

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Richard Long,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00069

For publication

Subject: Funding update on the proposal to permanently expand Harrietsham Church of England Primary School, West Street, Harrietsham, Kent ME17 1JZ, from 210 places to 420 places, increasing the published admission number (PAN) from 30 to 60 for Year R entry in September 2018.

Decision:

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

- a) Allocate an additional £600,000 from the Children, Young People & Education Basic Need Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- b) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- c) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Background

The enlargement of Harrietsham CEP School from 210 to 420 places represents KCC's strategic response to the forecast population growth in Harrietsham village and the surrounding area.

A public education consultation was held from 19 September 2016 to 17 October 2016, with the results included in the Cabinet Committee report. The Harrietsham CEP School expansion scheme was considered by the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee on 23 November 2016. The Cabinet Committee endorsed the allocation of £3 million from the Basic Need budget to fund the permanent expansion of the school.

A further £600,000 was allocated from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget in June 2019 to enable the creation of an additional and necessary bell-mouth entrance between the highway and the land being acquired for a car park and additional costs due to unexpected site logistics during construction relating to the topography and split levels between the car park and main school site.

The proposal is to allocate a further £600,000 from the Young People & Education Basic Need Capital Budget to enable the scheme to be completed.

The reasons for the increased expenditure are as follows:

- Additional costs incurred due to significantly longer build time than originally anticipated; this

is primarily as a result of unforeseen issues relating to planning, ecology and drainage.

- Supplementary design alterations to comply with planning requirements associated with a site within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- The requirement for additional survey works to conform with ecological requirements following the acquisition of the adjacent land for the car parking area. This work included the identification and relocation of protected species such as Great Crested Newts.
- Unforeseen work to ensure the drainage within the car parking area and main site are sufficiently robust to accommodate the extra capacity needed following the expansion.

The scheme was originally procured under a two-stage design and build contract, however delays caused by the planning constraints outlined above has meant that the project needed to be split into two separate contracts to ensure that the school is provided with the additional accommodation required for September 2020.

Action has been taken to mitigate the financial impact as far as possible, including

- Changes to roof design
- Alteration to proposed storage and circulation space
- Omission of works required to the existing front lobby and office space

Original decisions:

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1994>

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2265>

How the proposed decision meets the objectives of ‘Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council’s Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

As the strategic commissioner of school provision, the Local Authority (LA) has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent as set out in Kent’s Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20 iteration for this expansion).

Financial Implications

Capital

Kent County Council’s contribution was initially £3 million and this was increased by £600,000 in June 2019. This proposal increases the contribution by £600,000, taking the total scheme cost to £4.2 Million.

Revenue

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and the Schools’ Funding Forum. The school will also receive £6,000 per new learning space that is provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit each new teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Human

The schools will appoint additional staff as and when appropriate.

Legal Implications

The local authority has a statutory duty under the Chapter III of the Education Act 1996 to ensure sufficient school places are available for any Kent child who requires one.

Equalities implications

A full impact assessment has been carried out and identified the following positive outcomes: The

new accommodation and better facilities will have a positive impact on students and staff through the improvement of the learning environment and places available to children with all faith-based backgrounds. No negative impacts have been identified.

Data Protection implications

When handling consultation and scheme responses KCC are the 'controllers' under the General Data Protection Regulation and will ensure that any personal information is processed fairly and lawfully.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 30 July to be added after meeting

The results of the consultation were included in the Cabinet Committee report that was considered by the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee on 23 November 2016.

In accordance with the Department for Education's Statutory Guidance (October 2018): Making 'prescribed alterations' to maintained schools, there was a need to undertake a formal statutory consultation process. A public education consultation was held from 19 September 2016 to 17 October 2016 and a formal Public Notice ran from 6th January 2017 to 3rd February 2017.

Any alternatives considered:
The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2020-24 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

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

Signed

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Date