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017

- 1.9 Further to the successful implementation of Satellite classes of special schools located within mainstream schools KCC is proposing to establish additional classes for Ridge View School within the proposed new location of the Wouldham All Saints CEP School site. It is intended that the Satellite have its accommodation which will be fully integrated into the new plans for Wouldham All Saints CEPS and will operate on the Ridge View School model. Pupils will remain on the role of Ridge View schools and it will be staffed by Ridge View School staff and pupils attending the satellite will continue to have access to the support they need.
- 1.10 Wouldham All Saints CEPS is recognised as a good school by Ofsted and is located in Wouldham Village of the Tonbridge and Malling District. The Governing Body, with the support of KCC, is currently consulting on a proposal to relocate and expand the school for September 2017. The proposal to establish a Satellite provision is linked to and contingent upon the relocation and expansion of Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- 1.11 Wouldham All Saints CEPS is being asked to host a new Satellite provision for up to 48 pupils with moderate to complex learning difficulties. The Headteacher and Governing Body at Wouldham All Saints CEPS are happy to host the satellite and are confident that staff from Ridge View School will bring the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of the children, for the benefit of both schools.
- 1.12 An assessment of the individual needs of the child will identify that they are suitable for Satellite provision at a mainstream school. For example, those children who will benefit from having some opportunities to join in mainstream school activities for either social situations i.e. lunchtime clubs, breaks etc. or for taught subjects such as Maths, English, PE or any area relevant to the individual child. The Headteachers and Governors at both schools will be invited to take part in the discussions about which pupils are most appropriate and should be admitted. All of the children in the Satellite will have met the entry criteria for Ridge View School and will be on the roll of Ridge View School whilst attending the Satellite.
- 1.13 KCC recognises the significant importance given to parent/carer views in the Students and Families Act reforms of SEN and Disabilities which came into force from September 2014 and has looked to ensure they are involved in shaping and influencing strategic decisions that affect their students and young people. Therefore, we undertook a consultation with parents at Ridge View School and a full range of stakeholders on these proposals.

- 1.14 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, which took place between 7 October 2015 until 11 November 2015. A drop-in information sessions for parents was held on 13 October 2015 at Ridge View School between 3.00pm and 6.30pm.

2. Financial Implications

- a. Capital – On 27 September 2013 the Education Cabinet Committee received a paper on the Targeted Basic Need projects and the Committee resolved to endorse the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decisions to expand and refurbish and build schools in the identified areas. A further decision, number 14/0098 was taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on 2 September 2014 to allocate £14.6m for the relocation of the school. It is proposed that this decision be superseded by a further decision to allocate £16.8m of which £2.3m will be from Targeted Basic Need Budget and £14.5m from the Special School Review Budget. The increase costs result from inflationary pressures on building works and site specific costs for Yeoman's lane.

The new proposals to make prescribed alterations to Ridge View School will allow for the provision of a new purpose-built special school. The initial design approach considers the topography and constraints of the site and how this best serves the needs of the school. The amount of external space for the school is paramount to the school's curriculum for external learning and play. To optimise the external space the building of the site informed the form of the building, allowing direct access from classrooms and the main building to a secure landscaped external area.

A single building solution creates the opportunity to zone the areas of the school in relation to their function, with communal zones providing space for exchange and the opportunity to share resources. Where previously different functions of the school have been fragmented across different buildings, a single building lends itself to creating a 'village model' whereby all parts of the school have access to more facilities and have a greater flexibility of space.

Each cluster of classrooms wraps partially around shared quiet communal zones with access to small group rooms, providing multiple space options for teaching and learning. High ceilings will be provided in order for the classrooms to be bright and airy and all classrooms on the ground floor open onto external areas for outside learning. For all higher dependent classrooms on the ground floor there is direct access to toilets from classrooms.

The hall will be large enough for three badminton courts and will be able to be divided with a moveable acoustic wall. This alongside the Hydrotherapy pool will provide excellent opportunities for the needs of pupils at the school.

A life skills house will be provide opportunity for pupils to prepare for everyday life after finishing school. This is designed to have the appearance of a regular 3 bedroom house, two stories with a pitched roof. There will be wheelchair accessible bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor, and fully integrated lower kitchen work tops for independent use by wheelchair users.

b. Revenue:

- i. The schools delegated budget will be allocated for an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the Place Plus High Needs funding methodology.
- ii. Human – Ridge View School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises. The costs of the satellite unit would be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding being provided to Ridge View School to run the provision. A detailed agreement will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding, which will be agreed and signed by both schools.

3. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020) Policy Framework

3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’

3.2 These proposals reflect KCC’s aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in Kent’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19.

