

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 expand Whitfield Aspen School initially by 1 FE across a split site

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Dover West (Geoff Lymer)

Summary: This report sets out the results of the public consultation on the proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School for September 2018.

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 decision to:

- a) Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Whitfield Aspen School from 2FE to 3FE across two sites and to increase the capacity of the Aspen provision, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b) Allocate £625,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to present accommodation.
- c) Allocate £7,990,000 Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund the satellite building.
- d) 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.
- e) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative with the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Whitfield village has seen additional homes built during the past few years. As part of the planning agreement for 1050 new homes, the developer is providing a site for

primary education, together with a £3.5m financial contribution to the cost of a school building on the site. This site is located on the edge of Whitfield Village off Archers Court Road, about 500m from the present Whitfield Aspen School site. The site is to be transferred to Kent County Council by 1 July 2017, in time to allow the construction of the school building ready for September 2018. The financial contributions will be paid prior to the occupation of the 401st dwelling.

- 1.2 Whitfield Aspen School is full, and is regularly oversubscribed, due to its popularity in the local area and the good quality of education that it provides. The Aspen provision within the school delivers high quality education and support for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs. Aspen is also full; indeed in 2014 Kent County Council opened a satellite of this provision in Aylesham Primary School in order to continue to help address the immediate need for places within the Dover community. There is and will continue to be a need to open additional primary school places in Whitfield to meet the increasing population of the village, and also to expand the capacity of Aspen to ensure that children in the District of Dover can attend a school as local to their home as possible.
- 1.3 Kent's Commissioning Plan For Educational Provision 2016-20 aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision. With the current shortfall of primary school places in Whitfield and significant house building forecast in the Whitfield planning area, the Commissioning Plan sets out the intention to increase provision by expanding Whitfield Aspen School via a split site solution.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The Governing Body has consulted on an expansion proposal, which is expected to be completed in three phases. Phase one will see an additional 26 Reception Year places being offered in each September 2016 and 2017. There is also a need for up to 16 places for pupils in the Aspen unit, two classes, during this period. Temporary accommodation would be located on the existing site for a short period to provide four class bases. Phase two will see the creation of a school building on the site off Archers Court Road. This will provide up to 1FE of classroom accommodation, with central infrastructure for a 2FE school. It will also provide additional Aspen provision. It is expected that this satellite building will be opened for September 2018. The temporary accommodation will be removed from the Mayfield Road site at this point and used elsewhere. Phase three will be for the final one FE expansion taking the school up to 4 FE. The date of phase three will be dependent on the rate of house building.

3. Consultation Outcomes

- 3.1 This report sets out the results of the public consultation, held by the Governing Body, which took place between 14 March 2016 and 18 April 2016. A copy of the consultation document can be found at the following link:
<http://www.whitfieldaspenschool.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Equalities%20Impact%20Assessment%20GB.pdf>
- 3.2 The public consultation document asked the consultees to respond to two questions:
 - Question 1- Do you agree with the plan to offer an additional 26 reception places on the Mayfield Road site in 2016 and 2017?

- Question 2- Do you agree to the proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School in September 2018 via a split site solution as set out in the consultation?

3.3 A total of 38 written responses were received. For question 1: 31 agreed with the proposal, 4 were against and 3 undecided. For question 2: 33 agreed with the proposal, 3 opposed it and 2 were undecided. The responses to the public consultation can be found in full at Appendix 1. A summary of the support for and concerns raised about each proposal is included below.

Question 1: Do you agree with the plan to offer an additional 26 reception places on the Mayfield Road site in 2016 and 2017?

Comments for:

- I don't think there is a better school in Dover
- The school is well established and more local children could benefit from its all-inclusive educational provision
- Provision needs to be provided for Whitfield children

Concerns raised:

- Parking around the school (7 responses mentioned this)
- The pressure on the facilities within the present school as it takes extra pupils for the next two years.

