

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

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

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend from a PAN of 145 to 180

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway: Cabinet Member Decision – 17/00022
of Paper

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

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend from a PAN of 145 to 180 and requests Members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

Recommendation:

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

- a. Allocate a sum of up to £5.2m 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 Infrastructure, in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- c. 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.

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 2017-21 identified pressure for Year 7 places in the Gravesham area.

The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide up to 100 additional Year 7 places in the planning area from September 2017.

- 1.3. Every secondary school in the district was considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including location, cost, proximity to demand, site size, willingness of the school, highways issues, Sport England and Ofsted rating. Three all-ability schools have been identified for expansion, but following closer analysis, there is a defined need for Girls Grammar places in the Gravesham area. Mayfield Grammar School is the only option for expansion.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Mayfield Grammar School, increasing the PAN from 145 to 180 for the September 2017 intake.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be up to £5.2m. KCC acknowledges 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 estimates by more than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

This cost is a worst case scenario. The Education Funding Agency has informed KCC that additional funding will be made available through the PSPB2 mechanism. The EFA has agreed to fund the replacement of an old block of approximately 840 square meters. They have offered to combine that funding with KCC capital funds to demolish the block and return it to sports facilities.

Work to establish how much this will be is ongoing, but it will result in a significant reduction to the charge on the capital budget.

This work and some essential enabling works to dining, catering and circulation areas, will increase the capacity of the school, including raising the potential for future expansion, if this is ever proposed.

- b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an additional 35 Year 7 students. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
- c. Human – Mayfield Grammar 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, 2017-21’ identified a pressure on secondary school places in the Gravesham district. The pressure is increased due to changes to demographics and increased migration.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Mayfield Grammar 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 have been 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 indicates that due to immediate pressure and future demand, based on changing demographics in Gravesham district, an additional 35 Year 7 girls grammar places are required. These additional places will help achieve that additional capacity requirement.

- 5.5. The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every secondary school in the planning area with a view to whether that school could be enlarged. I am of the firm opinion that one of the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solutions to the demand in Gravesham district is to enlarge Mayfield Grammar 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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. Forecasts for Gravesham district indicate an increasing demand for secondary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.
- 8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 35 Year 7 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' (2017 – 2021).

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9. Background Documents

- 9.1. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017 – 2021
- 9.2. Equalities Impact Assessment

10. Contact details

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