

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 1 October 2019

Subject: Proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021.

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Gravesend East, Diane Marsh and Alan Ridgers

Summary:

This report informs Members of a proposal to expand Thamesview School from 150 places to 210 places in September 2021.

Recommendation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE**, or **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS** to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021.

1. Introduction

1.1. Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

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

1.2. It is anticipated that there will be significant short and medium-term pressure for additional Year 7 places in the Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group which indicates that additional capacity will be needed for 2019/20, continuing for later years.

- 1.3. KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesend from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 74 Year 7 places (2.5FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 316 places (10.5FE) by 2023/24.
- 1.4. Thamesview School is a popular school and the proposal to increase the number of Secondary places at the school is therefore, in line with the expectation of expanding popular & successful schools. The proposal will confirm the school's admission number of 180 and add an additional 30 places taking the school PAN up to 210 for September 2021. It will be achieved through building additional accommodation and service space on the Thamesview site.

2. Alternative Proposals

- 2.1. There are seven secondary schools in the Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group. These are: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet School for Girls, Northfleet Technology College, Saint George's CE School (Gravesend), St. John's Catholic Comprehensive School and Thamesview School.
- 2.2. Of these, St George's CE School, Northfleet School for Girls and Meopham School are either being expanded or are the subject of a future proposal to expand. Northfleet Technology College is under feasibility for an expansion and Longfield School has been offering additional places under a local arrangement for several years. Thamesview School is the only remaining candidate for expansion.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. Capital

- 3.2. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being between £4.0m and £4.5m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.
- 3.3. In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure reported here is a budget estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed design work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education for a key decision to be made.
- 3.4. If Members support the progression of this proposal, capital will be spent developing the design. This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.

3.5. Revenue

- 3.6. Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.
- 3.7. In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

3.8. Pupil Growth Funding

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

3.9. Human

The school will appoint additional staff as it grows over the years.

4. Kent Policy Framework

- 4.1. The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2019-23 identified a pressure on 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.
- 4.2. The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".

5. Consultation

- 5.1. A consultation was held from 24th June 2019 to 19th July 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 4 July 2019.
- 5.2. The consultation was held for the community and other stakeholders, including the following groups:
- All schools in the Gravesham Borough
 - Elected Members (Kent County Council, Gravesham Borough Council)
 - Parish and Town Councils
 - Local MPs
 - Dioceses of Rochester and Southwark
 - Church Groups
 - Residents Groups
 - Children's Centres, Community and Voluntary Groups, Youth Groups
- 5.3. Neither KCC nor the school received any responses. Four members of staff attended the drop-in session, but none wished to complete a response form.

6. Views

6.1. The Local Member

Diane Marsh and Alan Ridgers have been informed of the proposal.

6.2. Area Education Officer:

The analysis of the demand for secondary non-selective provision in the area, indicates that there are immediate and future pressures and we urgently need the additional capacity provided by this proposed expansion. I therefore support the proposal.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. Forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesend from the start of the 2019-20 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 74 Year 7 places (2.5FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 316 places (10.5FE) by 2023/24.
- 7.2. All other schools in the planning group are either being expanded or are the subject of a future proposal to expand. Thamesview School is the only remaining candidate for expansion.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE**, or **MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS** to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021.

9. Background Documents

- 9.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes>

- 9.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

- 9.3. Equality Impact Assessment

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Thamesview/consultationHome>

10. Contact details

Report Author:

Ian Watts

Area Education Officer –North Kent

Tel number: 03000 414302

ian.watts@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

Keith Abbott

Director of Education Planning and Access

03000 417008