

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Mr Mark Dance, Cabinet Member for Operations, Resources and Skills, CFE

## DECISION NO.

08/01263

*If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972*

### Subject:

**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE BRADBOURNE [FOUNDATION] SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND THE WILDERNESSE [FOUNDATION] SCHOOL FOR BOYS, SEVENOAKS, TO REPLACE WITH AN ACADEMY**

### Decision:

The Cabinet Member AGREED:

To the issuing a public notice to close the Bradbourne [Foundation] School for Girls and the Wildernesse [Foundation] School for Boys, Sevenoaks, on 31 August 2010 so that subject to the approval of the Department for Children, School and Families they be replaced with a government funded Academy

### Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken

None.

### Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

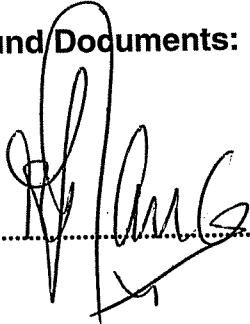
In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- a) The views expressed during the Local Authority public consultation and presented in the report
- b) Following the views and comments expressed at the Schools Organisation Advisory Board, at its meeting of 21 May 2009, I recognise the Advisory Board did not reach a majority decision in favour of issuing a public notice. However, as the Cabinet Member responsible I have after careful consideration concluded that further consultation that will now follow as a result of issuing a statutory public notice will enable all concerned the chance to consider the Academy proposals in greater detail. This will allow for the opportunity to reach a more fully informed view on the future of educational provision to serve this part of Sevenoaks and in the future.
- c) The fact that issuing the public notice commences the formal consultation by the Local Authority regarding the proposal to close these two schools
- d) A public consultation is being undertaken by Appleyards, the project management consultants acting on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Academy sponsors, relating to the Academy proposal, as distinct from the closure proposal
- e) the views expressed in response to both the statutory public notice to be issued by the Local Authority and Appleyards' consultation will be available to inform the formal decision on the closure of the two schools, at which time I can also take into account the details of how the

sponsors of the Academy propose to respond to the demand from some regarding the provision of single sex teaching within the co-educational Academy. It is clear to date that the parents' of children currently in the schools' are seeking positive reassurances about the continuation of single sex education for their children and in order for me to agree to close the schools' I too will want a commitment to this affect from the sponsors'.

**Background Documents:**

None.



Signed

1<sup>st</sup> June 2009

date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published	