

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

Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 July 2018

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand Northfleet School for Girls, Gravesend from a PAN of 175 to 210

Classification: Unrestricted

Decision No: 18/00035

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Electoral Division: Northfleet and Gravesend West (Tan Dhesi & Lauren Sullivan)

Summary:

This report informs the Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee of the proposal to permanently expand Northfleet School for Girls from a PAN of 175 to 210 and requests members to recommend that the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education agrees to release sufficient funding to put the necessary infrastructure in place.

Recommendation:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:

- a. Allocate £4m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation.
- b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
- c. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

1. Introduction

- 1.2. The Gravesham district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2017-21 identified pressure for Year 7 places in the Gravesham area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide up to 100 additional places in the planning area from September 2017.
- 1.3. For 2017, the school was able to accommodate an increase in year 7 numbers within the existing buildings. Remedial building work was undertaken at the school to extend their dining area.
- 1.4. For 2018, the school will continue to be able to accommodate the additional numbers, but for 2019, permanent building works will be required.
- 1.5. Every secondary school in the district 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. Five all-ability schools have been identified for expansion and feasibility studies have been commissioned. All five schools are now the subject of a proposal to expand, or the subject of a dialogue with a view to expansion. Northfleet School for Girls is one of those schools.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Northfleet School for Girls, increasing the PAN from 175 to 210 for the September 2018 intake.
 - a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £4m. 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 35 Year 7 students. 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 – Northfleet School for Girls 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, 2017-21' identified a pressure on secondary school places in the Gravesham district. Changes to demographics and increased migration over the last six years has required significant expansions in the primary provision. These expansions are now feeding into the secondary cohort. This demand was further demonstrated in the 2018-22 Kent Commissioning Plan.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. Northfleet School for Girls School being a Foundation school conducted its own consultation. The Headteacher has informed us that following the conclusion of the consultation, the governing body voted unanimously in favour of expansion.

5. Views

5.1. The Local Members

Tan Dhesi & Lauren Sullivan have been informed of the proposal.

5.2. Headteacher

The Headteacher fully supports the proposal.

5.3. Chair of Governors

The Chair of Governors is fully supportive of the proposal.

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 Gravesham district, an additional 35 Year 7 girls places are required. These additional places will help achieve that additional capacity requirement.

- 5.5. The Director of Education Planning and Access and I have considered every Secondary 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 secondary demand in Gravesham district is to enlarge Northfleet School for Girls as one of several schools that are being proposed for expansion in Gravesham.

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 Infrastructure will sign contracts on behalf of the County Council.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. Forecasts for Gravesham district indicate an increasing demand for secondary school places, due to small & medium scale housing development and inward migration.
- 8.2. This enlargement will add an additional 35 Year 7 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' (2017 – 2021).

9. Recommendations

- 9.1. The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education on the decision to:
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 - b. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council.
 - c. 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.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020:
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-thecouncil/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/increasing-opportunitiesimproving-outcomes>
- 10.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision:
www.kent.gov.uk/educationprovision

11. Contact details

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