Question 2: Do you agree to the proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School in September 2018 via a split site solution as set out in the consultation?

Comments for:

- This will ensure the community is best served from a proven and successful school
- It will provide extra AEN provision in an inclusive school
- A great opportunity to expand a good school

Concerns were:

- Safety of pupils walking between sites
- Difficulty of dropping off/picking pupils up from two sites.

3.4 A public consultation meeting was held on the 23 March 2016. Approximately 40 people attended the meeting. A summary of the views and comments given at the public consultation meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 a. Capital – The initial expansion of the school will require temporary accommodation on the present site for September 2016. This will be followed by a new school build in place from September 2018. A feasibility study has been completed for the temporary accommodation. The total estimated cost of the temporary expansion is likely to be in the region of £625,000, albeit much of this investment will be in purchasing modular units which can be resited in 2018. The cost of the new school on the second site is expected to be in the region of £7.99m because of the additional needs associated with the Aspen provision, and incorporating the central infrastructure for a 2FE school. The developer is to provide

the land and a contribution of £3.5m through the Section 106 agreement for the second site.

b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. It will also receive £6,000 per classroom in set up funding. The Aspen provision is funded using the DfE Place Plus funding methodology for High Needs Pupils.

c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

5. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

5.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child can go to a good school where they can make good progress and every child can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2015-2018’.

5.2 The Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2013-2016 aims to address the need for further specialist provision in mainstream schools. The proposal would support that aim by providing up to 56 additional places for PMLD within the Dover area.

5.3 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2016-20 identified the need to commission the equivalent of three 2 FE schools in the Whitfield area, to serve the anticipated 6,000 new homes.

5.4 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. Views

6.1 The view of the Local Members:

Cllr G Lymer (Dover West) stated: I would certainly support the expansion of Whitfield Aspen School.

6.2 The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:

The Headteacher and Governing Body of Whitfield Aspen School are in full support of the proposal.

Mr J Cooke (Executive Headteacher):

With increased pressure on school places within the village of Whitfield even before the new houses, the additional spaces for EYFS would be a good way of giving local people a local schooling solution. The expansion of the school through use of modular buildings must only be seen as a temporary solution and KCC must support the school in providing any additional space that might be needed to accommodate these extra children i.e. kitchen and toilets. I think that it is crucial that Aspen children are included in this temporary expansion because otherwise the most vulnerable children are going to be without a school place. This could mean that

KCC have to fund private arrangements or even out of county. Additional travel costs may also be incurred at a time when budgets need to be reduced.

I think the expansion onto a second site is a fantastic opportunity for families in the Whitfield area to have a school that can offer a truly inclusive education for even more children. The opportunities that an expanded site would offer children is very exciting but not without its challenges. The main focus has to be the children and the learning opportunities they will get from having two sites from which to benefit from. The opportunities are boundless.

- 6.3. The view of the Area Education Officer:
Whitfield Aspen is a popular school, currently catering for 441 pupils. This proposal will provide much needed additional mainstream primary places and specialist provision primary places needed in Dover. Dover's population is still growing and we want all local children to be able to attend a good, local school. Currently some children from Whitfield are travelling to neighbouring areas. Local provision will reduce journey times and distances.

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 expansion will provide additional primary places and expand needed specialist provision in Dover at a good school.

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 decision to:

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10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of Written Responses

10.2 Appendix 2 – Governing Body Consultation

10.3 Appendix 3 – Proposed Record of Decision

11. Background Documents

11.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

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

11.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 16-20

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

11.3: Strategy for children with special educational needs and disabilities

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-children-young-people-SEN-Disabilities.pdf

11.4 Consultation Document

<http://www.whitfieldspenschool.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Whitfield%20Public%20Consultation%20Doc%20V4%20FINAL%20Mar%202016.pdf>

11.5 Equalities Impact Assessment.

<http://www.whitfieldspenschool.co.uk/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Equalities%20Impact%20Assessment%20GB.pdf>

12. Contact details

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Proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School

Summary of Written Responses

Printed Consultation Documents distributed:	700
Printed flyers distributed	2500
Consultation responses received:	38
A summary of the responses received showed:	

Question 1: Do you agree with the plan to offer an additional 26 reception places on the Mayfield Road site in 2016 and 2017?

