

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Eric Hotson, Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services

DECISION NO:

17/00071
(part 2 of 17/00076)

For publication

Subject: Funding of the new John Wallis Academy development, Sale of land and relocation of children's centre to Stanhope Sports Hall, Ashford, TN23 3HG – Part 2

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, I agree the following:

1. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services and subject to the conditions set out in 3.3 of the accompanying exempt report, to finalise terms and enter into a second funding agreement and other associated documentation with the John Wallis Church of England Academy;
2. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, to enter into the necessary lease arrangements to facilitate the relocation of the Ray Allen Centre and the proposed transactions; and
3. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, to progress the disposal of surplus land arising from the proposal, bringing the heads of terms back at the appropriate time for a further decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

A key decision is required owing to the funding and contract levels exceeding the financial criteria for Key Decisions as set out in the Council's constitution. This decision will result in the following outcomes:

- Better education provision
- New Children's Centre provision
- Housing development
- Capital receipt from the disposal of land which will be used to fund KCC's capital funding priorities

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed by the Property Sub-Committee on 8 September 2017 and the proceedings were as follows:-

1. Mrs Spore and Mr Reidy introduced the report and explained how it related to the earlier Cabinet Member decision to enter into a first funding agreement with the John Wallis Academy for the construction of a new primary school building, this being the second funding agreement. They responded to questions of detail from the Sub-Committee, including the need to be creative to enable best use of the land available while ensuring that the County Council achieved best value for public money, the phased payment of funding in response to agreed milestones in the development, and the fact that the proposals had yet to be tested by the planning process.
2. The local Member, Mr D Farrell, placed on record his concerns about the loss of open space in

the area, which would be further exacerbated by this proposal, and the effect of this loss upon the local community. While he welcomed the investment in local education facilities, open sites in the area had been either fenced off or built on and were no longer available for local people to use for recreational purposes without paying a hire fee, which could be prohibitive to local families.

3. It was RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services, to authorise the Director of Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Corporate and Democratic Services:

a) to finalise terms and enter into a second funding agreement and other associated documentation with the John Wallis Church of England Academy, subject to the conditions set out in paragraph 3.3 of the exempt recommendation report;

b) to enter into the necessary lease arrangements to facilitate the relocation of the Ray Allen Centre and the proposed transactions; and


c) to progress the disposal of surplus land arising from the proposal, bringing the heads of terms back at the appropriate time for a further decision, be endorsed by the majority of the Sub-Committee, with Mr D Farrell and Mr R H Bird taking no part.

The Local Member has been consulted under Part 1 and his observations have been passed to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

Any alternatives considered:

Consideration has been given to other delivery options but this proposal offers the best outcomes.

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


.....
Signed

13th November 2017
.....
date