

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

From: Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Dartford Grammar School for Girls, Dartford from a PAN of 160 to 180**

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway: Cabinet Member decision of Paper

Electoral Division: Dartford West (Jan Ozog)

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Dartford Grammar School for Girls from a PAN of 160 to 180 and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

Recommendation:

The Cabinet Member is asked to:

- a. Allocate £600,000 from the Children, Young People and Education 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

- 1.1 The Dartford district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 20187-22 identified pressure for Year 7 places in the Dartford area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide up to 60 additional places in Dartford from September 2019.
- 1.2. The increased demand is predicated on the programme of primary expansion that has been undertaken in previous years. 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. Amongst these there is an identified need for Girls Grammar places in the Dartford area. Dartford Grammar School is the only option for further expansion.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Dartford Grammar School for Girls, increasing the PAN from 160 to 180 for the September 2018 intake.
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £600,000. 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 is greater 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 an additional 20 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 – Dartford Grammar School for Girls 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, 2018-22’ identified a pressure on primary school places in the Dartford district. Changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on primary school places in the planning area.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Dartford Grammar School for Girls 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 Member**
Cllrs Jan Ozog has 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 commissioning plan data for Dartford indicate immediate pressure and future demand, based largely on changing demographics in Dartford district.

- 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 Dartford district is to enlarge Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

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. It is envisaged that if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. Forecasts for Dartford 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 20 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' (2018 – 2022).

9. Recommendations

- 9.1. The Cabinet Member is asked to:
- a. Allocate £600,000 from the Children, Young People and Education 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.

10. Background Documents

10.1. Visions and Priorities for Improvement and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

10.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018 – 2022

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>

10.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

11. Contact details

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