

**From:** Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

**To:** Shellina Prendergast – Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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

**Decision Number and Title** 2100114 - Swale Secondary Provision. Temporary expansions of Sittingbourne Secondary Schools for September 2022 and September 2023.

**Key** *It involves expenditure or savings of maximum £1m – including if over several phases*

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of report:**

Children’s, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2022  
Proposal to Temporary Expand Westlands by 1.5FE for September 2019 & 2020  
18/00061

Proposal to Temporary Expand Westlands by 1.5FE for September 2021  
20/00046

**Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member Decision**

**Electoral Division:** Westlands – Mike Baldock - Swale West  
The Sittingbourne School & Fulston Manor – John Wright –  
Sittingbourne South

**Summary:**

This report sets out the need for additional secondary school capacity in Sittingbourne, pending the establishment of a new 6FE secondary school on the Quinton Road housing development site later in the Plan period or an alternative solution should the site not become available within the required timeframe. The additional 30 temporary places at Westlands Secondary Academy are in addition to those provided for 2019, 2020 and 2021 and referred to in the CYPE report of the 29 November 2018 and May 2020. Additional 30 temporary places are also proposed for The Sittingbourne School and 15 temporary places at Fulston Manor. The additional temporary capacity is required to ensure that sufficient Year 7 places are available for entry in September 2022 and 2023 to meet the needs of Sittingbourne children.

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the proposed decision 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.

## 1. Introduction

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

1.2 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. The pressure on secondary school places showing in Sittingbourne is also exacerbated by large numbers of children travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their secondary education. 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.

### Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2019-20 capacity	2019-20 (A)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2026-27 capacity
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective	390	139	118	85	109	88	75	100	126	390
Sittingbourne Non-Selective	810	-28	-92	-140	-93	-176	-143	-146	-110	765

### Years 7-11 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2019-20 capacity	2019-20 (A)	2020-21 (F)	2021-22 (F)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2026-27 capacity
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective	1,950	704	693	640	629	582	520	504	544	1,950
Sittingbourne Non-Selective	3,795	-72	-158	-268	-330	-473	-587	-638	-609	3,825

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 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. Therefore, temporary and permanent solutions need to be secured to meet the forecast need to ensure there are sufficient year 7 places are available in the Sittingbourne planning group.
- 2.2 Additional capacity for Swale secondary provision was secured through a temporary expansion of Westlands Secondary Academy by 45 places for September 2019, 2020, and 2021. The Sittingbourne School also expanded by 30 places for September 2021 for Year 7 entry. To meet the need for additional grammar places in Sittingbourne and Sheppey both Highsted and Borden Grammar Schools are proposing to expand permanently by 1FE from September 2022. A temporary expansion of The Abbey School for 30 places for September 2021 was also secured and a permanent 1FE expansion is being progressed.
- 2.3 A record of decision on the capital allocation of £1.96m to Westlands was signed by the Cabinet Member on the 6 December 2018. This funding was towards the total cost of replacement of a number of mobile classrooms on the Westlands site that had been taken out of use due to condition and health and safety concerns. This accommodation would otherwise not be useable as classrooms to meet the additional pupil place need. A further record of decision on the capital allocation of £1m was signed by the Cabinet Member on 21 May 2020 to enable Westlands to offer a minimum of 330 Year 7 places for September 2021.
- 2.4 Additional temporary capacity is required for September 2022 and September 2023, due to the new school not coming forward within the required timeframe, it is therefore proposed to temporarily expand:
- Westlands Secondary School by 30 places (1FE)
  - The Sittingbourne School by 30 places (1FE)
  - Fulston Manor by 15 places (0.5FE)
- This will ensure a total of 75 (2.5FE) additional Year 7 places in Sittingbourne non-selective planning area for both September 2022 and September 2023. The surplus capacity in the Isle of Sheppey non-selective planning area will also help to support the deficit in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group. Therefore, with the additional 75 paces for 2022 we are predicting a surplus of +91 places across both planning areas for 2022 and a slight deficit of -13 in 2023 across both planning areas that will be discussed with all schools to ensure that sufficient places can be offered.
- 2.5 There is a need to secure a permanent solution to the secondary place pressures from September 2024 onwards and options are being investigated.

## **3 Financial Implications**

- 3.1 Capital  
Allocation of the following capital funding:

£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.

### 3.2 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.

## 4 Legal implications

- 4.1 The funding allocations are subject to a contractual agreement between KCC and the individual Trusts to offer the agreed temporary expansions for September 2022 and 2022.

## 5 Equalities implications

- 5.1 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.

## 6 Other corporate implications

- 6.1 None identified

## 7 Governance

- 7.1 The Officer Scheme of Delegation; under Appendix 2 part 4 of the Council's Constitution provides a clear and appropriate link between this decision and the actions needed to implement it. For information it is envisaged, if the proposal goes ahead, that the Director of Education will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## 8 Conclusions

- 8.1 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.

## **9. Recommendation(s):**

9.1 The Cabinet Member is asked to agree the proposed decision 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 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.

## **10. Background Documents**

10.1 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision  
[www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision](http://www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision)

10.2 Equalises Impact Assessment

10.3 Setting the Course Kent County Council's Interim Strategic Plan  
[Setting the Course - Our Interim Strategic Plan - Kent County Council](#)

## **11. Contact details**

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