

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

To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee - 11 May 2016

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Copperfield Academy from a PAN of 2FE to 3FE

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway: None
of Paper

Future Pathway: Cabinet Member Decision
of Paper

Electoral Division: Northfleet & Gravesend West (Cllrs Narinderjit Thandi and Sue Howes)

Summary:

This report informs the Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Copperfield Academy from a PAN of 2FE 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. This decision is dependent on a positive outcome decision from the governing body, following a consultation.

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 £2.5m 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 final agreement from the Governing Body following consultation and planning permission being granted.

1. Introduction

- 1.2. The Gravesham district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2016-20 identifies a local pressure in Reception year places in the Northfleet 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. Copperfield Academy was identified as the best option for expansion according to these criteria.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been proposed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Copperfield Academy, increasing the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.
 - a. Capital – Should the Governors agree to proceed with the proposal, Kent County Council’s contribution would be £2.5m. 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 30 Reception Year pupils. 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 – Copperfield 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 primary school places in the Northfleet 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. Copperfield Academy being an academy is currently conducting its consultation.

5. Views

5.1. The Local Members

Cllrs Narinderjit Thandi and Sue Howes will be invited to give their views in the Academy consultation of the proposal.

5.2. Headteacher

The Headteacher supports the proposal.

5.3. Chair of Governors

The Chair of Governors is supportive of the proposal, as is Reach2, the sponsoring Multi Academy Trust.

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 Northfleet planning area, an additional 1FE of Primary capacity is required. These 30 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 Northfleet Planning Area is to enlarge Copperfield Academy by 30 places to 3FE.

6. Proposal

6.1. 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.

7. Delegation to Officers

7.1. 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 as required.

8. Conclusions

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

8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 30 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).

9. Recommendations

- 9.1. Dependent on the final decision by the Governing Body, 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 £2.5m 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 final agreement from the Governing Body following consultation and planning permission being granted.

10. Background Documents

10.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf

10.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision>

10.3 Consultation Document and Equalities Impact Assessment

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

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Proposed Record of Decision

12. Contact details

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Relevant Director:

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

15/00093(k)

For publication

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Copperfield Academy from a PAN of 2FE to 3FE

Decision:

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

Dependent on the final decision by the Governing Body, 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 £2.5m 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 proposed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Copperfield Academy, increasing the PAN to 90 (3FE) for the September 2016 intake and eventually a total capacity of 630 places.

- a. Capital – Should the Governors agree to proceed with the proposal, Kent County Council's contribution would be £2.5m. 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 30 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.

Human – Copperfield Academy will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

11 May 2016 report to Education and Young Person’s Cabinet Committee

To be added after the 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 Dartford District.

Any alternatives considered:

Forecasts for Gravesham 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 30 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

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Date