

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

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

Subject: Provision of additional accommodation at Finberry Primary School

Classification: Unrestricted

Key Decision: Yes

Decision Number: 19/00003

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Ashford Rural East - Mrs Clair Bell

Summary:

This report sets out the need for Kent County Council to provide additional accommodation at Finberry Primary School.

Recommendation(s):

The Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education is asked to:

- a) Release £2,800,000 from the Children, Young People and Education Capital budget to allow an 8-classroom block to be added to Finberry Primary School to enable the school to accept 2FE of primary aged pupils (60 pupils per year) in line with the Academy's funding agreement.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In 2014 the Education Cabinet Committee resolved that a new 2FE primary school at Cheesman's Green, Ashford, would be commissioned and a competition to secure a sponsor was held. Following the competition process, The Secretary of State entered into a funding agreement with The Stour Academy Trust to operate a 2FE primary school offering 420 primary school places and 26 FTE nursery places.
- 1.2 The new school, known as Finberry Primary School, opened in September 2015. The provision initially opened off-site in the former Ashford South Primary School prior to relocating to the permanent facilities at Cheesman's Green in September 2017.
- 1.3 Planning permission was secured for the permanent 2FE school. The plan was to deliver the 2FE of provision in two phases. The first phase delivered 1FE of classrooms with 2FE of infrastructure. The second phase is to deliver a further 8 class bases, thus enabling the school in accommodate 2FE of pupils (60 per year).

- 1.4 Housing development has continued at Cheeseman’s Green, alongside further developments in and around the planning group. The latest forecasts for the Ashford East planning group, in which Finberry Primary School is located, would suggest that there will be a deficit of -14 Year R places and -65 Years R-6 places from September 2020. Therefore, the new block of classrooms will need to be added in readiness for the 2020-21 academic year. Adding the capacity at Finberry Primary School is the first step in addressing the need for further primary provision in this planning group.

Forecast Year R and Years R-6 Surplus/Deficit Places in Ashford East Planning Group

Ashford East Planning Group	2017-18 capacity	2017-18 (A)	2018-19 (F)	2019-20 (F)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2022-23 capacity
Year R	390	4	33	13	-14	-31	-45	390
Years R-6	2,700	93	89	20	-65	-170	-292	2,760

2. Proposal

- 2.1 The proposal is to release £2,800,000 from the Children, Young People and Education Capital budget to allow an 8-classroom block to be added to Finberry Primary School, thus enabling the school to accept 2FE of primary aged pupils (60 pupils per year) in line with the Academy’s funding agreement.
- 2.2 The published admissions number will change following completion of the build, which is expected to be completed for September 2020. It is anticipated the school will grow from the bottom up, thereby taking seven years to fill, but the Trust will work with the LA to open additional classes further up the school if required.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 a. Capital – £2,800,000 from the CYPE Capital Budget will be required to enable the new classrooms to be commissioned.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive growth funding in line with KCC policy and procedures for the first three years. They will also receive £6,000 setup for each of the new classrooms and £2,500 per classroom as a contribution towards whiteboard technology.
- c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

4. Vision and Priorities for Improvement

- 4.1 This proposal will help to secure our ambition that “Every child and young person should be able to go to a good or outstanding Early Years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve” as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2018-2021.

5. Views

- 5.1 The Local Member- Cllr Clair Bell, Ashford Rural East is supportive of the proposal.
- 5.2 The view of the Trust:
The Trust welcomes the proposal to enlarge the school. We already have over 190 children on the main school roll, with additional children in our nursery. We have successfully managed to welcome all these children since we opened a little over three years ago, and we are confident that we can welcome further children while delivering high quality education to all.
- 5.3. The view of the Area Education Officer, David Adams:
Pressure on school places continues to increase in Ashford as a result of increasing birth numbers and in-migration. Delivery of this planned expansion is necessary to ensure the 2020 cohort will have school places. Finberry Primary School is a Good, oversubscribed school.

6. Delegation to Officers

- 6.1 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.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 7.1 The original EIA has been revisited and there are no changes needed.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1 There is forecast to be a growing pressure for primary school places in Ashford East planning group with a deficit of places Year R and total primary places from the 2020-21 academic year.
- 8.2 Finberry Primary School was planned to be a 2FE school and has the infrastructure required. The addition of an 8-classroom block will enable the School to accommodate 2FE of pupils.

9. Recommendation(s)

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10. Background Documents

- 10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

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

- 10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

11. Contact details

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