

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long TD,

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00113

For publication**Key decision: YES**

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Proposal to allocate £6,187,241 to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.

Decision:

- a) authorise the allocation of £6,187,241 from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital Budget to permanently expand Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, Nackington Lane, Canterbury Kent CT4 7AS from 120 places to 150 places from September 2022.
- b) *authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with KCC General Counsel and the Director of Education to enter into any necessary agreements on behalf of the County Council.*
- c) delegate authority to the Director for Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services 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:**Background**

The Kent Commissioning Plan 2020-2024 identified the need for additional selective places for the Canterbury and Faversham Planning group. Forecasts indicated a deficit of 20 Year 7 places for September 2021 and a continual need through the plan period of up to 37 additional places. However, as Simon Langton increased their PAN in 2020 before the agreed build programme, their expansion has already been factored into the forecast. The expansion at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys will also ensure that the Boys and Girls Grammar school's PANs are closer in the numbers offered, helping to secure equality of opportunity for boys and girls to attend a grammar school in the planning area.

There are four grammar schools in Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group. We have commissioned a feasibility study to expand Queen Elisabeth Grammar by 1FE. Barton Court Grammar School was expanded by 1FE in 2017 and Simon Langton Girls Grammar school has a Priority School Building programme nearing completion, rebuilding, and relocating the school on their current site.

Financial Implications

The capital allocation of £6,187,241 is to deliver a programme to provide 17 additional classrooms required to meet the additional pupil place need and to replace the mobile accommodation that can no longer be used due to their condition. This will comprise a new 2 storey teaching block, in addition, there is an extension to the dining area and external works for additional carparking facilities. It has been estimated that the costs for the replacement of the mobile accommodation (10 classrooms) will be in the region of £1.82m and the costs associated with the 1FE expansion including 7 additional classrooms, dining hall expansion and car parking facilities to be £4,367,241.

The school will receive increased revenue funding through their Delegated Budget. The rising rolls will be protected in line with KCC Growth Funding Policy. Revenue funding will also be allocated to enable the School to resource each new classroom as they come online. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

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 Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and the assessment identified the following positive impacts:

- Sufficient year 7 places will be provided.
- Year 7 pupils will be able attend Grammar school provisions in their locality
- More pupils will be able to attend a good or outstanding school.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children’s and Young People Cabinet Committee consider the decision on 15 January 2021 The Committee supported the proposal.

Local member Comments:

Mr Hook, Kent County Councillor for Faversham, responded to the publication of the proposals by asking why the local schools in Faversham were not included in the expansion plans:

CYPE Directorate advised that;

The grammar planning area covers both Canterbury and Faversham as it reflects current patterns of student travel but expansion of other local grammar schools was being assessed via feasibility studies. KCC is also expanding Abbey School by one form of entry in the first instance and with the intention to add a further form of entry as the demand from housing grows. KCC is engaging with Swale Borough Council on the Local Development Plan to take account of future education provision requirements.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Neighbouring planning groups, including Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective planning group and Thanet Selective planning group also have a deficit of year 7 places therefore would not be able to accommodate students from Canterbury and Faversham.

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



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signed

25/01/21

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date