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors	10			10
Staff	12			12
Parents	8	3	3	14
Pupils				0
Resident	1	1		2
Totals	31	4	3	38

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- I don't think there is a better school in Dover plus they will need as school here with the new houses.
- The opportunity to expand our school is an exciting one. I am concerned that this question does not address the need to also expand upon the additional spaces/places for pupils on the Aspen role. Without additional places we will not be able to offer places to the children we know will need a specialist provision place.
- Whitfield is a popular and oversubscribed inclusive school serving the local community. It is a sensible choice to expand over the next two years being mindful of the potential 2nd school being built. This will position everyone for this transition and for the future. It will need to be carefully managed and traffic flow considered in a small road with external support from the PCSO and Council along with the continued support from the school.
- With family sizes increasing and families having to drive to the nearest school place available for their child it makes more traffic on the roads. Children are not then with their peers for nursery/preschool. Keep Whitfield a village with school places for the children of the village.
- I think the school can accommodate the extra parking place required without impacting too greatly on the rest of the school.
- The school is well established and thriving. It makes sense to expand so that more local children can benefit from its all-inclusive educational provision.

Concerns raised:

- There is a perfectly good school on Melbourne Hill, this could be refitted. This would be cheaper and quicker.
- We are always told that there are problems with parking but nothing is ever done to remove this problem of staff parking on the road.

- I am concerned that no formal agreement has been reached over additional places for Aspen pupils.
- The proposal would mean a 12% increase in pupils over the next 2 years plus staff. Will the facilities be increased accordingly, i.e. toilet facilities, dining/sports hall, play areas, parking, library? The works involved means making the school site less safe for the children i.e. heavy machinery and strangers on site. Will the workforce be CRB checked? The building site will also be a big distraction for children's learning. The temporary facilities and increase in staff parking will decrease play areas outside. It will increase traffic in the village and will make parking a problem even worse than it is already.
- As long as more teaching staff are employed so they can support the children and they do not suffer because of it.
- In the whole I agree with the expansion but I have a couple of concerns and I am sure I am not the only parent. I believe this is one of these great chances you have to implement a great improvement that could last for years but only if it is done right. The biggest concerns related to the expansion to an area that is already having crossed agendas. Parking is already a massive issue in and around the local school and I like the optimistic view that people will walk but when bad weather occurs people do not want to get their children soaked before a long day of school. Also same picking up. Car parking spaces are already at a premium when dropping off and collecting children. I believe this would be worse with more people being added. I am now going to say how I think this could be improved. In these plans that are being talked about building new homes in Whitfield, I believe a complete new school should be built instead of having satellite schools and splitting the schools. I think a complete area should be released to build this new school with a mind to the future in place. As space is a massive issue in and around Whitfield here are a couple of my plans that I believe could work. Where the school is now having issues with access and egress in getting children in and out of school. If you started from a blank canvas you can work in a safe area for dropping off children and collecting. You could copy things that have been done in London where all classrooms are done on a single or even double levels with all playing fields and sports fields being placed on safe areas built on roof areas.
- This is just my view and I do not have access to the money available and space available but in my view the school is already at the maximum level. With the world issues at the moment with migration and the natural increase in people I believe that schools should be proactive not reactive and build a new school instead of patching up a school which is running out of space and with great parking issues. I believe this would be cost effective as if it was done right in the first instance it will save money in the long run. The school would be fit for purpose, be able to fit all children with all needs. All new energy saving and safety measures could be implemented and would be shown to other schools what can be done with limited space. Also as a parent of a dover child I feel that there is very limited stuff for my child to do outside of school hours to do with physical sports. What I would greatly like to see is Whitfield school and Christchurch coming together more and with the support of a private enterprise company, joining together and building a sports element into the schools for local people to use when the school is not in use. This would bring in cash to the schools, will give the local children stuff to do in the area and is more than achievable as has been shown by sandwich tech.
- Care and consideration of the traffic problems is paramount from both KCC and the school members alike. This is relevant not only for the 2016 and 2017 plans but also for when the new school is operational and it is envisaged there will be movement between the 2 sites on a regular basis.

