

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

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

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Trinity School, Sevenoaks from 4FE to 6FE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Decision Number: 18/00006

Future Pathway: Cabinet Member Decision of Paper

Electoral Division: Sevenoaks Town (Margaret Crabtree)

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Trinity School from 4FE to 6FE 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 for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- a. Allocate £8m 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 Sevenoaks district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-22 identified pressure for Year 7 places in the central Sevenoaks area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide 60 additional places in the area from September 2018.

- 1.2 The Knole Academy and Trinity school were both considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including: location, school sustainability, cost, proximity to demand and site size. Following closer analysis, on this occasion, Trinity School was considered to be the better option for expansion at this time.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Trinity School increasing the PAN from 120 to 180 (4FE to 6FE) for the September 2019 intake.
- 2.2. To accommodate a need for the September 2018 intake, the school has agreed to offer an additional 60 Year 7 places as bulge years, pending the permanent enlargement decision.
- 2.3. The financial considerations are:
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £8m. 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 60 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 – Trinity 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, 2018-22’ has identified a pressure on Year 7 places in the Sevenoaks district. Expansions to nine primary schools in the southern half of Sevenoaks district over the last eight years is now feeding into the secondary cohorts, creating demand in excess of capacity.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Trinity School being a Free School 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

Margaret Crabtree 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 needs in the area indicate that due to immediate pressure and future demand, an additional 60 Year 7 places are required.

- 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 the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solution to the secondary demand in Sevenoaks district is to enlarge Trinity 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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. Forecasts for Sevenoaks district indicate an increasing demand for secondary school places, due to the expansion of nearby primary schools over the last eight years.
- 8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 60 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 for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:
- a. Allocate £8m 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 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

Report Author:

Ian Watts

Area Education Officer –North Kent

03000 414302

ian.watts@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

Keith Abbott

Director of Education Planning and Access

03000 417008

keith.abbott@kent.gov.uk