

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

**19/00024**

Unrestricted

**Subject: Proposal to change of age range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

- (i) issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of the school and subject to no objections being received to the public notice;
- (ii) Change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1

**Reason(s) for decision:**

In taking this decision I have taken into consideration:

The age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School changed from 11-19 years to 8-19 years from September 2017 with the introduction of KS2 classes. The school together with KCC now wish to extend the provision to include all of KS2 (from age 7) and KS1 (from age 5) in order to meet local demand.

Stone Bay (Community Special) School was judged "Good" by Ofsted in January 2018 with "inspirational leadership and are determined to provide the best possible outcomes for pupils." The Local Authority is confident that the school has the capacity and leadership to establish KS1 provision. This would ensure that sufficient KS1 places are provided in the local area.

It is proposed to change the age-range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School from 8-19 years to 5-19 years to establish KS1 provision at the School. The Headteacher and Governing Body fully support the proposal and feel very strongly that there is a need for a KS1 class in Stone Bay School as there is no other provision within a reasonable traveling distance that can meet the specific learning needs of children of this age group. Stone Bay is a specialist provision that provides for children who have a diagnosed autistic spectrum disorder, profound, severe and complex needs and additional comorbidities.

The school propose to include the new classes in the current café and music block which will become the Primary building and can accommodate 4 classrooms. There is also a separate outdoor play area alongside access to the main garden. Only KS1 & 2 will be accommodated in this part of the school. The secondary and 6th form students will continue to be accommodated in their current classrooms in the main building and the demountable classrooms. This will provide age appropriate movement through the school. Staff with appropriate qualifications will teach in either the Primary, Secondary or 6th Form Departments.

**Equalities Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the consultation process and can be found via the following link: [www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations](http://www.kent.gov.uk/schoolconsultations)

### **Financial Implications**

It is expected that the project will require minimal internal works to provide the facilities for younger children and the current estimated cost is £1,750.

### **Legal Implication**

These will be updated prior to the decision being taken.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The CYPE Cabinet Committee considered the decision at its meeting on 28 March 2019 and the Minutes extract is as follows:

#### **Minutes:**

*Mr Adams (Area Education Officer (South Kent)), Ms White (Area Education Officer (East Kent)) and Mr Watts (Area Education Officer (North Kent)) were in attendance for this item.*

1. The Chairman set out the proposed decisions to expand or alter the following schools: The Maplesden Noakes School, Stone Bay Community Special School, The Beacon Folkestone, Saint George's Church of England School, Sellindge Primary School, Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School and Whitfield Aspen Primary School.

2. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand The Maplesden Noakes School, Ms White said that a pre-planning consultation would be undertaken to address any transport and highways issues concerning the decision.

3. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the positive working relationship between Kent County Council and Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust and explained that Saint George's Church of England School were their own admissions authority.

4. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the communications that had been made to communities in relation to the proposal and the 'drop-in' session. He added that although Kent County Council were funding the proposed expansion, the planning application would be dealt with by the borough council.

5. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the positive impacts that the proposed school expansion would bring, including school places being made available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds.

6. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts said that as part of the planning application process, a full consultation would take place which would seek to address any highway issues.

7. **RESOLVED** that

a) the decision (19/00023) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £6.0 million from the Basic Need budget to fund the permanent expansion of The Maplesden Noakes School, authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council, and 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, be endorsed.

b) the decision (19/00024) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young

People and Education to issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School and subject to no objections being received to the public notice, and to change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1, be endorsed.

c) the decision (19/00025) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to increase the designated number of The Beacon Folkestone from 336 to 380 places, be endorsed.

d) the decision (19/00026) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £2.6m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation in relation to the permanent expansion of the Secondary provision at Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, and authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council, be endorsed.

*(Dr L Sullivan asked that her vote against recommendation (d) be recorded in the minutes)*

e) the decision (19/00029) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £1,500,000 from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital budget to construct a six-classroom block at Sellindge Primary School enabling the school to expand to 1FE, authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council, and authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts, be endorsed.

f) the decision (19/00032) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to revoke the decision to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60, and authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to revoke the planned expansion of expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60, be endorsed.

g) the decision (19/00033) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to increase the designated number of the Aspen Specialist Resource Provision at Whitfield Aspen Primary School from 96 to 112 places, be endorsed.

**Any alternatives considered:**

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 sets out how Kent carries out its responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places, for all learners and this proposal supports that aim.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:** None

Signed

17 April 2019

Date

