

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

**To:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health  
Reform

**Subject:** Decision (14/00042(b)) Proposal to increase the  
designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank  
School from 80 places to 136 places

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013,  
14 March 2014

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member decision

**Electoral Division:** Tunbridge Wells, West: John Davies

**Summary:** On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 the Cabinet Member for Education and Health forms took the decision to issue a public notice to expand Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells by increasing the designated number of places offered from 80 places to 136. Following the expiration of the Public Notice period the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is requested to take the further decision outlined in the recommendations below.

**Recommendation(s):** **The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision to:**

- (i) Expand Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells by increasing the designated number of places offered from 80 places to 136.
- (ii) Allocate £1.75 million from Targeted Basic Need budget and £250,000 from the Basic Need budget.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Kent County Council's strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools.

- 1.2 Targeted Basic Need funding totalling £1.75 million has been secured for the purposes of expanding Broomhill Bank School. It is proposed to enlarge Broomhill Bank School by 56 places, taking the designated number from 80 to 136 for the September 2014 intake.
- 1.3 On 27 September 2013, Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform that consultation processes take place for a number of schools, including the proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank, which took place between 10 January 2014 and 26 February 2014. A public meeting was held on 21 January 2014 and a drop-in information session for parents was held on 6 February 2014.
- 1.4 On 14 March 2014, the Education Cabinet Committee resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform he agree to decision (14/00042(a)) to
- (i) Issue a public notice to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill, Tunbridge Wells, by 56 places from 80 places to 136 places.
- And, following the closure of the public notice a further Cabinet Member decision will be taken to
- (ii) Expand the school
  - (iii) Allocate £1.75 million from Targeted Basic Need budget and £250,000 from the Basic Need budget.
  - (iv) 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
  - (v) 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

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Broomhill Bank School by 56 places increasing the designated number of places to 136 for the September 2014.
- a. It is proposed that KCC funded improvements to the school will provide all necessary teaching rooms including specialist teaching spaces. Facilities within the school will be improved and designed to meet the needs of students. A feasibility study has been completed. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2 million of which £1.75 million will be funded from Targeted Basic Need and the remainder from the Basic Needs and Special Schools Review Budget. 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 schools delegated budget will be allocated on an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the High Needs funding methodology of 'Place Plus'.
- c. Human – Broomhill Bank School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

### **3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework**

- 3.1 These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will 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 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18' has identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools. This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council's commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings.

### **4. Outcomes of the Public Notice**

- 4.1 To date no objections or comments have been received to the public notice.

### **5. Views**

- 5.1 *The view of the Headteacher and Governing Body:*  
The Headteacher and the Governing Body are supportive of the sustainable long term solution that has been proposed by KCC to enable Broomhill Bank School to improve current facilities and expand.
- 5.2. *The view of the Local Member:*  
The Local Member for Tunbridge Wells West supports the expansion of Broomhill Bank School for the benefit of the pupils who will be admitted, but will wish to discuss the traffic implications during the planning process.
- 5.3. *The view of the Local Member of Parliament, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP:*  
Having visited the school on many occasions my opinion of Broomhill Bank is that it provides an excellent education to its pupils. It would be very advantageous if more children were given the opportunity to attend. Clearly the impact of an expansion on local traffic must be taken into account.
- 5.4. *The view of the Area Education Officer:*  
The Area Education Officer for West Kent fully supports this proposal and, having considered other commissioning options, is of the belief that this enlargement is not only necessary, but the most cost-effective and sustainable solution.

Broomhill Bank School is an inclusive school, which is judged as 'Good' by Ofsted and regularly oversubscribed.

## **6. Proposal**

- 6.1 The proposed expansion of Broomhill Bank School will increase the value of KCC's property portfolio by adding value to the school buildings.
- 6.2 The proposed expansion of Broomhill Bank Primary School is subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.
- 6.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the consultation. To date no comments have been received and no changes are required to the Equality Impact Assessment.

## **7. Delegation to Officers**

- 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 Property & Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1 This enlargement will add an additional 56 places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities 3, 4 and 9 of 'Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education – Kent' (2013 – 2018).

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

### **Recommendation(s):**

**The Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision to:**

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## 10. Background Documents

### 10.1 Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/your\\_council/priorities,\\_policies\\_and\\_plans/priorities\\_and\\_plans/bold\\_steps\\_for\\_kent.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bold_steps_for_kent.aspx)

### 10.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s43253/ItemD3KentEducationCommissioningPlan20132018final.pdf>

### 10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/BroomhillBank/consultationHome>

### 10.4 Strategy for Children & Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/KELSI/supporting-pupil-learning/SEN/SEN/FINAL%20Strategy%20for%20Children%20and%20Young%20People%20with%20Special%20Educational%20Needs%20and%20Disabilities.pdf>

### 10.5 Report to Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014 - Proposal to increase the designated number of places offered at Broomhill Bank School from 80 places to 136 places

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s45429/Item%20B4%20-%20Broomhill%20Bank.pdf>

## 11. Contact details

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