

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00033(e)

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Wilmington Academy from a 7FE to 8FE

Decision:

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

- a. Allocate £7.2m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- b. 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
- c. 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 subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. The views received from the consultation with parents/carers, staff and governors.
2. The views of the Governing Body
3. The views of the Local Member
4. the views of the Area Education Officer
5. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

Financial Implications:

It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Wilmington Academy, increasing the PAN to 240 (8FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 1200 7-11 places.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £7.2m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project are an estimate. 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. The reason for this level of expenditure is that the enlargement is effectively providing accommodation for 2 FE. The Wilmington Academy PAN was increased from 6 FE (180) to 200 in 2015/16 to support the Local Authority in ensuring there were sufficient Secondary School places following the announced closure of Oasis Academy, Hextable.
- b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will now receive protection for an additional 40 Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of

the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

- c. Human – Wilmington Academy will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

17 March 2016 report to Education and Young Person's Cabinet Committee

At its meeting the Cabinet Committee for Education and Young People's Services resolved to endorse the recommendation that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform takes decision 16/00033(e) to: permanently expand Wilmington Academy from a 7FE to 8FE Allocate £7.2m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation. 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. 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

15 December 2015 report to Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional secondary places in the Sevenoaks District.

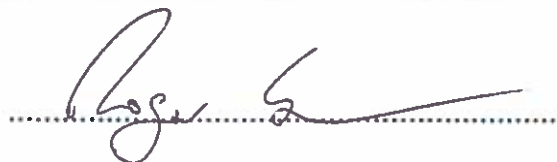
Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for secondary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development, the outturn from the last five years of primary expansion and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 40 Year 7 places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2016 – 2020).

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

N/A



13 April 2016

Signed

Date