

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO.

14/00093

Unrestricted

Subject: School Expansions - Detailed Plans and Allocation of Targeted Basic Need Funding for the New Primary Schools

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

(1) allocate the capital from the Targeted Basic Need, Basic Need and various budgets for the implementation of the following projects:

- i. New 1FE Primary School provision at Kings Hill;
- ii. New 1FE Primary School provision at Leybourne Chase;
- iii. New 1FE Primary School provision at Holborough Quarry;
- iv. New 1FE Primary School provision in East Folkestone;
- v. New 2FE Primary School provision at Thistle Hill.

(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.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken-

None

Reason(s) for decision, including response to any Cabinet Committee recommendations, and any alternatives considered

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 agreed by Cabinet on 14 October 2013 identified the need to commission additional school capacity in Kent. The projects below were identified in the Plan to provide the additional school capacity required. This Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform is asked to take the decision to allocate the capital funds from the Targeted Basic Need, Basic Need and various budgets and delegate authority for the agreement of individual terms and conditions for each contract award to ensure the new schools are completed in a timely and cost efficient manner.

Financial Implications

2.1. Capital: The accommodation required and associated costs are listed in section 4 of the exempt report attached as an appendix to this report. If the cost of the individual projects are greater than 10% the Cabinet Member will be required to take a further decision to allocate the additional funding.

2.2 Revenue: The five new schools will be designated to host Specialist Resource Based SEN Provision

for either pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Behavioural Emotional and Social Needs (BESD). Service Level Agreements will be put in place between the school sponsor and the Local Authority regarding these provisions. The Local Authority has in place a funding mechanism to commission such provisions from schools, with budget being dependent upon the designated pupil numbers. The costs are met from the Dedicated Schools Grant. The provision of additional Specialist Resource Base Provision places is part of the Local Authority's strategy to broaden parental choice, to establish more local provision, to promote the development of centres of excellence to support improving mainstream school practice in areas of SEN, and to reduce the need for increased out of county provision.

- 2.3 Human:** If required, the schools will appoint additional teaching and support staff at the appropriate time.
- 2.4** 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.
- 2.5** 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.
- 2.6** 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.
- 2.7** 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.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

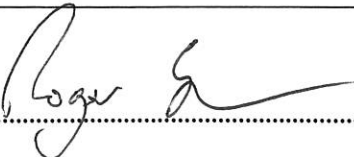
- 3.** On 27 September 2013, Education Cabinet Committee received a report on Targeted Basic Needs Projects and the Committee resolved to: endorse the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the proposed decisions to expand and build at the schools and in the areas identified. In the report it was explained that the expectation is that the places delivered with this funding will be available by September 2015 at the latest.

Background Documents:

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

signed



Date

11 SEP 2014