

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00069

For publication

Subject: Additional Costs for the Expansion of Chantry Community Academy

Decision:

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

the allocation of £2,500,000 from the Education and Young People's Services budget.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 On 14 January 2014 Education and Young Peoples Services Cabinet Committee recommended the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree the expansion of Chantry Community Academy from 1FE to 2FE.
- 1.2 The paper presented at that meeting limited the cost to KCC to refurbishment and furniture only at a cost of £6,000 per classroom, drawn from the reorganisation budget. This recommendation was predicated on the current building being utilised.
- 1.2 Therefore, the Record of Decision I signed on 22 January 2014 confirmed that only reorganisation funding would be needed.
- 1.3 However, the expansion proposal took place in parallel with the Academy applying for a rebuild under the Primary School Building Programme (PSBP).
- 1.4 The PSPB bid from Chantry Community Academy was to access funding to facilitate a full rebuild. The school in Ordnance Road, Gravesend is currently housed in a very dated building that originally housed the Gordon Boys Secondary School and prior to that, the Gordons Boys Home. The building is large and has sufficient teaching space to allow for 2FE of primary provision, but the building is expensive to maintain.
- 1.5 Due to the timing of the bid, which was first submitted while the school was still 1FE with no plan for expansion, the funding allocated through PSBP was for a 1FE rebuild only. Therefore, the difference would need to be met from the Capital programme.
2. **Financial Implications**
 - 2.1 The Education Cabinet Committee papers of 21 June 2013 and 14 January 2014 described a nil capital cost to the expansion, predicated on the current building.
 - 2.2 However, the expansion from 1FE to 2FE would be required before the DfE rebuilt the school. This was because it was expected that the rebuild design and planning could prove challenging and take longer than first anticipated.
 - 2.3 The plan was for the school to expand to 2FE from 2013, within its existing building. However when it was confirmed that the DfE will initiate the rebuild in 2017/18, it was later acknowledged that a further decision would be sought to approve KCC funding for the additional accommodation. The expenditure is now included in the budget book.

- 2.4 Capital – the estimated contribution to the project cost is in the region of £2.5m and appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital programme. The revised costs are estimates and if the final cost of the project is greater than 10% of the revised costs, the Cabinet Member will be asked to make a further decision to allocate funding.
- 2.5 Revenue – For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs
- 2.6 Human – Chantry Community Academy will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises

3. **Supporting Information**

As above

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee 22 September 2016:

Resolved that the decision of the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to allocate £2.5m from the Education and Young People's Services budget be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 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


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Signed

28 September 2016
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Date