

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services**

To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 11 May 2016**

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand St John's Catholic Primary School from a PAN of 3FE to 4FE**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway: **None**
of Paper

Future Pathway: **Cabinet Member Decision**
of Paper

Electoral Division: **Gravesend East (Colin Caller and Jane Cribbon)**

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand St John's Catholic Primary School from a PAN of 3FE to 4FE and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

Recommendation:

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 decision to:

- a. Allocate £2.8m 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 Infrastructure 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 Infrastructure 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.

1. Introduction

1.2. The Gravesham district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identifies a local pressure in Reception year places in the

Gravesham North and East planning areas. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the planning area from September 2016.

- 1.3. Every school in the planning area was considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including location, cost, proximity to demand, site size, willingness of the school, highways issues, Sport England and Ofsted rating. St John's Catholic Primary School was identified as the best option for expansion according to these criteria.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge St John's Catholic Primary School, increasing the PAN to 120 (4FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 840 places.
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £2.8m. 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.
 - b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
 - c. Human – St John's Catholic Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Kent Policy Framework

- 3.1. These proposals will help to secure our ambition "to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places" as set out in the Education Commissioning Plan.
- 3.2. The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2016-20' identified a pressure on primary school places in the Gravesham North planning area. Changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on primary school places in the planning area.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. St John's Catholic Primary School being an academy conducted its own consultation. The Headteacher has informed us that following the conclusion of the consultation, the governing body voted unanimously in favour of expansion.

5. Views

5.1. The Local Members

Cllrs Jane Cribbon and Colin Caller were informed of the proposal.

5.2. Headteacher

The Headteacher fully supports the proposal.

5.3. Chair of Governors

The Chair of Governors is fully supportive of the proposal.

5.4. Area Education Officer:

The analysis of the needs in the area indicate that due to immediate pressure and future demand, based on changing demographics in the Gravesham North planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required. These 30 places will help achieve that additional capacity requirement.

5.5. The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every primary school in the planning area with a view to whether that school could be enlarged. I am of the firm opinion that the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solution to the demand in the Gravesham North Planning Area is to enlarge St John's Catholic Primary School by 30 places to 4FE.

6. Proposal

6.1. 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.

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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

8.1. Forecasts for Gravesham district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.

8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year 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).

9. Recommendations

9.1. 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 decision to:

- a. Allocate £2.8m 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 Infrastructure 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 Infrastructure 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

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations>

11. Contact details

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00047

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand St John's Catholic Primary School from a PAN of 3FE to 4FE

Decision:

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

- a. Allocate £2.8m 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 Infrastructure 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 Infrastructure 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 St John's Catholic Primary School, increasing the PAN to 120 (4FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 840 places.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £2.8m. 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.
- b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an

additional 30 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

- c. Human – St John’s Catholic Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**11 May 2017 report to Education and Young Person’s Cabinet Committee
To be added after Meeting**

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 Gravesham District.

Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for Gravesham district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 30 Reception Year 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

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Signed

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Date