

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Shellina Prendergast
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

DECISION NO:

21/00085

Unrestricted

Key decision: **YES, Over £1m**

Subject:

To agree to fund the proposal to expand Thamesview School, Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF, by confirming the permanent expansion of Thamesview School from a PAN of 150 to a PAN of 180 and to then further expand Thamesview School from a PAN of 180 to a PAN of 210 from September 2023.

Decision:

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

- (i) Allocate £5m from the Children Young People and Education Services Capital Budget to the scheme to expand Thamesview School to a PAN of 210.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and the 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

Decision 19-00071, taken on 15 October 2019 by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young people and Education, and agreed to publish a Public Notice on a proposal to expand Thamesview School by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 150 places to 210 places from September 2021 by confirming the school's Published Admission Number at 180 and add an additional 30 places taking the school PAN up to 210 for September 2021. The notice was published on 30 August 2021, once the full costs of the project were known.

This decision is to allocate the funding for the proposal to expand Thamesview School from 150 places to 210 places. In light of the most current forecasts, and following discussion with the school, the final expansion from a PAN of 180 to a PAN of 210, should take place for the September 2023 intake.

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 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 viewed from this link:

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

[policies/education-provision](#)

The principle of the proposal had already been approved by the Cabinet Member, see decision number 19/00071. Following discussions with the school, the decision has been taken to expand the school from September 2023 to address the forecasted deficit in that year.

Financial Implications

Capital

An initial feasibility study was carried out which estimated the cost of delivery being between £4.0m and £4.5m, wholly funded by the CYPE Basic Need Capital Budget.

In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure reported to the Cabinet Committee was a budget estimate, pending a full costings exercise.

Following a more detailed feasibility study, the refined cost estimate is £5m. The reason for the increase over the two years is due primarily, to the cost of materials rising significantly due to Covid and logistical challenges from contractors.

KCC Officers have determined that the cost increase is entirely proportionate to that being experienced in other projects and maintain that the project provides value for money.

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.

Pupil Growth Funding

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

Human

The school will appoint additional staff as it grows over the years.

Legal Implications

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

Equality Impact Assessment

An EqlA has been completed and can be viewed here:

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

Data Protection implications

None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 14 September 2021.

[Agenda for Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on Tuesday, 14th September, 2021, 10.00 am \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee will consider the decision on 1 October 2019.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=894&MId=8274&Ver=4>

A Public Consultation ran from 24th June 2019 to 19th July 2019, with a drop in day for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 4 July 2019.

<https://kcccconsultations.inconsult.uk/consult.ti/Thamesview/consultationHome>

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

There are seven secondary schools in the Gravesend and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group. These are: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet School for Girls, Northfleet Technology College, Saint George's CE School (Gravesend), St. John's Catholic Comprehensive School and Thamesview School.

Of these, St George's CE School, Northfleet School for Girls and Meopham School are either being expanded or are the subject of a future proposal to expand. Northfleet Technology College is under feasibility for an expansion and Longfield School has been offering additional places under a local arrangement for several years. Thamesview School is the only remaining candidate for expansion.

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