- I feel the school will cope admirably with the addition of another reception class and I'm happy with the placement of the temporary classrooms. I feel that this site will work well before introducing the split site school in 2018. I am a little concerned with time issues so the school will need good support to get everything in place in time. As a resident of Mayfield road, I am concerned about the additional traffic, as there is already a problem with the volume of cars at pick up/drop off times. The school tries hard to dissuade use of the road but this is largely ignored. I hope that KCC will support the school in funding a solution to this.
- The school (as it is) is busy enough without the extra pupils, there's no more parking. This seems a pointless task as a new school will have to be built anyway.

Question 2: Do you agree to the proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School in September 2018 via a split site solution as set out in the consultation?

	In Favour	Opposed	Undecided	Totals
Governors	10			10
Staff	12			12
Parents	9	3	2	14
Pupils				
Resident	2			2
Totals	33	3	2	38

Comments in favour of the proposal:

- I don't think there is a better school in Dover plus the will need as school here with the new houses. It is especially important for those children with AEN in mainstream or Aspen who will need the spaces to get the appropriate support that other schools do not provide
- I do agree that this proposal is a solution. The design of the new school is however, in my opinion, critical to ensure that it reflects the vision and ethos of our inclusive school; that provision for the pupils in the specialist part is in line with the designation of a PSCN school, with the specialist facilities and space considered.
- This will ensure the community is best served from a proven and successful school. Whitfield is clearly going to continue to expand and at the heart of this must be Whitfield Aspen school across the 2 sites to ensure the best inclusive education possible.
- This is a lovely village and the school should expand to make room for the children. Also facilities for the AEN children should be considered.
- As mentioned the opening of our recent OFSTED letter this is a highly inclusive, inventive and aspirational school. We are proud of this. To have the opportunity to expand our way of working demonstrated the Local Authority's belief that we are an exceptional school and one they will publically promote. We move forward together in a position of strength.
- This is a great opportunity to expand and improve on our individuality as a highly inclusive school. I strongly feel that we need to stick to our current ethos. Again, I hope the school will receive the support needed and facilities we require to achieve this. Again, I feel the traffic situation will cause a problem and this will need to be well thought out. There is still much to discuss.
- I think this is the best option for our school. In my opinion an infant/junior school separate would be a better split as it would prevent one from being seen as the best and the other on not as good. Infant/junior resources and equipment would be on the

correct site. There must be enough teaching and learning spaces outside the classrooms.

- A new school will be needed with the extra 6,000 new homes, so why delay? We need infrastructure first instead of loading the current school to bursting seams! Not only will this encourage families to the area but will create much needed jobs.
- A great opportunity to expand the good work at the school and provide a great education to other children.
- Given the parameters (new housing development and land available) a split site solution is the best solution.
- I am very happy to support the expansion over both sites, this is important for the future of the school and certainly needed.

Concerns raised:

- There is a perfectly good school on Melbourne Hill, this could be refitted. This would be cheaper and quicker.
- Must be ample parking.
- I have four children all primary age it will be impossible for me to be in two places to either drop off or pick up from school.
- I have concerns regarding the design of the new build, in terms of appropriate allocation of space and facilities.
- The integration of pupils on two sites will be extremely difficult due to the distance between the sites which will make them effectively different schools. Parents could end up with children schooled on two different sites making drop off/collections difficult on time. It will increase traffic in the village. We are now able to walk our son to school but will have to drive to the other site due to distance. The integration travelling between the two sites will be unsuitable and unsafe for the children due to the distance between the sites, pavements being obstructed by parked vehicles/proximity to busy roads.
- It is vital to get the decision on split KS1/KS2 or dual running schools correct and the decision will hopefully be reached as soon as possible.

