

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00096

For publication

**Subject: The Expansion of Sittingbourne Community College to 9FE**

**Decision:**

**As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I note the governing body's decision to expand the school and agree to:**

- i. Allocate £6m from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget
- 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

This decision is conditional upon the Secretary of State approving the expansion of Sittingbourne Community College. This decision is conditional upon planning permission being granted.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

The Swale district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 has identified a significant pressure on Year 7 places in Sittingbourne. The expansion of Sittingbourne Community College to 9FE will help to address these pressures and adheres to the principles of our Commissioning Plan as it increases capacity at a good, popular school. In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. The Governing Body's agreement to the proposal and their agreement to carry out a public consultation and seek approval from the Secretary of State
2. the views of the Local Member
3. the views of the Area Education Officer
4. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed to permanently enlarge Sittingbourne Community College, increasing the PAN to 270 (9FE) for the September 2017 Year 7 intake.

- a) Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of additional general teaching spaces, specialist teaching areas and facilities. A curriculum assessment and feasibility study has been carried out. The total cost is estimated to be in the region of £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 – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for additional

Year 7 pupils at the rate of £3,803 per pupil. (30 places from September 2016 and an additional 30 places from September 2017.) 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 – As an Academy, the school will decide when to appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases incrementally.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**21 January 2016 Report to Education and Young Peoples Cabinet Committee**

At its meeting the Cabinet Committee for Education and Young People's Services resolved to endorse the recommendation that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform takes decision (15/00096) to:

- i. Allocate £6m from Education & Young People's Services Capital Budget
- 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

**15 December 2015 report to Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee**

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional secondary places in the Swale District.

**8 July 2015 Report to Education and Young Peoples Cabinet Committee**

The Committee resolved to note the necessary actions required to increase Secondary school capacity to meet the demands of a growing Secondary school population as detailed in the report.

Any alternatives considered:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 explored all options for providing additional secondary school places in Sittingbourne. The proposal to permanently expand Sittingbourne Community College to provide 300 additional secondary school places to meet predicted future demand in the Swale district was deemed a suitable option.

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



Signed

27 / 01 / 2016

Date