

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Shellina Prendergast

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

21/00114

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)*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Swale Secondary Provision. Temporary expansions of Sittingbourne Secondary Schools for September 2022 and September 2023.

Decision:

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

- (i) agree to provide £1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of Westlands Secondary School by 1FE (30 places) for September 2022 and September 2023.
- (ii) agree to provide £1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of The Sittingbourne School by 1FE (30 places) for September 2022 and September 2023.
- (iii) agree to provide £1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of Fulston Manor by 0.5FE (15 places) for September 2022 and September 2023.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Education in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council.

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

The Kent Commissioning Plan has identified the need for additional secondary places across Swale District for several years due to population growth and new housing developments in the district.

The Kent Commissioning Plan (2021-2025) shows a deficit of -93 Year 7 places in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group for September 2022 growing to a deficit of -176 for September 2023 Year 7 entry. Some of this pressure is offset by spare capacity in Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy but there remains an overall deficit of Year 7 places that needs to be addressed.

The commissioning of a new all through school to include 2FE primary provision and 6FE secondary agreed with developers on the North Sittingbourne (Quinton Road) site has been delayed due to the housing development not coming forward according to the original timeline as set out within the Local Plan. Following discussions with the developer, the school site is now not expected to transfer

until 2026. If this remains the case, the earliest date for delivery of a new school would be September 2028. Discussions on options to meet the non-selective secondary place need in the period 2024 to 2028 are ongoing, meanwhile proposals to meet the shorter term pressures are being brought forward after discussion with the local secondary schools.

Financial Implications

Capital

£1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of Westlands Secondary School by 1FE for September 2022 and September 2023.

£1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of The Sittingbourne School by 1FE for September 2022 and September 2023.

£1M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget for the temporary expansion of Fulston Manor by 0.5FE for September 2022 and September 2023.

Revenue

The schools will receive increased 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 schools to resource each new classroom as they come on-line. At present this is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.

Legal implications

The funding allocations are subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the individual Trusts to offer the agreed temporary expansions.

Equalities implications

An Equalities, Impact Assessment (EQIA) was undertaken for the temporary expansion and the following positive impacts have been identified are:

- Sufficient year 7 places will be provided for September 2022 and 2023 intake.
- Year 7 pupils will be able attend secondary school provisions in their locality

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

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

The new 6FE Secondary school on Quinton Road has not been able to be progressed.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 11 January 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Without the additional temporary Secondary Capacity at The Westlands School, The Sittingbourne School and Fulston Manor for 2022 and 2023, there will not be sufficient Year 7 places available in the Sittingbourne non selective planning area to meet demand. This would result in children having to travel to other districts or planning groups for their education and would further increase transport costs for KCC.

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