**Governing Body Consultation on a Proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen
School, Dover
to a Four Forms of Entry (FE) School Over Two Sites**

**Wednesday 23 March 2016
7.00 pm Whitfield Aspen School, Mayfield Road, Dover, CT16 3LJ**

In Attendance:	Jason Cook	Executive Headteacher
	Roger Knight	Chair of Governors
	David Adams	Area Education Officer - KCC

Purpose of the Meeting

To explain the above proposal in detail and answer questions.

Roger Knight welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that Governors were passionate about the School and the local community. Pupil numbers had increased through many year groups, particularly SEN. Bringing together the mainstream school and the Aspen Unit had seen incredible results and made Whitfield Aspen a leading school. Pressure from new housing had brought forward this expansion proposal. Governors had considered the options and were keen to work with KCC to expand over two sites. Governors felt adopting the second school site would be an incredible opportunity that would bring many benefits and opportunities to all the children.

David Adams, using a power point presentation, explained the proposal in detail.

Name	Comment	Response
Roger Simcock Householder/Parish Councillor	Will a copy of the recording be available to the Parish Council?	DA – Yes, I will take your details.
No name	With reference to the new site, can the gates to Alison Crescent be opened? It would ease congestion up and down this road. I am worried about the safety of the children.	RK – We have been discussing this. JC – This is a good point and has been discussed with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Traditionally the gate had always been closed. The SLT walked from the front of school to the back using the gate, and this saved approximately seven minutes. This does seem an ideal solution but the road is narrow and is used by buses. There would have to be an understanding with parents this route would be for walking their children to school. It would also be useful for walking children between the two sites. We are considering this. We would like to see current mums and dads doing as much walking as possible, members of staff too. We

		have considered walking buses and will follow this through. Please do come in and talk to us if you have ideas or comments.
No name	<p>I have a child in Reception. If this moves to the new site it would involve a 25min walk which is unrealistic for younger children. This will create traffic in the village and is a negative to the split site solution.</p> <p>Parents who have applied for a place in September will hear in the next three weeks if they have been successful. The consultation will have ended. Does this mean you will be opening two or three forms of entry for September?</p>	<p>JC – this will depend on how the split site will work and this has not been agreed yet. It needs careful thought and consultation with parents. We are considering walking buses, opening facilities earlier and breakfast clubs. No decisions have been made yet.</p> <p>DA – 2016 is one of the pressure points nationally. It is my responsibility to ensure that every child has a school place. I can place every child on offer day but we know historically that there are people who apply for places after offer day. I know that unless there is more capacity, I can't place every child. The decision on whether to open a class here will have to be made in the next few days, and I will take into account the views I hear tonight in making my decision.</p>
No name	If the gate at the bottom is opened, would it be possible to have a RCP?	DA – I can talk to Highways colleagues who manage that service. They work with a set of criteria and a national formula that looks at traffic flow, HGVs etc. The biggest challenge is recruiting someone to the post. It involves someone being available twice a day for 30 minutes.
Wendy Bowman – Whitfield Parish Councillor/Resident on Mayfield Road	In the 38 years I have lived here parents have been encouraged to walk their children to school and this doesn't work. How will you cope with the congestion in Mayfield Road? The Parish Council have put forward a couple of schemes that I believe you are looking at - yellow lines, possibly a one way system. There are cars parked there all day long together with the morning and afternoon traffic. You can open up the back gate but you will	<p>RK – I agree with you, this is one of our biggest concerns. Opening up the back may encourage people to park in Alison Crescent and block that road.</p> <p>DA – Solutions are, in reality, in the hands of parents. Schools do all they can to encourage parents to behave in the way we would like. We all do things when under time pressures and that will always be true of parents. Parents would say that this is a public highway; I am entitled to drive and park on it. I accept there can be some attitude issues. Some of the proposed solutions are limited. We are discussing a one-way solution with Highways and this will need further</p>

