

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00135

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Wickhambreaux CE Primary School by 35 school places starting from September 2018

Decision:

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

- a) Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue a Public Notice to expand Wickhambreaux CE Primary School from 105 school places to 140 school places, with a published admissions number of 20 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);
- b) Allocate £350k from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel (Interim) to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- d) 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. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record Of Decision.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the public 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.

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 Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Planning Area of Canterbury district. The Plan also mentioned a specific need to increase capacity at Wickhambreaux CE Primary School

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for extra school places required in Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux and the new housing proposed in the area.
- The views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 21 November 2016, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- The views of the local County Councillor, Area Education Officer; Headteacher and Governing

Body of Wickhambreaux CE Primary School;

- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

- Capital** – Increasing the school's capacity requires the provision of additional facilities and a small extension to the buildings is proposed. The total estimated cost of the extension is likely to be in the region of £350k. Developer contributions towards the project amount to £180k.
- Revenue** – The School will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. The rising roles will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource the new classroom. At present that is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- Human** – The School will not need to appoint additional staff as it has sufficient staff to cater for the additional 5 pupils per year group.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposal was discussed at Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee on 1st February 2017.

EYPS Cabinet Committee RESOLVED that the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, as set out below, be endorsed:

- Authorise the Corporate Director - Education and Young People's Services to issue a Public Notice to expand Wickhambreaux CE Primary School from 105 school places to 140 school places, with a published admissions number of 20 from September 2018 (subject to planning permission being granted);
- Allocate £350k from the Education and Young People's Service Capital budget;
- Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel (Interim) to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
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Any alternatives considered:

The expansion of Littlebourne CE Primary School was considered but at the time when discussions were taking place relating to identifying projects for developer contributions for housing development

within the locality, Littlebourne CE Primary School had an Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement and was not as popular as Wickhambreaux. Littlebourne CE primary is now judged as good by Ofsted.

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



22.02.17

Signed

Date

