

From: Richard Long, TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee - 15 November 2019

Subject: **Proposal to expand Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 174 places to 210 places from September 2021**

Classification: Unrestricted

Decision Number: 19/00083

Future Pathway: Cabinet Member Decision of Paper

Electoral Division: Gravesend East, Diane Marsh and Alan Ridgers

Summary:

This report informs members of a proposal to expand Gravesend Grammar School from 174 places to 210 places in September 2021.

Recommendation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to CONSIDER and ENDORSE, or MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to endorse a proposal to expand Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 174 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. 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 Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-

20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.

- 1.3. Gravesend Grammar School has a Published Admission Number of 174, but has in the past, offered extra places through appeals.
- 1.4. KCC proposed an expansion of the school to take the PAN to 210 (7FE). The school currently has a permanent infrastructure that can accommodate 150 with a temporary two storey block on site that provides the accommodation to facilitate the additional 24 places. To expand Gravesend Grammar School, KCC are proposing the removal of the temporary block and building a new block at the school, together with other infill and enhancement work to social spaces. This work would be completed before the September 2021 intake. This build would enable the school to offer 210 Year 7 places for September 2021.

2. Alternative Proposals

- 2.1. Gravesend Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in June 2015.
- 2.2. The school site lends itself to expansion for a number of reasons including the age and sustainability of existing structures, proximity to local demand and sympathetic leadership and governance.
- 2.3. The school is the only boy's grammar school in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group, so is therefore the only option.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. Capital

- 3.2. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being between £7.0m and £7.5m, 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 Education and Skills 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 Public Consultation was undertaken by the school which ran from 30th September 2019 to 1st November 2019, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 15th October 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

Responses

5.3. A verbal update on the responses received will be provided by the Area Education officer in this meeting.

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 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. The Gravesend and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.
- 7.2. Gravesend Grammar School is the only selective school for boys in the planning group.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to CONSIDER and ENDORSE, or MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to endorse a proposal to expand Gravesend Grammar School, Church Walk, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 2PR increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 174 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>

8. 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