

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00040

For publication

Subject: New primary school at Knights Park, Tunbridge Wells

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

- (i) Allocate £5.4million from the Education Learning and Skills Capital Budget to fund the capital costs of the new primary school at Knights Park.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (iii) Authorise 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

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision set out the need for a new school at the Knights Park development, Tunbridge Wells; the associated financial implications and Academy presumption process followed by KCC which is aligned to the Academy/Free School Presumption Guidance 2013. A careful, transparent evaluation was undertaken of the bids received and based on this process, KCC's Education Commission recommended a potential sponsor for consideration by the Secretary of State for Education.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The projected requirement for addition places highlighted in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18
- The views of the Education and Young People Services Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications

- 2.1 The proposal requires the provision of a new school building on land west of Knights Way, Longfield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3UQ. The first phase of the accommodation will be delivered in line with the new EFA school baseline designs, which have smaller footprints than the Kent Standard of recent years.
- 2.2 The intention is to build a 1FE building for 210 pupils, with 2FE ancillary facilities in the first phase. This will allow the school to be easily expanded to accommodate future need and ensure that the school meets the pupil demand arising from the new development and local demand from population growth.
 - a. Capital
 - i. A sum of £3.742 million and a school site have been secured in respect of developer contributions towards education as set out in the Section 106 completion document dated 28/01/14. The constrained site is smaller than normally made available for a 2FE school, although the site can accommodate all of the required facilities.

- ii. The total cost for phase 1 is estimated to be in the region of £5.4 million. However the cost net of the developer contributions is expected to be approximately £1.6m. 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
- iii. Furniture and Equipment - £6,000 per classroom will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the new school's leadership team for them to undertake procurement.
- iv. Start-up Costs: KCC will provide a budget of £50,000 for start-up costs which will typically commence from January through to 31 August prior to the new school opening on 1 September 2015. This is to cover the costs of employing appropriate staff. On opening, the new school will be funded directly by the Education Funding Agency.
- v. Pupil Growth Funding: In accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its School's Funding Forum, the school will receive guaranteed funding as follows:
- Year 1 - 60 pupils
 - Year 2 - 90 pupils
 - Year 3 - 120 pupils
- vi. The costs of the satellite unit would be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding being provided to the special school to run the provision.
- c. Human – The school will appoint additional teachers and support staff as required.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2013

The Committee resolves that:-

- a) the responses to comments and questions by Members be noted;
- b) the increase funding available through the Targeted Basic Need grant be noted; and
- c) the Education Cabinet Committee endorses the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decisions to expand and build at the schools and in the areas identified.

14 October 2013

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for up to 2FE on Land West of Knights Way, Longfield Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3UQ Knights Park, subject to the development of housing.

22 April 2014

The Education and Young People Services Cabinet Committee endorses the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to:

- i. Allocate £5.4 million from the Education Learning and Skills Capital Budget to fund the capital cost of the new primary school at Knights Park.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Authorise 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.

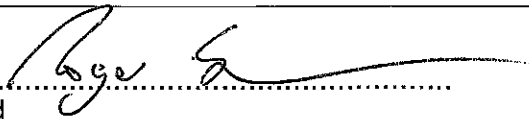
Any alternatives considered:

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

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

None

signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aye S', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Date

25 April 2014