

From: Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Education, Learning and Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 4 December 2013

Subject: Decision Number: 13/00083 School Expansions - Detailed Plans and Allocation of Basic Need Funding

Classification: Unrestricted

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: Identified in report

Summary: The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 identified the need to commission additional school capacity in Kent. The decisions identified in this report were taken to provide the additional school capacity and as per legal requirement public notices were issued to expand the schools and the expansions agreed following that statutory consultation period.

This report provides details on the planned expansions and seeks the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform's agreement to allocate the capital funds from the Basic Need budget and secure delegated authority for the agreement of individual terms and conditions for each contract award to ensure the necessary expansions are completed in a timely and cost efficient manner.

Recommendations:

(1) The Cabinet member for Education, Learning and Skills is asked to agree to allocate the capital funds from the Basic Need budget for the implementation of the following decision:

- i. Decision 12/02007/2 - Proposal to expand St Botolph's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Gravesham allocate ££3,035,500;
- ii. Decision 12/02008/2 - Proposal to expand Lady Boswell's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Sevenoaks allocate £1,500,000;
- iii. Decision 12/02011/2 - Proposal to expand Stone, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dartford allocate 2,050,000;
- iv. Decision 12/02016 - Proposal to expand Oakfield Community Primary School, Dartford allocate £2,350,000;
- v. Decision 12/02021 - Proposal to expand Maypole Primary School, Dartford allocate £1,716,000;
- vi. Decision 12/02010/2 - Proposal to expand St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells allocate £2,500,000;
- vii. Decision 12/02009 - Proposal to expand Southborough Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells allocate £3,300,000;
- viii. Decision 12/02015 - Proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School, Tunbridge Wells allocate £2,400,000;
- ix. Decision 13/00070 - Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells allocate £703,813;
- x. Decision 12/01962/2 - Proposal to expand The Discovery School, Kings Hill allocate £299,975;
- xi. Decision 13/00002 - Proposal to expand Bromstone Primary School, Broadstairs allocate £2,800,000;
- xii. Decision 13/00008 - Proposal to expand Ospringe CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Ospringe, Faversham allocate £650,000;

- xiii. Decision 12/01976 - Proposal to expand St John's Church of England Primary School, Maidstone allocate £1,717,985
- xiv. Proposal to expand Westlands Primary School (Academy), Sittingbourne allocate £450,000 (the Academy completed its own consultation process in accordance with the law).

(2)

i Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council.

ii Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

In relation to other required officer actions not specifically delegated above, the Executive Scheme of Delegation for Officers set out in Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Constitution (and the directorate schemes of sub-delegation made thereunder) provide the governance pathway for implementation by officers.

Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 identified the need to commission additional school capacity in Kent. The decisions below were taken to provide the additional school capacity required and as per legal requirement public notices were issued and following that period of statutory consultation it was agreed that the schools be expanded. This report provides details on the planned expansions and asks the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to take the decision to allocate the capital funds from the Basic Need budget and delegate authority for the agreement of individual terms and conditions for each contract award to ensure the expansions are completed in a timely and cost efficient manner.
- 1.2 The Education Cabinet Committee at various meetings throughout 2012 and 2013 endorsed and/or made recommendations to the (former) Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills and Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that the schools identified within this report be expanded and public notices issued accordingly.
- 1.3 Further to those decisions funding can now be allocated having conducted detailed feasibility assessment

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. Capital: The accommodation required and associated costs are listed below.
- 2.2 Human: If required, the schools will appoint additional teaching and support staff at the appropriate time.
- 2.3 The costs given for individual projects are budget estimates and it is proposed that all projects are managed at a programme level within the

overall Basic Need approved budget for 2014/15 and 2015/16.

- 2.4 As individual projects proceed from initial feasibility, through consultation and detailed site, building and planning considerations, initial budget estimates may be adjusted. Under the Executive Scheme of Delegation to Officers, those undertaking actions delegated to them are obliged to keep Members, in particular, the Cabinet Member informed. As part of this obligation where individual project costs vary from those set out in reports to Education Cabinet Committee, the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services will be consulted and will be asked to agree informally with the Director of Property Infrastructure that the changes can be managed within the basic need project budget. Members of Education Cabinet Committee are kept informed of changes through the regular Capital Monitoring Group meetings.
- 2.5 At any time the Cabinet Member may withdraw an undertaking from the scheme of delegation and escalate the decision to one that is taken at Member level via formal procedures.
- 2.6 Likewise at any time the officer with delegated authority may escalate a decision to the Cabinet Member for approval via formal procedure should they think it necessary.
- 2.5 The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is recommended to allocate the capital funds to enable the expansion of the schools identified above to proceed and authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council. In addition to authorising the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 This proposal will help to secure the Council's ambition, "to ensure every child can go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places" as set out in Bold Steps for Kent.
- 3.2 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 indicates a need to commission additional school capacity across Kent to ensure every child has a school place.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 Decision 12/02007/2 - Proposal to expand St Botolph's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Gravesham. On 26 April the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and planning permission obtained. To accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision it is planned that the school expands by 8 classrooms, including staffroom and hall extension plus provision of ancillary facilities at a cost of £3,035,500.

