

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Richard Long
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00021

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject:

Proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I:

- i agree to the expansion of Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021;
- ii. agree to fund the expansion from the schools' basic need capital budget; and
- iii, 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be found using this link:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2020-21 academic year. The Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.

As part of the measures being taken to address the capacity issues illustrated above, KCC is proposing that Mayfield Grammar School increase their PAN to 210 for 2021.

To expand Mayfield Grammar School, KCC are proposing the removal of the old wooden block and building a new block at the school, together with other infill and enhancement work to social spaces. This work would be completed before the September 2021 intake. This build would enable the school to offer 210 Year 7 places for September 2021.

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".

Equalities implications

An EqIA has been completed and identified no negative impacts and the following positive impacts were identified: An increase in total number of places available to meet the needs of students with disabilities and/or SEN; More families able to access good school places; School places available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds.

The full assessment can be viewed here:

https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300517.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield_EqIA.docx

Data Protection implications

An impact assessment identified no adverse implications as KCC did not handle any personal data relating to this decision.

Financial ImplicationsCapital

A feasibility study has been carried out which estimates the cost of delivery being £3.7m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.

The capital figure reported here is a budget estimate for information only. Subject to Members support for the proposal to progress, these estimates will be refined as detailed design work is undertaken and the scheme progresses through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate will be presented to Infrastructure Commissioning Board and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education for a key decision to be made.

If Members support the progression of this proposal, capital will be spent developing the design. This expenditure will be below the level requiring a key decision and within that delegated to officers.

In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Revenue

Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.

The school will receive growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

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:

This will be considered by the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 11 March 2020.

The Academy Trust held a consultation from 27 January 2020 to 28 February 2020, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 11 February 2020.

The Academy Trust have considered the response received from the consultation and have confirmed that they will proceed with the expansion proposal.

Consultation page on kent.gov:

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

Consultation letter

https://kccconsultations.inconsult.uk/gf2.ti/f/1112290/62300453.1/DOCX/-/Mayfield_Proposal_Letter.docx

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Mayfield Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in 2013.

The school site lends itself to expansion for a number of reasons including the age and sustainability of existing structures, proximity to local demand and sympathetic leadership and governance.

The school is the only girl's grammar school in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group, so is therefore the only option.

If no action is taken, Kent County Council will find it extremely difficult to provide sufficient local selective secondary school places in Gravesham borough.

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