

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

21/00069

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 permanently expand Borden Grammar School, Avenue of Remembrance, Sittingbourne, ME10 4DB from 120 places to 150 places for September 2022.

Decision:

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

- i. Agree to provide £5.460m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the permanent expansion of Borden Grammar School by 1FE for September 2022.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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.
- iv.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:**Background**

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 identified the need to commission additional capacity in the Sittingbourne and Sheppey selective planning group.

2021-25 forecasts indicate a deficit of up to 64 Year 7 places for 2022 and a continual need through the plan period of between 1.5FE and 2.5FE of additional selective school places. Discussions have been held with both grammar schools in Sittingbourne and each school has agreed to progress a 1FE expansion, delivering a total of 60 additional places from September 2022.

There are two Grammar schools in the Sittingbourne and Sheppey planning group, Borden Grammar School (Boys) and Highsted Grammar School (Girls). For a number of years both grammar schools have offered over their PAN to help meet the need, however they are not able to offer any additional places from September 2022 without additional classrooms and facilities to enable them to expand by 1FE on a permanent basis.

Financial Implications

The capital allocation of £5.460m is to deliver a programme providing the additional general and specialist classrooms plus a new sports hall required to meet the additional pupil place need. The school’s current published admission number (PAN) is 120. The £5.460m has been agreed based on a full feasibility and curriculum analysis against BB103 requirements for a 5FE school. This figure is in line with the DfE’s benchmark figures for an expansion of a secondary school by 1FE.

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 for September 2022 intake.
- 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.

Other Alternatives Considered and risks if decision isn’t taken.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children’s and Young People Cabinet Committee considered this decision on 14 September 2021.

[Agenda for Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on Tuesday, 14th September, 2021, 10.00 am \(kent.gov.uk\)](https://www.kent.gov.uk/agenda-for-childrens-young-people-and-education-cabinet-committee-on-tuesday-14th-september-2021-10.00-am)

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

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

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



30/09/21

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signed

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date