

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00046

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject:

Proposal to temporarily expand The Westlands (Secondary Academy) School by 1.5FE (45 places) for September 2021

Decision:

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

- (i) Allocate £1million to the temporary expansion of Westlands Secondary School by 1.5FE for September 2021.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 identifies the need to commission additional capacity in the Swale District for Year 7 secondary school places from 2019. September 2021 shows a projected deficit of 74 places. There is a need to secure a permanent solution to the secondary place pressures from September 2023 onwards when the size of the pressure increases and/ is more sustained.

The commissioning of a new all through school to include 2FE primary provision and 6FE secondary agreed with developers on the North Sittingbourne (Quinton Road) site has been delayed due to the housing development not coming forward according to the original timeline as set out within the Local Plan. It is hoped that that we will gain access to the site by 2021. Alternative options will be explored in case this is not possible.

The temporary expansion of Westlands School by 1.5FE will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at an outstanding, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The need for additional places identified in the Kent Commissioning Plan 2020-2024
- The views of the Governing Body/Swale Academies Trust
- The views of the Area Education Officer

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of this proposal and is attached for information.

Financial Implications**A. Capital**

A record of decision on the capital allocation of £1.96m was signed by the Cabinet Member on the 6 December 2018. This funding was towards the total cost of replacement of a number of mobile classrooms on the Westlands site that had been taken out of use due to condition and health and safety concerns. This accommodation would otherwise not be useable as classrooms to meet the additional pupil place need. The school's current published admission number (PAN) is 285. The additional investment of £1m would extend this offer of a minimum of 330 places for a further year (2021 to 2022 academic year)

B. Revenue

The school will receive increased funding through their Delegated Budget. The rising rolls will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to

resource each new classroom as they come on -line. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

C. Human

The School will appoint additional staff as the need arises.

Legal Implications

The original funding allocation is subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the Trust to offer a minimum of 330 Year 7 places for September 2019 and 2020. The school's current published admission number (PAN) is 285. The additional investment of £1m would extend this offer of a minimum of 330 places for a further year (2021 to 2022 academic year) and the contractual agreement with the Trust would be adjusted to reflect this.

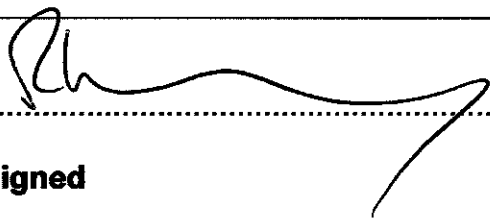
Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The report was shared with Members of the CYPE Cabinet Committee for comment, prior to a decision being taken.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The Sittingbourne School and Fulston Manor School have been also been approached to see if either could take an additional temporary 1 form of entry for September 2021 to meet the total need for that academic year.

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



signed

21 May 2020

date