

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION TO BE TAKEN

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,  
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00115

For publication

**Subject: Proposed expansion of Birchington CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School from 2FE to 3FE**

Decision:

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

- i. Issue a public notice to expand Birchington CE Primary School from 2FE to 3FE increasing the published admission number to 90.  
  
And, subject to no objections being received to the public notice
- ii. Expand the school
- iii. Allocate £2,750,000 from Education & Young People's Services Capital 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

This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted

Should any objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period, a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposals and allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

- 1.1 The Thanet district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 identified a significant pressure in Reception Year places. Thanet district was forecast to have a deficit of up to 87 Reception year places in September 2016 and this deficit is expected to continue.
- 1.2 It is proposed to permanently enlarge Birchington CE Primary School by 30 Reception Year places, taking the published admission number (PAN) from 60 to 90 (three forms of entry) for the September 2016 intake. Successive Reception Year intake will offer 90 places each year and the school will eventually have a total capacity of 630 pupils.
- 1.3 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 identified the need for further capacity to serve Birchington. Feasibility was undertaken showing that there is sufficient space on the school site for a 1FE expansion.

1.4 This report sets out the results of the consultation, which took place between 22 September and 20 October 2014. A consultation meeting for parents/carers, governors and members of staff was held on 9 October 2014.

1.5 In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. the views put in writing in response to the consultation;
2. the views of the District Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the parents and staff
3. the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
4. the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

### Financial Implications:

2.1 It is proposed to enlarge Birchington CE Primary School by 210 places taking the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

a. Capital: The enlargement of the school requires the provision of 7 additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities. A feasibility study has been completed the total cost is estimated to be in the region of £2,750,000. Appropriate funding has been identified as part of the Medium Term Capital Programme. 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: For a period of three academic years from September 2016 the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Reception Year pupils at the rate of £2,727 per pupil. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will be allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

c. Human: Birchington CE Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

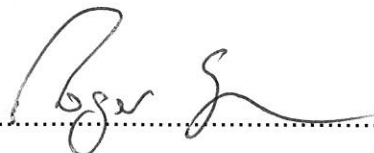
Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

27 September 2013: The Education Cabinet Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education & Health Reform that a consultation take place on the proposal to increase the designated numbers of Birchington CE (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 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:



21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2014.

Signed

Date