

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/000023

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Furley Park Primary School

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

Allocate £40,000 for the expansion of Furley Park Primary School from the Medium Term Capital Programme. The additional funding of £1.8m for the project, as detailed below, was bid for and won as part of the Target Basic Need Fund.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Ashford section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18, which was agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2013, identified a need for up to 37 additional Reception Year places within the planning area of Ashford South East.

The expansion of Furley Park Primary School will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 7 November, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillor; the headteacher and Governing Body of the school;
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

It is proposed to enlarge Furley Park Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2014 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

- a. Capital - The enlargement of the school requires the provision of seven additional classrooms, as well as a second large space. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2.2m. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme, primarily from Targeted Basic Need. The costs of the project are estimates and these may increase as the project is developed. If the cost of the project is greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget as follows:-
- (i) Pupil growth money: In the year of expansion (September 2014 to August 2015) the Reception Year PAN will be protected on 30 pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. This will be the third year of Reception Year expansion at 30 pupils and therefore the final year of growth protection. Future increases to the Reception Year PAN will be funded through the Local Authority's rising roll policy.
- (ii) EFA Delegated budget: Academies are funded on the academic year September to August. The pupil count used in the calculation of the budget is taken from the October census, prior to the following academic year, therefore any increase to numbers on the October 2013 census will be reflected in the academy's academic year funding Sep 2014-Aug 2015. In acknowledgement of the lag in funding, growth funding has been provided for the period Sep 2014-Aug 2015.

(iii) Additional Classroom funding: As part of the permanent increase to the academy's PAN of 30 pupils, funding will be allocated at £6,000 as a contribution towards the set costs of each additional classroom that needs to be opened resulting from the increase of the PAN.

- c. Human – Furley Park Primary School will appoint additional teachers and support staff as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Education Cabinet Committee considered and endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan at its meeting on **27 September 2013**. The Commissioning Plan identified the need for additional places in the Ashford South East planning area of Ashford District. In addition the bid for funds to expand the schools was considered and endorsed at the same meeting of the committee under the Targeted Basic Need Report.

The Local Member for Ashford Rural South, Mr Mike Angell supports the expansion of the Academy but has serious reservations about traffic and traffic management outside the school and particularly Reed Crescent. Full comments can be found in the report to the Cabinet Member.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 explored all options and the expansion of this school was deemed the suitable option.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

No

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Signed

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Date