4. Consultation Outcomes

4.1 Approximately 600 hard copies of the public consultation document were circulated, which included a form for written responses. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, staff and governors of both schools, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, local libraries, Parish Councils, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, and others. The consultation document was posted on the KCC website and the link to the website widely circulated. An opportunity to send in written responses using the response form, email and online was also provided.

4.2 During the consultation period some uncertainty was expressed by parents concerning the proposal to create a Satellite provision at Wouldham All Saints CEPS. A drop-in session was organised on 13 October between 3.00 and 6.00pm at Ridge View School and further clarification was distributed to parents by Ridge View School with support of the Area Education Officer.

4.3 Following the closure of the consultation period 25 positive responses were received, 3 were negative and 2 were undecided bringing the total to 30 responses. A copy of all responses received has been passed to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform for his consideration. A summary of responses is attached at Appendix 1 including the full response from the Leader of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council indicating the Borough Council’s strategic support for this project at this stage.

5. Views

- 5.1 The Local Members for Tonbridge and Malling Rural North East have been consulted about these proposals.

The view of Richard Long, Local Member for Tonbridge

The proposed relocation of Ridge View School is greatly needed and the site chosen seems to be suitable. I support the application.

The View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Ridge View School

- 5.2 The staff and governors of Ridge View are fully in support of the plans for a new school building located on Yeomans field. We have been working with the Local Authority for a number of years to secure a new site for the much needed new school building for Ridge View. This exciting opportunity will enable us to create a purpose built special school with the highly specialised environments and facilities that our diverse pupil population require.

Ridge View's current 1950's school building is not fit for purpose and we are unable to expand our provision on the current site to allow us to reach our current designated pupil number of 180. We desperately need to be able to provide more school places for pupils with special needs living in the Tonbridge and Malling area.

Ridge View school are very keen to provide a range of educational experiences for their pupils. The development of a satellite provision within a mainstream primary school will be an exciting opportunity for pupils. The purpose built SEN environment within the school will support pupils to access relevant mainstream experiences whilst also providing the levels of support that these pupils require. For staff and the leadership team it is an opportunity to develop professionally by both sharing and gaining skills and knowledge within and beyond Wouldham All Saints CEPS.

The View of the Headteacher and Governing Body of Wouldham All Saints CEPS

- 5.3 Wouldham All Saints CEPS is very keen to be involved with a fully integrated specialist provision enabling children with particular individual needs to be able to share in the outstanding provision and facilities that are being proposed. This will also allow the new location to become a hub of support for schools within the area and especially for our River collaboration group which has already achieved good results from closer working in Specialist Educational Needs.

The View of the KCC Head of SEN Assessment and Placement

- 5.4 Establishing a primary satellite of Ridge View School at Wouldham will increase the opportunity for the most able to benefit Ridge View students to benefit from learning alongside children of the same age. Through their children's individual assessments and discussion about placements, a number of parents and carers have asked the Council to provide the broadest range of provision so that they have a choice of a local school. They also wish to ensure the staff in the school have received the training and support needed to understand what can act as a barrier to learning. The location of the satellite will mean that children from the furthest point of the district to Ridge View may no longer need to travel in order to access specialist teaching.

The space will be used by Ridge View pupils and has been designed with their needs in mind to enable flexible grouping and smaller areas for highly specialist intervention such as speech and language therapy. It is envisaged that the satellite will also support outreach to other schools through the work of specialist teaching and learning service and the local inclusion forum LIFT.

The View of the Area Education Officer:

5.5 The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports these proposals. The relocation of Ridge View School is essential to ensure that the needs of local children with SEND can be accommodated in significantly improved facilities within Tonbridge. The Ridge View Satellite at Wouldham, All Saints CEPS will provide much needed places and improved outreach in the north of the Borough and result in clear benefits to both schools through their partnership.

6. Proposal

6.1 These proposals are set out in accordance with Section 19 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Kent County Council intends to make prescribed alterations to:

- Relocate Ridge View School to a site at Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge for September 2017
- Establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017
- Increase the designated number of places offered at Ridge View School, from 180 to 228 for September 2017

6.2 The proposed alterations to Ridge View School and Wouldham, All Saints CEPS are subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

6.4 There will be an impact on the value of KCC's property portfolio will be increased.

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. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

8.1 This proposal will create an additional 48 places at Ridge View School for students in line with Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2015 – 2019).

