

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

17/00101

***Now 17/00088(b)**

For publication

Subject: A new 6FE Secondary School for Thanet District

Decision:

- (i) Agree that a Free School Presumption Competition process can commence in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Secondary School in Thanet, on the former Royal School for the Deaf site in Margate, opening initially in September 2019 in the former Walmer School.
- (ii) Allocate £20m from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the building of the new Secondary School on the former Royal School for the Deaf site in Margate.
- (iii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (vi) 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.

In the event of an increase of costs for the projects exceeding 10% of the allocated funding, a further decision will be required.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views of the Area Education Officer
- the views of the local members
- the Equality Impact Assessment
- the views of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

a. Capital – The estimated cost of the new school is in the region of £20m. Very little in developer contributions has been secured so far towards the cost of providing the new Secondary school. It is therefore likely that the majority of the £20m funding will need to be provided from the Children, Young People and Education capital budget. Capital funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come on line, presently at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

b. Revenue – A one-off £25,000 grant will be provided to the successful sponsor by the Department for Education to cover legal expenses. KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1

September 2019. The school will receive funding through its GAG, via the ESFA. In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding during the first three years. The growth fund will support the school financially to ensure it can put in place a staffing structure to provide the places commissioned. For the purposes of providing a guaranteed budget we are assuming the organisation as laid out in the table below. We will review the admission numbers and the school structure with the successful sponsor regularly, to ensure sufficient capacity will be in place when required without a significant overcapacity that will place an unnecessary pressure on the growth fund.

Proposed Admissions Numbers at the new school over the first 4 years

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Number of Classes Funded	Pupil Numbers Funded
2019/20 at Walmer	150	0	0	0	0	5	150
2020/21	150	90	90	0	0	11	330
2021/22	150	150	90	90	0	16	480
2022/23	180	150	150	90	90	22	660

c. Human – The School will appoint additional staff as required, as the School size increases and the need arises, utilising its revenue budget.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

Expansion of existing schools was considered and feasibility work undertaken. Ursuline College was considered to be a cost effective solution to providing additional Secondary School places in Thanet. However, this alone will not meet the expected demand for the future. Other Secondary Schools in Thanet are also being considered for temporary expansion to ensure sufficient school places are available. The best solution for long term provision of Secondary School places is the establishment of a new Secondary School.

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

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Signed

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Date