

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 Wilmington Academy from a 7FE to 8FE**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway: **None**
of Paper

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

Electoral Division: **Wilmington (Cllr Ann Allen)**

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Wilmington Academy from a PAN of 200 to 8FE 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 £7.2m 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 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
- c. 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 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 Year 7 places in Dartford. The

Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide additional places in the district from September 2016.

- 1.3. Every school in the district 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. Wilmington Academy was identified as one of the best options for expansion according to these criteria.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Wilmington Academy, increasing the PAN to 240 (8FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 1200 7-11 places.
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council’s contribution will be £7.2m. 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. The reason for this level of expenditure is that the enlargement is effectively providing accommodation for 2 FE. The Wilmington Academy PAN was increased from 6 FE (180) to 200 in 2015/16 to support the Local Authority in ensuring there were sufficient Secondary School places following the announced closure of Oasis Academy, Hextable.
 - b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will now receive protection for an additional 40 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 – Wilmington Academy 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 secondary school places in Dartford district. The increased numbers of Year 7s coming through the Primary schools, coupled with changes to demographics and increased migration is leading to increased pressure on secondary school places in the planning area.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Wilmington Academy conducted its own consultation.

5. Views

5.1. The Local Member

Cllr Ann Allen 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 Dartford district, an additional 4FE of secondary capacity is required. These 40 year 7 places will help achieve that additional capacity requirement.

5.5. The Director of Planning and Access and I have considered every school in the district 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 district is to enlarge Wilmington Academy by a further 40 year 7 places to 8FE.

6. Proposal

6.1 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 Wilmington Academy are subject to KCC statutory decision making process and planning.

7. Equality 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 Property and Infrastructure Support will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Forecasts for Dartford district indicate an increasing demand for secondary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development, the outturn from the last five years of primary expansion and inward migration.
- 9.2. This enlargement will add an additional 40 Year 7 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 £7.2m 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 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.
 - c. 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.

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>

10.3 Consultation document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

12. Contact details

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DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00033

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Wilmington Academy from a 7FE to 8FE

Decision:

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

- a. Allocate £7.2m 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 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
- c. 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 subject to planning permission being granted.

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 Wilmington Academy, increasing the PAN to 240 (8FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 1200 7-11 places.

- a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £7.2m. 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. The reason for this level of expenditure is that the enlargement is effectively providing accommodation for 2 FE. The Wilmington Academy PAN was increased from 6 FE (180) to 200 in 2015/16 to support the Local Authority in ensuring there were sufficient Secondary School places following the announced closure of Oasis Academy, Hextable.

- b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will now receive protection for an additional 40 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 – Wilmington Academy 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 secondary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development, the outturn from the last five years of primary expansion and inward migration.

This enlargement will add an additional 40 Year 7 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