

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

**To:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform

**Subject:** Proposal to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2018

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Future Pathway:** Cabinet Member Decision (17/00011)  
of Paper

**Electoral Division:** Northfleet & Gravesend West (Cllrs Narinderjit Thandi and Sue Howes)

**Summary:**

This report sets out the proposal to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2018.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to agree to:

- a. Allocate £7.1m 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 Property and Infrastructure Support 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 Property and Infrastructure Support 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 South West planning areas. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the planning area from September 2018.

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

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Aletheia Trust and the school Governing Body to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2018.
  - a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £7.1m. 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 exceeds the funding allocated by more 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 30 Reception Year pupils. For each new classroom, resulting from the change of age range at the school, the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
  - c. Human – Saint George's Church of England 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 South West 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. Saint George's Church of England 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 Narinderjit Thandi and Sue Howes 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 South West planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required for 2018, with an additional 1FE required before 2021. These 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 South West Planning Area is to expand the age range of Saint George's Church of England School.

## 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 Property and Infrastructure Support 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, in time, add an additional 60 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).

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## **9. Background Documents**

9.1. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

9.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016 – 2020

9.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

## **10. Contact details**

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