

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

22/00043

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

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.

Title of Decision

Proposal to make prescribed changes to Meadowfield (Foundation) Special School from September 2022

- Establish a satellite provision for 16 primary aged pupils at Sunny Bank Primary School.
- Increase the designated number from 348 to 366.

Decision:

Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

Issue a public notice to:

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 16 primary aged pupils at Sunny Bank Primary School.
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 348 to 366

And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice:

- (i) Establish a satellite provision for 16 primary aged pupils at Sunny Bank Primary School.
- (iii) Increase the designated number from 348 to 366

Reason(s) for decision:

Meadowfield Special School is unable to expand any further on its main school site and demand for PSCN Special school places in Swale district is increasing. The establishment of satellite provisions on mainstream education sites provides additional capacity whilst also enabling the school's expertise to be shared with the host school and provide Meadowfield students the opportunity to integrate, (where appropriate) with their mainstream peers.

Background

Meadowfield (Foundation) Special School is a day provision for boys and girls aged 3 to 19 with Profound, Severe and Complex Needs (PSCN) including Autism. In addition to the main building at Swanstree Avenue Sittingbourne, the school also operates a 6th form provision at Ufton Lane Sittingbourne. The new satellite at Sunny Bank Primary School will provide additional opportunities and choice for integration for Meadowfield pupils. Meadowfield is unable to expand further on its

current main site. Sunny Bank Primary School was identified as a possible site for a satellite due to its proximity to Meadowfield, the support of the academy trust for the proposal and having accommodation which could easily be reconfigured in order to open a satellite within the timescales.

Financial Implications

Capital

The project will ensure the satellite has its own dedicated accommodation of 3 classrooms and additional intervention space and external play area within Sunny Bank Primary School. The capital costs for refitting and reconfiguration of classrooms at Sunny Bank Primary School and creation of an external play area will be £300K and will be funded through the KCC Basic Need Capital Budget.

Revenue

As per KCC policy a total of £6,000 per newly provided classrooms will be provided to the school from the DGS revenue budget

Legal implications

Equalities implications

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

- Ensure there are sufficient special school place available for children in Swale district.
- Ensure that there is sufficient local provision through satellites at mainstream school sites.
- Children with Complex needs and ASD will be able to attend satellite provision in mainstream primary and secondary schools.

No adverse impacts were identified during the assessment.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children's and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 10 May 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Meadowfield is unable to expand further on its current main site. Sunny Bank Primary School was identified as a possible site for a satellite due to its proximity to Meadowfield, the support of the academy trust for the proposal and having accommodation which could easily be reconfigured in order to open a satellite within the timescales.

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