

From: **Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services**

To: **Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 17 March 2016**

Subject: **Proposal to permanently expand Wentworth Primary School from a 2FE to 3FE**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway: **None**
of Paper

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

Electoral Division: **Dartford West (Cllr Jan Ozog)**

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Wentworth Primary School from a PAN of 70 to 3FE and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

Recommendation:

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:

- a. Allocate £2.6m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

1. Introduction

- 1.2. The Dartford district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identifies a local pressure in Reception year places in the

Dartford West planning area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the planning area from September 2016.

- 1.3. Every school in the planning area was considered as a possible proposal for expansion according to several criteria, including location, cost, proximity to demand, site size, willingness of the school, highways issues, Sport England and Ofsted rating. Wentworth Primary School was identified as the best option for expansion according to these criteria.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Wentworth Primary School, increasing the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £2.6m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project are an estimate. 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 an additional 20 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
 - c. Human – Wentworth Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

3. Kent 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 the Education Commissioning Plan.
- 3.2. The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2016-20’ identified a pressure on primary school places in the Dartford West planning area. Changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on primary school places in the planning area.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Wentworth Primary School being an academy conducted its own consultation. The Headteacher has informed us that following the conclusion of the consultation, the governing body voted unanimously in favour of expansion.

5. Views

5.1. The Local Member

Cllr Jan Ozog was informed of the proposal.

5.2. Headteacher

The Headteacher fully supports the proposal.

5.3. Chair of Governors

The Chair of Governors is fully supportive of the proposal.

5.4. Area Education Officer:

The analysis of the needs in the area indicate that due to immediate pressure and future demand, based on changing demographics in the Dartford West planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required. These 20 places will help achieve that additional capacity requirement.

5.5. The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every primary school in the planning area with a view to whether that school could be enlarged. I am of the firm opinion that the most appropriate, sustainable and cost effective solution to the demand in the Dartford West Planning Area is to enlarge Wentworth Primary School by 20 places to 3FE.

6. Proposal

6.1. It is proposed to permanently enlarge Wentworth Primary School, increasing the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places. The process to implement the proposal to increase the physical capacity of an academy is outlined in the DfE advice for Academy Trusts and the responsibility to carry out a consultation with stakeholders and seek approval by the Secretary of State, lies with the governing body. Capital funding and building works for the proposed expansion of Wentworth Primary School are subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

7.1. 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.

8. Delegation to Officers

8.1. 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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.
- 9.2. This enlargement will add an additional 20 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2016 – 2020).

10. Recommendations

- 10.1. The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform on the decision to:
 - a. Allocate £2.6m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
 - b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
 - c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

11. Background Documents

11.1. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/bold-steps-for-kent>

11.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016 – 2020

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=61244>

11.3 Consultation document and Equalities Impact Assessment

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-consultations>

12. Contact details

Report Author:

Ian Watts

Area Education Officer –North Kent

Tel number: 03000 414302

ian.watts@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

Keith Abbott

Director of Education Planning and Access

03000 417008

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00093(d)

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Wentworth Primary School from a PAN of 70 to 3FE

Decision:

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

- a. Allocate £2.6m from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the Director of Law and Governance to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

1. The views received from the consultation with parents/carers, staff and governors.
2. The views of the Governing Body
3. The views of the Local Member
4. the views of the Area Education Officer
5. the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee.

Financial Implications:

It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Wentworth Primary School, increasing the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £2.6m. KCC acknowledge that the final amount may be higher or lower as the costs of the project are an estimate. 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 an additional 20 Reception Year pupils. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.
- c. Human – Wentworth Primary School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

17 March 2016 report to Education and Young Person's Cabinet Committee

To be added after meeting

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 Sevenoaks District.

Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for Primary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 20 Reception Year places to the capacity per year, in line with priorities in the Kent Policy Framework, 'Vision and Priorities for Education and Young People's Services' and the 'Commissioning Plan for Education' (2016 – 2020).

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

N/A

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Signed

Date