

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

**Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education**

**DECISION NO:**

**19/00026**

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

**Subject: Proposal to permanently expand the Secondary provision at Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, from a PAN of 180 to 210**

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, I propose to:

- a. Allocate £2.6m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
  - b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

1.1 The Gravesham district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-23 has identified pressure for Year 7 places in the Gravesham area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide up to 90 additional places in the planning area from September 2019., with further forms of entry required to come online over the next 4-5 years. The expansion of Saint George's Church of England School supports the increases required in future years.

1.2. For 2020, the school will be able to accommodate an additional 30 year 7 places, but for 2021, permanent building works will be required to ensure an increased cohort can continue to be accommodated.

1.3. The School has already been successful in securing CIF funding from the ESFA for the demolition of a teaching block on the school site. The ESFA have now agreed to vary the scheme to enable this expansion to proceed. Therefore, the CIF funding of £3.7m will be combined with the KCC contribution of £2.6 million to meet the anticipated scheme cost of £6.3 million. The main reason for the increased cost is because the original CIF bid was to demolish a block that is no longer fit for purpose and to rebuild that provision. The KCC funding will now be combined with that to ensure sufficient additional space is provided.

1.4. The School will manage the project and a funding agreement will be produced and signed by both Saint George's Church of England School and KCC stipulating that the KCC contribution is up to a value £2.6 million. The school therefore own the risk of any overspend occurring on the scheme.

**Equality Implications**

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date, no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

**Financial Implications**

2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, increasing the Secondary PAN from 180 to 210 for the September 2020 intake.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £2.6m. The School will manage the project and a funding agreement will be produced and signed by both Saint George’s Church of England School and KCC stipulating that the KCC contribution is up to a value £2.6 million. The school therefore own the risk of any overspend occurring on the scheme.
- b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Year 7 students. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
- c. Human – Saint George’s Church of England School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

**Legal Implications**

These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in the Education Commissioning Plan.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

**CYPE CC comments to be added following the meeting on 28 March 2019**

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2018-22 identified a pressure on secondary school places in the Gravesham district. Changes to demographics and increased migration over the last six years has required significant expansions in the primary provision. These expansions are now feeding into the secondary cohort. This demand is further demonstrated in the 2019-23 Kent Commissioning Plan.

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

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**signed**

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**date**