

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

**Richard Long, TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**DECISION NO:**

**19/00081**

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

**Subject:** Proposed alteration to Lower age range of Kings Hill School to establish a nursery class.

**Proposed Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I propose to:

- (i) alter the lower age range of Kings Hill School from 4-11 years to 2-11 years;
- (ii) to enable the school to establish a nursery class from September 2020

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Kings Hill School currently provides early years education for children who turn five when in the Reception class. Analysis by KCC Early Years relating to the sufficiency of nursery places in the local area indicates that there is a deficit of 80 nursery spaces in Kings Hill. Pressure for early year places has increased as additional houses have been built at Kings Hill and the demand is set to continue to increase as the 635 homes in 'Phase 3' are occupied. There is also a similar pressure for nursery places in the neighbouring area, with sufficiency data indicating a 106-space deficit in West Malling. This total 186 space deficit commonly necessitates parents traveling further afield to access nursery provision.

There are various local private early years care providers who have long waiting lists and do not have the capacity to expand. KCC is also working with another local primary school on a proposal to establish nursery provision.

It is proposed to permanently alter the lower age range of Kings Hill School from 4-11 years to 2-11 years, to enable the school to run a nursery.

The nursery will initially provide 30 spaces in September 2020 that will increase to a maximum of 45 in 2021. Therefore, even with the establishment of the nursery, the school's total roll will decrease over a two-year period from 480 to a maximum of 465; a decrease of 15 pupils.

**Equality Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is published on the KCC consultation website. <https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Kingshillschool/consultationHome>

**Financial Implications**

Capital – There is no capital expenditure required by KCC; The scheme will be funded by the school, utilising existing capital funds and via a loan from KCC.

Revenue – The school will receive revenue funding from the County Council based on the number of children in the setting and hours they attend.

Human - The schools will appoint additional staff as and when appropriate.

**Legal Implications**

Legislation requires the LA to undertake a statutory process for proposed: Alteration of upper or lower age range by 1 year or more (for community schools including the adding or removal of sixth form or nursesey provision)

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 15 November comments will be added following the meeting.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

There are various local private early years care providers who have long waiting lists and do not have the capacity to expand. KCC is also working with another local primary school on a proposal to establish nursery provision. There are no other viable options to consider in the local area where the places are needed.

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

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**signed**

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**date**