

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

18/00018

For publication

**Subject: Commissioning Primary and Secondary Capacity in Ebbsfleet , Dartford**

Decision:

- (i) Agree that a Free School Presumption Competition process can commence in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Secondary School in Dartford, within the Alkerden development on Eastern Quarry, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City.
- (ii) Agree that a Free School Presumption Competition process can commence in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Primary School in Dartford, within the Ebbsfleet Green development, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City.
- (iii) Allocate £2.5m from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the provision of the second FE of the proposed 2FE Primary School on Ebbsfleet Green.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

In the event of an increase of costs exceeding 10% of the allocated funding, a further decision will be required.

Reason(s) for decision:

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the views of the Area Education Officer
- the views of the local members
- Equality Impact Assessment
- the views of the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

**Financial Implications**

The funding allocation to build the second FE of the new 2FE Primary Free School is expected to be in the region of £2.5m.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This proposed decision was considered and endorsed by the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2017. The minute of the discussion is as follows:

1. Ian Watts (Area Education Officer – North Kent) introduced the report which set out the need for a new Secondary School of up to 8 forms of entry (FE) and a new 2FE Primary School in Dartford and requested endorsement to commence Free School Presumption Competition processes to seek sponsors to run the new schools.

a) In response to comments and questions, Ian Watts referred to the use of 'pupil product ratios' to determine the age-band of people who were likely to move into the new build homes. He said that the large sites each had Education Review Groups to undertake assessments with developers and Councils to review the provision. He said there would be scope to look at further expanding some of the sites that would be coming online. There were good relationships with Dartford Borough Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and they were very open to working with Kent to look at additional land if required.

b) In response to comments, Ian Watts Kent had been working with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and confirmed that Springhead Park in Ebbsfleet would be coming online.

2. Mr Gough (Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) discussed the need to plan ahead and said that temporary expansions were usually put in place to fill gaps before new schools were put in place.

3. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education, to:

i. Commence a Free School Presumption Competition process in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new Secondary School in Dartford, within the Alkerden development on Eastern Quarry, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City;

ii. Commence a Free School Presumption Competition process in order to seek applications from potential sponsors to run a new 2FE Primary School in Dartford, within the Ebbsfleet Green development, which forms part of the Ebbsfleet Garden City;

iii. Allocate £2.5m from the Basic Need Capital Programme Budget to fund the provision of the second FE of the proposed 2FE Primary School on Ebbsfleet Green;

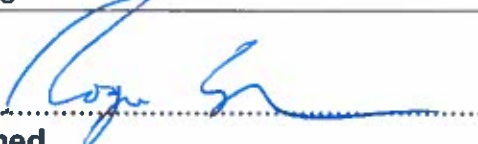
iv. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts and agreements on behalf of the County Council; and

v. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts. Variations to contract value to be no more than 10% above the capital funding agreed by the Cabinet Member without requiring a new Record of Decision, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered:

Expansion of existing schools was considered and feasibility work undertaken. Ursuline College was considered to be a cost effective solution to providing additional Secondary School places in Dartford and this proposal is going forward. However, this alone will not meet the expected demand for the future. Other Secondary Schools in Dartford are also being considered for temporary or permanent expansion to ensure sufficient school places are available. The best solution for long term provision of Secondary School places is the establishment of a new Secondary School.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:  
None

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Signed

1 June 2018.

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Date