	<p>get the same problem there. The traffic problem must be solved.</p>	<p>work with the local community. If the gate were to be opened and closed this would be a management issue for the School. My experience is that double yellow lines are a double edged sword. They displace traffic to other areas, the pressure remains and there can be adverse impacts on residents in respect of parking outside their homes. Residents parking needs to be enforced. There is no easy solution. We will listen to ideas but I have to be honest and say there is a finite budget. We will have to balance the improvement and the cost.</p>
No name	<p>I live in Mayfield Road and I think Alison Crescent, with the bus, is dangerous. Half the traffic drives on the path now in Mayfield Road, how dangerous is that!</p>	<p>RK – this is a good point, it is dangerous.</p>
Sandra Goodsell Staff Member	<p>Some of the parking issues could be staff members because there isn't adequate parking. Will there be extra staff parking on the new site?</p>	<p>RK – this is a pre-requisite. When this school was built the local area was not built up like it is now. Generic growth of the village has caused the problems for the school.</p>
Roger Simcock- Householder/Parish Councillor	<p>With four classrooms, how many staff do you envisage?</p> <p>I live directly opposite. School traffic is over and gone in 15 minutes and doesn't really cause a problem. Visitors and staff parking is the single biggest problem. I have spoken to them often but nothing happens. Visitors to the school create more issues .</p>	<p>JS – For one main school class it would be a teacher and a Teacher Assistant (TA), Aspen classes (not confirmed) would be 2 teachers and 3 TA's in each class. There are no plans to increase office support currently. When the split site is operational there will be a need for more administrative staff.</p> <p>JC – There will be up to 11 extra spaces.</p> <p>DA – It's trying to strike the balance. We have an existing school with existing problems. We want to try and avoid the local problems becoming worse by fewer people travelling outside the village. KCC has limited capital to deliver school places; there isn't a pot of money to address existing problems. We will consider staff parking and try to improve it, but I can't create 30 or 40 places, these would have to go somewhere on site taking</p>

		<p>facilities from children.</p> <p>RK – after the Easter break we will monitor the situation and feed this back to anyone who is interested. If it is our staff we will look to see what we can do about it.</p>
No name	<p>There are trials going on where cul-de-sacs are access only. Why can't we try this?</p>	<p>DA – I haven't heard of this but I can follow this up with Highways colleagues to see how this works. The issue here will be enforcement. Do the Police have the resource to make it effective? I will take your details afterwards.</p>
Mrs Hollamby/Parent	<p>What about the needs of the children who attend the school? In September 2017 there were 52 more children a 12% increase. Will facilities be increased by 12%, i.e. toilets, dining hall, kitchens, library? Children will have to be crammed in. There are 447 in school already. What about playground space and infrastructure generally? Is this not unfair to the children?</p>	<p>DA – Yes and No. Yes to additional classrooms and toilets. The modulars will have toilets in between. We believe the school can manage for a short period of time with the existing dining hall and library. This school has a decent size hall for the number of children for the short term. There will be additional toilets; playground toilets would be a school management issue. We will use what capital we have to provide high quality facilities as early as possible.</p> <p>JC – we know that the outside toilets won't be enough but we have some toilets at the back of the hall. We would have to make those available during lunchtime and other times as well. We will need to increase the number of toilets outside, this has been highlighted. I cannot currently commit to this as it is not certain this proposal will go ahead.</p>
No name (Staff Member)	<p>If the proposal does go ahead, can there be enough space to work outside of the classroom in the new school for our intervention work. As a staff member we want space.</p>	<p>RK – this will be considered in the planning and design stage.</p> <p>DA – The EfA now produce baseline designs for all schools. This gives a greater standardisation of schools; it sets out basic floor area, but there will be some latitude, you could have a classroom that is very big with no group room, or a smaller classroom and group room. We will need to work with school staff on this. Aspen is different and will sit outside of the guidelines. We are working with the school on a design and we will display the plans to ensure that we are</p>