9. Recommendation(s)

Recommendation(s): The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decision to:

Issue a public notice to:

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- (ii) Establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017; and
- (iii) Increase the designated number of places offered at Ridge View School, from 180 to 228 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no new objections to the public notice:-

- (vi) Allocate £14.5m from Special School Review budget and £2.3m from the Targeted Basic Need budget, superseding decision 14/00098 taken on 2 September 2014;
- (vii) Implement the proposals according to the dates identified above;
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- (iv) 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.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>
- 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 http://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/16236/Commissioningplan-for-education-provision-in-Kent-2015-2019.pdf
- 10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations
- 10.4 Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/childrensocial-care-and-families-policies>

11. Report Author

- Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer – West Kent
- Telephone: 03000 412209

- Email: Jared.nehra@kent.gov.uk

12 Relevant Director

- Keith Abbott, Director of Education Planning and Access
- Telephone: 03000 417008
- Email: Keith.abbott@kent.gov.uk

Summary of Written Responses

Proposals to:

- Relocate Ridge View School, Cage Green Road, Tonbridge to a site at Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge for September 2017
- Establish a Satellite provision of Ridge View School at Wouldham All Saints CEP School for 48 students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from 1 September 2017
- Increase the designated number of places offered at Ridge View School, from 180 to 228 for September 2017

Consultation documents (hard copies) distributed: 600 Responses received: 30

| | Support | Against | Undecided | Total |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Parents/Carers | 13 | 2 | 2 | 17 |
| Governors | 3 | | | 3 |
| Members of Staff | 6 | | | 6 |
| Other Interested Parties | 3 | 1 | | 4 |
| Total | 25 | 3 | 2 | 30 |

In support of the proposals

Parents/Carers

Agree

- Have trust in the school management and teaching team to be making the best relevant decision for all children in attached and support them whole-heartedly.
- Believe that a new larger purpose built school will be beneficial to both pupils and staff and can only enhance the students' learning.
- Pupils and staff deserve a new build school.
- Additional/replacement facilities are urgently required to ensure continued wellbeing of the students.
- Proposal to expand the number of places at Ridge View School is a good idea. Main concern would be how smooth would the transition for the existing pupils?
- Reducing the travel time for young children is important.
- Very much in support of the proposal for a new build and satellite provision in the north of the county which will ease the pressure on Ridge View's main site.
- Although in support, have concerns about the logistics of running a school in two locations but do feel that it is beneficial for another site to share the responsibility for outreach support.
- Please ensure this happens, any further delays and disappointments will force us, as parents to re-consider if the current setting is a suitable environment that meets the needs of our children for secondary education.

Member of Staff

Agree

- Satellite provision would work and help students as long as students can decide and are not forced to attend the satellite – same for staff.
- Relocating Ridge View main school cannot come quick enough – it is well over due and much needed.
- The proposal for the new Ridge View site has all the amenities the children require.
- The proposal for the SEN unit at Wouldham School is a fantastic idea.
- The Satellite provision sounds excellent, providing it is run with adequate staff. A new school will be welcomed for staff and students with more space and better facilities.

Governors

Agree

- The children deserve the best environment to learn and develop, and try to achieve some independence.
- Please ensure this application is successful and ready for September 2017.
- Wholly support the proposals to relocate the School in to Yeoman's Field in Tonbridge, establish the satellite provision in Wouldham and to the increase in number of places.

Rebuild on Yeoman's Field:

- Thoroughly support the proposals outlined in the consultation document to relocate Ridge View School to Yeoman's Field and to establish a satellite provision at Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- Ridge View is currently housed in a building that is wholly unsuitable for the pupils it serves. The buildings are long past their useful life and are now becoming too costly to maintain.
- To meet the growing need for increased spaces in special schools within the Tonbridge area the school needs to increase in size and this cannot be done on the current site. Even in its current position the school is unable to admit its designated number of pupils on roll due to the building being too small and therefore desperately
- Needed places are going unfilled. The current positioning of the school does not allow for expansion and development as it is land locked and shared with another primary school.
- To continue to provide the outstanding quality of education to the county's most vulnerable children and young people the school is in desperate need for a rebuild.

Satellite provision at Wouldham All Saints CEPS:

- Thoroughly support the proposal to provide a Ridge View satellite provision within a mainstream school at Wouldham All Saints CEPS so that pupils at the provision can access a mainstream environment whilst still enabling their needs to be met by specialist staff from ridge view. The ability to integrate Ridge View children in the life of a mainstream school can only have a positive impact on the pupils from both schools.

- The positioning of the satellite at Wouldham All Saints CEPS will also enable appropriate Ridge View pupils from within Kent who live nearby the ability to go to a local school rather than them travelling to Tonbridge

Proposal to increase the designated number:

- It is essential that the designated number of places for Ridge View school to increase.