- 4.2 Decision 12/02008/2 - Proposal to expand Lady Boswell's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Sevenoaks. On 26 April 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and planning permission obtained. To accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision it is planned that the school expands by 6 classrooms, extension to hard play area and additional car parking at a cost of £1,500,000.
- 4.3 Decision 12/02011/2 - Proposal to expand Stone, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Dartford. On 26 April 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained. To accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision it is planned that the school expands by 6 classrooms, including additional hall provision plus provision of ancillary facilities at a cost of £2,050,000.
- 4.4 Decision 12/02016 - Proposal to expand Oakfield Community Primary School, Dartford. On 25 March 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 5 classrooms, including additional hall plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £2,350,000
- 4.5 Decision 12/02021 - Proposal to expand Maypole Primary School, Dartford. On 28 February 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 4 classrooms, including additional hall provision plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £1,716,000.
- 4.6 Decision 12/02010/2 - Proposal to expand St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells. On 26 April 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 6 classrooms plus extension to staffroom, Head Teacher office & hall plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £2,500,000.
- 4.7 Decision 12/02009 - Proposal to expand Southborough Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells. On 25 March 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 6 classrooms, plus hall, kitchen and provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £3,300,000.

- 4.8 Decision 12/02015 - Proposal to expand Langton Green Primary School, Tunbridge Wells. On 25 March 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 6 classrooms plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £2,400,000.
- 4.9 Decision 13/00070 - Proposal to expand Lamberhurst St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Tunbridge Wells. On 2 October 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 2 classrooms plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £703,813.
- 4.10 Decision 12/01962/2 - Proposal to expand The Discovery School, Kings Hill. On 25 March 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and planning permission obtained. To accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision it is planned that the school expands by 2 classrooms plus SEN room provision at a cost of £ 299,975.
- 4.11 Decision 13/00002 - Proposal to expand Bromstone Primary School, Broadstairs. On 24 June 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 7 classrooms plus re-modelling of 3 classrooms, hall space and provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £ 2,800,000.
- 4.12 Decision 13/00008 - Proposal to expand Ospringe CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School, Ospringe, Faversham. On 24 June 2013, the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 4 classrooms plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £650,000.
- 4.13 Decision 12/01976 - Proposal to expand St John's Church of England Primary School, Maidstone. On 28 November 2012, the Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills agreed to expand the school. Following this decision detailed feasibility studies were completed and planning permission obtained. It is planned that the school expands by 5 classrooms, plus extension to Hall and internal configurations to include a resource group room and provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £1,717,985.

- 4.14 Proposal to expand Westlands Primary School, (Academy) Sittingbourne - The Kent Commissioning Plan identified a need to expand Westlands Primary School and as the school is an Academy it completed its own consultation process in accordance with the law. Following the public notice feasibilities studies were completed and once planning permission is obtained it is planned that the school expands by 3 classrooms plus provision of ancillary facilities to accommodate the additional pupil numbers agreed in the original decision at a cost of £450,000.
- 4.15 Equality Impact Assessment were carried out for each proposal at the start of the consultation period and each one is available via the following link: <http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti>

Governance and Approvals

- 5.1 As contracts need to be awarded and signed in a timely fashion to ensure that additional places are available when needed it is proposed that one decision to allocate the funds accordingly be taken.
- 5.2 Local members affected will be asked for comments before the decision is taken and the Cabinet Member will have regard to them when taking the decision.
- 5.3 If the decisions are not taken in this way there is a potential that they would be delayed, creating the potential for some building works to not be completed on time or for the authority to incur additional costs or fail to realise potential savings.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Forecasts for the County indicate increasing demand for Primary school places. The expansions of the schools identified in this report are necessary, and have been agreed, in order to accommodate current pressure and the increasing pupil population. In accordance with legislative requirements and local procedures Kent County Council carried out public consultations and issued public notices for each school expansion with the exception of Westlands Primary School as this school is an Academy and therefore followed a different set of legal requirements. In order to ensure that sufficient authorities are in place for the award of contracts and work to be undertaken the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is required to allocate the capital funds from the Basic Need budget for the proposed expansions to be completed.

7. Recommendations

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| <p>7.1 (1) Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decisions to allocate the capital funds from the Basic Need budget for the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Decision 12/02007/2 - Proposal to expand St Botolph's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Gravesham allocate ££3,035,500;ii. Decision 12/02008/2 - Proposal to expand Lady Boswell's Church of England Primary School (Aided), Sevenoaks allocate £1,500,000; |
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8. Background Documents

8.1 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s34295/FINAL%20VERSION%20Kent%20Comm%20Plan%20Ed%20Prov%202012-17%20attached%20to%20WEB%20SITE%2020%20SEPT.pdf>

9. Contact details

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