		<p>delivering something fit for purpose whilst trying to meet people's aspirations. We will do everything we can to provide the space that people think they will need, I suspect this might not be quite as much as you would have hoped for.</p>
<p>Roger Simcock- Householder/Parish Councillor</p>	<p>Are the four mobile classrooms you are putting in going behind the school on the children's playground?</p> <p>You have referred to the fact that KCC does not have infinite resources. You must have known this was going to happen, why not make provision for it?</p>	<p>RK – they will be just where the climbing wall is and well within the grounds.</p> <p>DA – Funding for school places comes from two routes. Firstly, Basic Need Funding from Central Government. We have to send off a summary of capacity and current forecasts and we get an amount of money based on this. The Government does not fully fund school places, they give us a contribution. The gap comes from local tax payers. One issue is the level of funding and the other is the significant increase in birth rate – those youngsters are going through the system currently. We produce the Kent Commissioning Plan which has identified a £100M gap between what we think we need and what funding we have available to us.</p> <p>The second funding stream is Developer Contributions. The developer in this case is making a financial contribution and is making a site available in 2017. The £3.5M will not be available until the 420th house is occupied. As tax payers we have to find a way of forward funding this school because 420 houses would produce approximately 120/30 pupils. There will therefore be approximately 130 children in the system with nowhere to go. The options then are KCC pays to put them in taxis to travel to a school place, or I have to expand another school outside of the community to accommodate them. This seems to be a poor use of our limited resource. Money spent on the final solution, represents the best route.</p>

<p>Sue King/Governor</p>	<p>For a lot of the Aspen pupils the hydrotherapy pool is essential. You have said that the hydrotherapy pool will not be replicated on the new site. We are unique here. Can we have some form of multi-sensory facility? Could we have a footprint for a hydrotherapy pool in order to fundraise for one?</p>	<p>DA – We need to work through the facilities for Aspen together. This would involve a Management decision as to whether the youngsters who require hydrotherapy stay on this site. I would think we will need sensory facilities on both sites and we will need to work through what this will look like. We can leave a footprint to ensure we don't lose this in the planning process.</p>
<p>Mrs Hollamby/Parent</p>	<p>You hope to get the site in July 2017 and open the new school in Sept 18. How realistic is it to assume it can open on time? Do you have a plan B or will there be another mobile classroom on this site?</p>	<p>DA – July 2017 is the date the developer is obliged to provide us with the site. It is possible to build the school; the planning application and design can be ready to go ahead of this. Timeframe currently is okay. If lead in time is later that will cause a delay. Our contingency would be to continue working with the school. It may possibly mean another classroom or utilising another space within the school. There are a number of ways to get through the process and get the provision in for 2018.</p>
<p>Cathy Bolton/Staff</p>	<p>The School was rebuilt with activity rooms which have now become teaching spaces due to the increase in numbers. Aspen pupil numbers have doubled over the last 3 years. Is it anticipated that these children with complex needs will remain here and therefore we will remain at this capacity, or will some move to the new site to allow more flexibility?</p> <p>Do you have predictions for children with complex needs and are these based on mainstream pupils? Do you know what need there will be for special school places?</p>	<p>JC – We are not looking to have 82 children on site here and 82 on the new site, we are not set up for 160. Not all 82 are on site at the moment, 12 are at Aylesham.</p> <p>DA – Yes, these were based on mainstream pupils. The KCP provides some figures but these do not show the breakdown into the profound, complex, severe cohort. We have two areas of significant growth, ASD and PMLD. PMLD is growing across the County, some of which is due to advances in medical science. Capacity in Dover is currently approximately 120 places, compared to Shepway at 336 running at 350. The pressure will continue and Aspen</p>

