

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

16/00032

For publication

Subject: Proposal to expand Whitfield Aspen School by 2 FE across a split site

Decision:

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

- a) Agree that a Public Notice be published to permanently expand Whitfield Aspen School from 2FE to 3FE across two sites and to increase the capacity of the Aspen provision, and following a representation period of four weeks with no statutory objections received, implement the proposal.
- b) Allocate £625,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to present accommodation.
- c) Allocate £7,990,000 Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund the satellite building.
- d) 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.
- e) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative with the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Should objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposal in order to allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (2016-20) sets out the intention to commission additional school places in the Whitfield area of Dover. The Plan also mentioned a specific need to expand Whitfield Aspen School by up to 2 FE over a split site.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views expressed by those attending the public consultation meeting on 23 March 2016, and those put in writing in response to the consultation;
- the views of the local County Councillors; Headteacher and Governing Body of Whitfield Aspen School and the Area Education Officer.
- the Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee

Financial Implications

- a. a. Capital – The enlargement of the school requires the provision of additional classrooms, as well as ancillary facilities such as a medical room for the primary department. The total estimated cost of the expansion is likely to be in the region of £8,615,000.
- b. Revenue - The school will receive increased funding through the Delegated Budget. It will also receive £6,000 per classroom in set up funding. Special schools are funded using

the DfE Place Plus funding methodology for High Needs Pupils. c. Human – The school will appoint additional staff as required, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

11 May 2016

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee at its meeting RESOLVED to:

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- b) Allocate £625,000 from the Education and Young People's Services Capital Budget to fund any necessary additional works or variations to present accommodation.
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15 December 2015

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places

14 October 2014

The Committee endorsed the Kent Commissioning Plan, which identified a need for additional places

Any alternatives considered:

There is and will continue to be a need to open additional primary school places in Whitfield to meet the increasing population of the village, and also to expand the capacity of Aspen to ensure that children in the District of Dover can attend a school as local to their home as possible.

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

None



Signed

17 May 2016.....

Date