

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00083 (b)

For publication

**Subject: Expansion of Wyvern Special School, Ashford**

Decision:

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

Increase the funding allocated from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to the expansion Wyvern Special School, Ashford from the agreed £3.9m to £4.7m.

Reason(s) for decision:

- a. On 16 December 2015, I agreed to permanently increase the designated number of Wyvern School to 270 (plus 24 nursery places). This expansion would ensure sufficient suitable places for pupils with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) in the Ashford district. The school has already admitted additional pupils and will do so again in September 2016 in order to ensure every child has a school place. The accommodation to provide for these and future pupils is required and must be delivered.
- b. Capital – The first phase requires some initial internal restructuring to the present building to provide facilities for September 2016. The second phase will provide eight additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study was conducted with the total cost initially estimated to be in the region of £3.9m. This is to be funded through the Basic Need capital budget. Since then a more detailed design, which has included several technical and intrusive surveys, and further engagement with the School, has been developed. The cost has risen to and estimated £4.7m. This is due to:
- Increases in mechanical and electrical services costs (to cover interfaces with existing building systems; including an allowance for Photo Voltaic panels)
  - Alterations to the project design to ensure the sprinklers can be linked to the existing school system
  - Removal of areas of the existing earth bund to enable a necessary re-adjustment of the building footprint
  - A need to increase the area of play space paving due to the re-siting of the footprint
  - The extent of external drainage and alterations to existing drainage required
- c. **Financial Implications**
- 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 £4.7m.
- Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. Special schools are funded using the DfE Place Plus funding methodology for High Needs Pupils.
- Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

d. **Supporting Information**  
Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aims to address, amongst other things, gaps in provision. Therefore, the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2015-19) sets out the intention to commission 250 additional SEN school places. The Plan also mentioned a specific need to expand Wyvern School by up to 80 places.

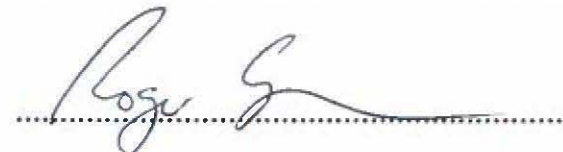
Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

11 May 2016 – Education Cabinet Committee RESOLVED to advise the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to increase the funding allocated from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to the expansion Wyvern Special School, Ashford from the agreed £3.9m to £4.7m.

Any alternatives considered:

The SEND Strategy explored all options and the expansion of this provision was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:  
None



Signed

17 May 2016

Date