

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Richard Long,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00073

For publication

Subject Agree the allocation of additional Basic Need funds to increase the funding to permanently expand the secondary provision at Ursuline College by 1FE from September 2019.

Decision:

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

- a) Allocate an additional £1.3m from the Children, Young People & Education Capital Budget, to fund the delivery of the accommodation required to enable the school to operate its agreed Published Admission Number of 150.
- 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 Kent Commissioning Plan for 2015 to 2019 identified the need for additional secondary school provision for Thanet to be in place for September 2019 onwards. The Kent Commissioning Plan for 2017 to 2021 forecast that up to 8 forms of entry of provision would be required during the period 2019-22. Most of the new provision will be provided via a new 6FE Free School established on the former Royal School for the Deaf site in Margate. As the future minimum need was identified as 8FE a permanent solution would be required. Feasibility studies of all Thanet Secondary schools were undertaken, and discussions took place with governing bodies and Academy Trusts to establish whether they would support expansion. It was identified that Ursuline College site could accommodate a permanent expansion and that the academy trustees were in support of the proposal.

At the Children's Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on the 13 October 2017 it was agreed to permanently expand Ursuline College and based on feasibility reports, £3million was allocated to the build project from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget (Record of Decision 17/00100). It was acknowledged at the time that the final amount may be higher as the costs of the project at that point were estimated.

The build programme has had to be delivered in phases. It has now been identified that additional costs of £1.3m will be incurred due to the impact of key parts of the school having Listed Building status and the changes to the scope of the project which include:

- a) Listed Building impact
 - Fire Escape stairs have had to be replaced with like-for-like bespoke designed replacements.
 - Specific materials were specified by Listed Buildings to be used in the project
 - Lime-based plaster
 - Re-use of or matched (bespoke) skirtings
 - Like-for like replacements, including window casements & frames, stairs and fire escape.
- b) Condition of existing building and unforeseen requirements
 - emergency electric upgrade works (Phase 1). These had not been identified at feasibility stage.
 - new sub-station (Phase 2); failure to provide this supply upgrade would restrict the College's use of new facilities
- c) Scheme development
 - St Cecilia building was originally planned to be refurbished to meet current regulations. Discussions with Planners now require it is replaced (new modular build block of 3nr classrooms and associated areas).
 - Replacement of St Cecilia building to meet BB103 classroom sizes also requires demolition of Little Brescia building.
 - Review of and improvements to on-site parking as part of planning requirements.

This has increased the cost of the project by £1.3m. As this is an increase of more than 10% of the allocated funding a further decision will be required.

Original Decision and Report

17/00100 – A permanent 2FE expansion of Ursuline College from September 2019

You can view details of the decision and accompanying papers by clicking on the link below:

Internet – <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2109>

Options

Feasibility studies of all Thanet Secondary schools were undertaken in 2017, and discussions took place with governing bodies and Academy Trusts to establish whether they would support expansion. It was identified that Ursuline College site could accommodate a permanent expansion and that the academy trustees were in support of the proposal.

How the proposed decision meets the objectives of 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'

This expansion is in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2018 – 2022).

All options were considered as part of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2018-2022.

Financial Implications

The Basic need budget allocated to this project currently stands at £3m. If the cost of the project was to be greater than 10% of the agreed figure, the Cabinet Member would be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding. Revised costs have resulted in a figure that exceeds 10% of the original agreed £3 million.

The cost increase of £1.3m has been budgeted for within the existing Basic Need Programme, provided for by savings on other schemes. Ursuline has £399,155 in developer contributions agreed towards this project.

Revenue

For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs

Human

Ursuline College will appoint additional teachers, as the student numbers increase and the need arises

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 was published with the original CYPE Cabinet Committee papers. The assessment identified the following positive impacts:

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

No adverse 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:

The original proposal was presented to the CYPE Cabinet Committee on 13 October 2017 and the RoD was dated 23 November 2017.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2109>

23 November 2016 - the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21 was endorsed by the Cabinet Committee prior to the final version being considered and approved by Cabinet on 23 January 2017.

8 July 2015 – A report on the Future Provision of Secondary Education in Kent – Cabinet Committee noted the actions required to increase Secondary school capacity to meet the demands of a growing Secondary school population.

A report seeking the allocation of additional funding to increase the allocated funding to the project will be provided to the 30 July 2020 Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee for comment.

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

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