

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Richard Long,
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00001

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand The Beacon Folkestone to open a satellite provision at the former Walmer Science College and increase the designated number of the School from 380 places to 548 places.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills I agree to:

- (i). Expand The Beacon Folkestone by opening a satellite provision at the former Walmer Science College and increasing the designated number of the School from 380 places to 548 places;
- (ii). issue a public notice in regard to the proposal as set out in (i) above;
- (iii). release the funding required from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget to implement the proposal; and to
- (iv). 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.

Should objections, not already considered by me when taking this decision, be received during the public notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal and allow for a proper consideration of the points raised.

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted where required.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have considered:

- The views expressed by those who responded to the public education consultation
- The views expressed by those put in writing by the Area Education Officer, the School and the Chair of Governors.
- The Equalities Impact Assessment regarding this; and
- The views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below.

Financial Implications:**Capital:**

It is estimated that the total cost of the proposal will be in the region of £4,000,000. Detailed plans for the first phase have been prepared. It is estimated that £1,600,000 will be required to complete this first phase.

Capital funding of £4,000,000 towards the project has been agreed, £3,000,000 of which would

be from the second tranche of the Government's Special Provision Capital Fund.

Revenue:

School places will be funded in line with KCCs standard school, funding arrangements. In addition, £50,000 start-up funding has been agreed alongside the standard classroom set up grant of £6,000 per classroom. A minimum of four classrooms are expected to be set up in the first year.

Equality Implication: The EIA has been considered in making my decision.

<https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/beaconwalmer/consultationHome>

Legal Implications:

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".

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The views of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee will be added after the meeting of 11 March 2020.

Any alternatives considered:

The alternatives were all explored in the preparation for the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 and the report presented to CYPE Cabinet Committee 11 March 2020.

The Beacon Folkestone is an OFSTED rated outstanding provision. The school leaders are experienced at promoting outstanding provision across different sites. If no action is taken it will be difficult to provide the additional special school places required in across the corner of the County.

The former Walmer Science College is available, ideally located to address the need and has been retained for educational use.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

N/A

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Signed

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Date