

**From:** Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

**To:** Richard Long, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

**Subject:** Proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021

**Decision No:** 20/00021

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Future Pathway:  
of Paper** Cabinet Member Decision

**Electoral Division:** Northfleet & Gravesend West, John Burden and Dr Lauren Sullivan

**Summary:**

This report informs members of a proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School from 180 places to 210 places in September 2021.

**Recommendation:**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to:

- i. agree to the expansion of Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021;
- ii. agree to fund the expansion from the schools' basic need capital budget; and
- iii. delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education to take necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into necessary contracts or taking other legal actions as required, to implement the decision.

## 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 2020-24 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 found using 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 Gravesham from the start of the 2020-21 academic year. The Gravesham 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. As part of the measures being taken to address the capacity issues illustrated above, KCC is proposing that Mayfield Grammar School increase their PAN to 210 for 2021.
- 1.4. To expand Mayfield Grammar School, KCC are proposing the removal of the old wooden 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. Mayfield Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in 2013.
- 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 girl's grammar school in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group, so is therefore the only option.
- 2.4. If no action is taken, Kent County Council will find it extremely difficult to provide sufficient local selective secondary school places in Gravesham borough.

## **3. Financial Implications**

### **Capital**

- 3.1. A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being £3.7m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.
- 3.2. The capital figure reported here is a budget estimate for information only. 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 the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made.
- 3.3. Capital will be spent developing the design. This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.
- 3.4. 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.

## **Revenue**

- 3.5. 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.
- 3.6. The school will receive pupil growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

## **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, 2020-24 identified a pressure on 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.

## **5. Consultation**

- 5.1. The Academy Trust held a consultation from 27 January 2020 to 28 February 2020, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 11 February 2020.
- 5.2. The Academy Trust have considered the responses received from the consultation and have confirmed that they will proceed with the expansion proposal.
- 5.3. Consultation page on kent.gov:  
<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Mayfield/consultationHome>

Consultation letter

[https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300453.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield\\_Proposal\\_Letter.docx](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300453.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield_Proposal_Letter.docx)

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. 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".

## **7. Equalities implications**

- 7.1 An EqIA has been completed and identified no negative impacts and the following positive impacts were identified:

An increase in total number of places available to meet the needs of students with disabilities and/or SEN; More families able to access good school places; School places available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds.

The full assessment can be viewed here:

[https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300517.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield\\_EqlA.docx](https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300517.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield_EqlA.docx)

## **8. Data Protection implications**

An impact assessment identified no adverse implications as KCC did not handle any personal data relating to this decision.

## **9. Views**

### **9.1. The Local Member**

Mr John Burden and Dr Lauren Sullivan have been informed of the proposal.

### **9.2. 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.

## **10. Conclusions**

10.1. KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2020-21 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.

## **11. Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to:

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## **12. Background Documents**

12.1. 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>

12.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision.

[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

## **13. Contact details**

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