		has an important role to play but is not the sole solution. We need to find a long term solution. We are working with the Kent Association of Special Schools to determine what pressures there are and for what need type. If new special schools are required they would be free schools/academies. KCC does not receive funding to expand special schools.
No name	You have stated the temporary classrooms will be there until the school is up and running. What if Whitfield grows that much that we can't then do without these extra classrooms? This will increase the congestion.	RK – The master plan identifies that there will be a need for 3-4 schools. This will decant the pressure. DA – The new site will open with capacity for 210 youngsters. We intend to grow this from the bottom. Families move into new housing with primary and pre-school aged children so the site will have spare capacity. I am comfortable that we will be able to remove the temporary classrooms.
Parent	I have 2 children at the school. This will impact on the pupils. The canteen is already overstretched. Outside space will be lost with this proposal.	JC – The canteen does manage at the moment. It has been identified as an area we will need to look at as numbers increase. We will be keeping the mobiles to this side to keep our outside space. We are in consultation with DA regarding extra toilets.
Mrs Hollamby/Parent	Whitfield is growing and will eventually have 3 to 4 primary schools. Why is the new site being built as part of this school and not a new independent larger school providing more than 210 places? I understand funding would be the main reason but are there other reasons? Will this proposal stretch the schools human teaching and financial resources?	DA – The Master Plan shows 6,000 homes, this would typically need 3–4 primary schools. The developer has come forward with a planning application for 1,050 homes. It has gone through its own planning process and the developer has to demonstrate how he will mitigate the impact of the development. This is provision of the site and some money. It is not possible to obtain a larger site at this stage. This will come with Phase 2. Our strategy would be to have schools around 420 if we can, it works well for pupils and traffic congestion. KCC cannot open a new school, we have to go out to competition and advertise, find promoters, and the Secretary of State will then determine who runs that school as a Free School. The proposal seeks to expand this school, a good school that parents know and value.

		<p>JC – This proposal will stretch us but having an additional school is a fantastic opportunity for our children. We will have two sites with different facilities, a strong leadership team and there will be opportunities for other key staff to come on board. This will not stretch us to the point of breaking. As we grow we will employ additional staff and continue to promote the inclusive nature of the school.</p> <p>DA – The Leadership team will work across both sites. Good leadership impacts positively on the life of children. We know that as schools get bigger, the opportunities for children become greater. This is a unique opportunity, two schools close together providing double the opportunity for youngsters. There are, I believe, significant advantages for both the current children and future children to be part of something bigger.</p>
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Approximately 40 people attended the meeting.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00032

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School by 1FE across a split site

Decision:

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

- a) Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Whitfield Aspen School from 2FE to 3FE across two sites and to increase the capacity of the Aspen provision, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b) Allocate £625,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to present accommodation.
- c) Allocate £7,990,000 Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund the satellite building.
- d) 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.
- e) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative with the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20) sets out the intention to commission additional school places in the Whitfield area of Dover. The Plan also mentioned a specific need to expand Whitfield Aspen School by up to 2 FE over a split site.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 23 March 2016, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillors; Headteacher and Governing Body of Whitfield Aspen School and the Area Education Officer.
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee

Financial Implications

- a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities such as a medical room for the primary department. The total estimated cost of the expansion is likely to be in the region of £8,615,000.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. It will also receive £6,000 per classroom in set up funding. Special schools are funded using

the DfE Place Plus funding methodology for High Needs Pupils.

c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after the meeting

Any alternatives considered:

There is and will continue to be a need to open additional primary school places in Whitfield to meet the increasing population of the village, and also to expand the capacity of Aspen to ensure that children in the District of Dover can attend a school as local to their home as possible.

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

None

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Signed

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Date