

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

For publication

Subject: Amend the implementation date for the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE to September 2020.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education I agree to:

- (i) Amend the implementation date for the expansion of Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60, until September 2020, and conditional upon planning consent being obtained for the expansion of the school; and
- (ii) Agree £250,000 of the existing capital allocation be released to deliver small scale works at Deal Parochial CEPS to facilitate a bulge class if required.

Reason(s) for decision:

- The latest forecasts from the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22 would suggest less demand for primary school places in Deal than previously forecast, believed to be due to a reduction in the rate of house building. Therefore there is no need for the extra capacity to be added from September 2018 has reduced.
- There are forecast to be sufficient primary aged places in the planning area for 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Local primary schools have committed to working with the Authority to ensure every child has a local school place.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- The views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below
- The Equalities Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

To be added after Committee meeting

Any alternatives considered:

The forecasts in the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22 indicate less demand for primary places than previously forecast. Figure 1 outlines the changes in the Year R forecasts for the Deal planning group between the 2017-21 and the 2018-22 Commission Plans. Evidence would suggest that this is due in some part to a reduction in the build out rate of housing development. In 2015-16 there were 324 units completed, in 2016-17 this reduced to 183. Further to this the development of 220 units at Station Road, Walmer has been delayed. This development is due to be the largest contributor towards the expansion of Deal Parochial CEPS.

The Headteachers of the Deal Learning Alliance have expressed concern that adding extra capacity at this point, given the reduced forecast demand, could have a negative impact on other schools in the planning group. The headteachers and governing bodies of these schools have all signed up to work with the Authority to ensure that every child in the Deal area needing a place is provided with one and to annually review the situation, should the expansion of Deal Parochial CEPS be deferred.

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

Officer: None

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Signed

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Date