

To: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education**

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education**

Subject: **Langley Park Primary Academy Phase 2**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper:

**Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee
Commissioning Plan for Education Provision - 24
September 2014. Decision by Cabinet Member for
Education and Health Reform – Decision No: 14/00140 –
15 December 2015. Children, Young People and Education
Cabinet Committee – 22 June 2017**

Future Pathway of Paper: **Cabinet Member Decision**

Decision Number: **17/00058**

Electoral Division: **Gary Cooke, Maidstone South East and Eric Hotson,
Maidstone Rural South**

Summary: This report requests endorsement for the Cabinet Member to allocate the funding for the second phase of the Langley Park Primary Academy build.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Director for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- (i) Allocate £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the phased build of Langley Park Primary School
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) 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

1. Introduction

In September 2016 Langley Park Primary Academy opened as a two-form entry school (2FE), admitting two Reception classes until the school reaches its full capacity of 420 pupils. The plans for the new school building were designed to be delivered in two phases, in order to maximise KCC's capital funding position. The

first phase was completed in summer 2016 and will accommodate the school and its SEN specialist resource provision for two academic years (2016-17 and 2017-18). It is now necessary to bring forward the second phase of the building project for September 2018, to ensure the school can continue to admit up to its published admissions number.

Planning consent was obtained for the complete building, including the second phase. The first phase included the key communal infrastructure within the building to support two forms of entry (2FE). Therefore the second phase of the project entails building works to provide the classroom facilities needed to maintain the existing school intake and associated external works. The Basic Need for the second phase is highlighted in the school place forecasts in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021, which indicates significant pressure for Primary school places in Maidstone.

2. Background

The requirement for a 2FE school in Maidstone was initially highlighted in the 2015-2019 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent and was linked to the Langley Park development within the planning group of Shepway and Parkwood. The Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) also identified a need for specialist resource provisions (SRP) for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The 2015-2019 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision was endorsed by the Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee on 24 September 2014. Decision Number 14/00140 to approve the initial phase of the build was signed by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on 15 December 2014.

3. Financial, Legal and Equalities Implications

Financial Implications: The funding allocation required to complete the second phase of the build programme is expected to be £2.6 million from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget. In the event of an increase of costs exceeding 10% of the allocated funding, a further decision will be required.

A phased scheme enabled KCC to maximise the developer contributions sought from local development and to spread the overall cost of the scheme over a longer period.

Legal Implications: None

Equalities Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the original proposal.

4. Consultation

As this proposal does not entail the expansion of the school's intake it is not necessary to undertake additional consultation or seek the Secretary of State's approval, as would be the case for permanent expansion. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed and consultation undertaken during the first phase of the programme.

5. Kent Policy Framework

These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that Kent’s young people have access to the education, work and skills opportunities necessary to support Kent business to grow and be increasingly competitive in the national and international economy” as set out in ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement (2015-2020)’

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2017-2021 sets out how we carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim to provide sufficient places where they are needed.

6. Views

The Local Members for Maidstone South East, Gary Cooke and Maidstone Rural South, Eric Hotson, were consulted on this proposal.

Gary Cooke, Local Member for Maidstone South East, provided the following comment:

‘As the local member I would comment that I am supportive of bringing this forward so as to complete the works necessary to deliver a full 2FE Primary school at Langley Park.

It is important that build standards established in Phase One are maintained throughout the ensuing phases and that there is no lowering of standards in the provision of this new and important local primary school place provision.

It is also important to note that in an area of substantial growth through housing as provided through Maidstone Borough Council's Local Plan, further provision will likely be required and it is disappointing to note therefore that the borough council appears to be excluding KCC from local developer discussions regarding 106 contributions - such actions by MBC are to be regretted.’

Headteacher

The Headteacher fully supports this proposal.

The View of the Academy Trust

The students and staff have settled well into phase one of Langley Park Primary Academy, completed in September 2016. The building is designed in such a way to provide the best possible environment for innovation, creativity and high quality education. Leigh Academies Trust, staff, and pupils look forward to expanding into phase two of this capital programme in September 2018.

The View of the Area Education Officer

The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal as meeting KCC’s commitment to provide the school with sufficient accommodation to maintain its current intake.

7. Conclusions

This report sets out the need for the completion of the second phase of the planned build of the Langley Park Primary Academy. The second phase of the development will enable the school to progress to its total roll, providing the additional accommodation needed for the initial number Reception year pupils through the school.

8. Recommendation(s):

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9. Background Documents (plus links to document)

Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020 <http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunities-improving-outcomes>

Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-2021
http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2017-21.pdf

Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment
www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations

Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-children-young-people-SEN-Disabilities.pdf

Proposers for a new school at Langley Park <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan/langley-park>

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