Other Interested Parties

Agree

- The proposed move seems to meet the needs of disabled children currently at the school and to include more provision for children who need it.
- I am especially pleased to see the inclusion of the satellite and its aim to provide more inclusive activities.
- Ightham Parish Council comments are below:

With the child demographic distribution spike, KCC should be congratulated in providing any additional spaces to meet the proven demand.

- **Response from Nicholas Heslop, Leader Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council:**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed relocation of Ridge View School and the establishment of a satellite facility for Ridge View pupils at Wouldham All Saints CEP School. I am pleased to respond to the consultation in general terms and from a strategic community viewpoint.

I am aware of the previous proposition to relocate the school onto a site at Higham Lane which was ultimately unsuccessful and highlights the challenges of accommodating development of many kinds in and around Tonbridge where, one way or another, land is highly constrained from a planning and technical viewpoint. Nevertheless, I applaud the efforts now being made by the County Council to redirect the project.

The planning merits of the proposal will, of course, need to be considered by the Planning Authority. I note that Yeoman's Field is a site that is within the green belt, like much of the periphery of Tonbridge, although it does seem to offer better prospects than the previous location and I note is in an area of the Borough that successfully accommodates various other educational buildings and facilities.

The case put forward for the relocation of the school seems compelling if the services provided for the education of children with profound, severe and complex needs are to be maintained and improved. I also appreciate the current restrictions and limitations presented by the existing site and buildings, the way in which the site inhibits future practical expansion to increase capacity and the aim to offer school places that avoid long distance travel.

The community value of the planned improvement to these special educational facilities is well articulated in summary in the consultation document. It is also clear that the proposed new provision would be able to more readily provide for a range of purpose-designed facilities to address the specific needs of the

children, in a modern and welcoming environment. Overall, therefore, I believe there to be a very sound case for the relocation of the school.

There will, I am sure, be much detail to consider as the plan moves ahead and we look forward to being involved with that locally. At this stage, I would like to indicate the Borough Council's strategic support for the project.

I have written separately in respect of the proposals to relocate Wouldham All Saints CEP School. In that context I would also lend my support to the proposal for that new school also being able to accommodate children from Ridge View on a satellite basis. It seems to me that would again offer the opportunity to increase capacity for special needs provision, taking advantage of the existing staff and governance resources and expertise.

Undecided/did not indicate whether in support or against

Parents

- Undecided as need to seek out more information.

Against the proposals

Parents

- Agree with the proposal to relocation and expansion but do not agree with proposed Satellite provision at Wouldham All Saints CEPS.
- Concerns about length of journey - the travel to Rochester
- Concerns about choice of provision – prefer to stay in specialist rather than mainstream.
- Satellite provision attached to a mainstream school are meant for children who rare high functioning but cannot quiet access a mainstream environment – children at Ridge View are not at this end of the spectrum.
- Concerns about the distance of the Satellite from the main Ridge View site.
- Against the satellite proposal but for those who choose to send their children to the satellite building and want them to mix in with mainstream as they feel they would cope then by all means this is a good idea. Accept it does give more choice especially location wise for those living in North Kent, creating more SEN places is a good idea but for those who feel their children would be suited in the Ridge View main site then they should stay and attend there.

Other Interested Parties

Against

- I am concerned at the increased level of traffic down Brook Street this would involve including parking in the area. It is already very difficult to travel to and from Tonbridge at school times with long queues forming and impossible to park outside our houses as it is used by Judd school pupils, Hayesbrook and West Kent College. Due to the nature of the country roads that this would be situated down, it would be very difficult to cope with the volume of traffic. I would therefore recommended a re-think of this plan as there is only one way into and out of Tonbridge and would be against any widening of roads as it is a rural area.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00091

For publication

Subject: Proposed alterations to Ridge View School (Tonbridge)

Decision:

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

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Relocate Ridge View School to a site at Yeoman's Field, off Lower Haysden Lane, Tonbridge for 1 September 2017.
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- (iii) Increase the designated number of places offered at Ridge View School, from 180 to 228 for 1 September 2017.

And, subject to no objections, not already considered, to the public notice

- (iv) Allocate £14.5m from Special School Review budget and £2.3m from the Targeted Basic Need budget, superseding decision 14/00098 taken on 2 September 2014.
- (v) Implement the proposals according to the dates identified above
- (vi) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- (vii) 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I will take into account:

- the views expressed by those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Bodies of the schools, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

15 December 2015

14 October 2014

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places

14 March 2014

Decision no14/0098 was taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on 2 September 2014 to allocate £14.6 million for the relocation of Ridge View School.

4 December 2013

Education Cabinet Committee were asked to endorse the actions to implement key proposals set out in the SEND Strategy.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

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

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Signed

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Date