

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

19/00082

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject:

Proposal to establish Primary and Secondary satellite provisions of St Nicholas (Community Special School at St John's C.E. Primary School and Canterbury Academy.

Proposed Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I propose to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to establish Primary and Secondary satellite provisions of St Nicholas (Community) Special School, Canterbury to be implemented from September 2020.

- i. Establish an 8 place Primary satellite provision at St John's C.E. Primary School Canterbury.
- ii. Establish a 32 place Secondary satellite provision at Canterbury Academy

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 sets out the need to provide the opportunity for an increased number of Secondary aged children in Canterbury to be supported in a local school through the establishment of satellite provision of St Nicholas School. It also identifies the need for additional specialist places across the Plan period through a mixture of new Special schools, expansions of existing schools via satellites and new SRPs.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the need for additional specialist places to meet increasing demand, as set out in Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23.
- the views expressed by those who responded to the public education consultation
- the Equalities Impact Assessment regarding this; and
- the views of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below.

A public notice is therefore needed to discern the opinions and comments of stakeholders.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is published on the KCC consultation website.

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Stnicholas2019/consultationHome>

Financial Implications

Capital

St John's C.E. Primary School has identified a classroom to provide the space required for the satellite provision. Developer contributions of £24,548.70 will be provided to create the additional class.

Canterbury Academy will be provided with a 4-classroom modular building to accommodate the satellite provision. The estimated cost of moving and refurbishing the modular units has been estimated at £534,000.

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.

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.

This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.

Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided classroom will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget. For this project a total of £30,000 will be provided for the establishment of the satellite provisions.

KCC will work closely with the senior leadership teams of both schools to ensure that all appropriate accommodation and facilities are provided to enable them to deliver an effective curriculum.

Legal Implications

The proposal will help to secure our ambition "to ensure that every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can fair access to school places" as set out in the Kent Commissioning Plan.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

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

An education consultation was completed from 9 September 2019 to 7 October 2019. The consultation document was distributed to parents/carers, school staff and governors, schools in Canterbury District, County Councillors, Member of Parliament, the Diocesan Authorities, Canterbury & Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group, Canterbury City Council and others. An opportunity was provided to send in written responses via a response form or email. Overall there were a total of 96 written responses received, 75 from St Nicholas School, 14 from Canterbury Academy and 7 from St Johns Primary School. 82% of responses were supportive of the proposal with positive comments supporting the satellite provisions indicating the ability for integration and the opportunities this would give the schools and pupils.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

St Nicholas (Community Special) School is unable to expand on its main school site in Canterbury and demand for SEN places in Canterbury district is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream school sites enables the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and also provides St Nicholas students with the opportunity to integrate, where appropriate, with mainstream students. It also gives the school capacity to expand to meet the growing

demand.

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