

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

19/00026

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject: Proposal to permanently expand the Secondary provision at Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, from a PAN of 180 to 210

Decision:

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

a. Allocate £2.6m 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.

This decision is subject to planning permission being granted.

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 The Gravesham district section of the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2019-23 has identified pressure for Year 7 places in the Gravesham area. The Commissioning Plan identified a need to provide up to 90 additional places in the planning area from September 2019., with further forms of entry required to come online over the next 4-5 years. The expansion of Saint George's Church of England School supports the increases required in future years.

1.2. For 2020, the school will be able to accommodate an additional 30 year 7 places, but for 2021, permanent building works will be required to ensure an increased cohort can continue to be accommodated.

1.3. The School has already been successful in securing CIF funding from the ESFA for the demolition of a teaching block on the school site. The ESFA have now agreed to vary the scheme to enable this expansion to proceed. Therefore, the CIF funding of £3.7m will be combined with the KCC contribution of £2.6 million to meet the anticipated scheme cost of £6.3 million. The main reason for the increased cost is because the original CIF bid was to demolish a block that is no longer fit for purpose and to rebuild that provision. The KCC funding will now be combined with that to ensure sufficient additional space is provided.

1.4. The School will manage the project and a funding agreement will be produced and signed by both Saint George's Church of England School and KCC stipulating that the KCC contribution is up to a value £2.6 million. The school therefore own the risk of any overspend occurring on the scheme.

Equality Implications

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.

Financial Implications

2.1. It has been agreed by the Governing Body to permanently enlarge Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, increasing the Secondary PAN from 180 to 210 for the September 2020 intake.

a. Capital – Kent County Council's contribution will be £2.6m. The School will manage the project and

a funding agreement will be produced and signed by both Saint George's Church of England School and KCC stipulating that the KCC contribution is up to a value £2.6 million. The school therefore own the risk of any overspend occurring on the scheme.

b. Revenue – For a period of three academic years, the school will receive protection for an additional 30 Year 7 students. For each additional classroom, resulting from the expansion of the school, the sum of £6,000 will allocated towards the classroom setup costs.

c. Human – Saint George's Church of England School will appoint additional teachers, as the school size increases and the need arises.

Legal Implications

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.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The CYPE Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 28 March 2019 considered the proposal and the minute extract is as follows:

Minutes:

Mr Adams (Area Education Officer (South Kent)), Ms White (Area Education Officer (East Kent)) and Mr Watts (Area Education Officer (North Kent)) were in attendance for this item.

1. The Chairman set out the proposed decisions to expand or alter the following schools: The Maplesden Noakes School, Stone Bay Community Special School, The Beacon Folkestone, Saint George's Church of England School, Sellindge Primary School, Deal Parochial Church of England Primary School and Whitfield Aspen Primary School.

2. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand The Maplesden Noakes School, Ms White said that a pre-planning consultation would be undertaken to address any transport and highways issues concerning the decision.

3. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the positive working relationship between Kent County Council and Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust and explained that Saint George's Church of England School were their own admissions authority.

4. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the communications that had been made to communities in relation to the proposal and the 'drop-in' session. He added that although Kent County Council were funding the proposed expansion, the planning application would be dealt with by the borough council.

5. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts talked about the positive impacts that the proposed school expansion would bring, including school places being made available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds.

6. In response to a question relating to the proposed decision to expand Saint George's Church of England School, Mr Watts said that as part of the planning application process, a full consultation would take place which would seek to address any highway issues.

7. **RESOLVED** that

a) the decision (19/00023) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £6.0 million from the Basic Need budget to fund the permanent

expansion of The Maplesden Noakes School, authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council, and 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, be endorsed.

b) the decision (19/00024) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to issue a public notice to permanently change the age range of Stone Bay (Community Special) School and subject to no objections being received to the public notice, and to change the age range from 8-19 years to 5-19 years in order to provide KS1 places to help with the demand for specialist places for pupils at KS1, be endorsed.

c) the decision (19/00025) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to increase the designated number of The Beacon Folkestone from 336 to 380 places, be endorsed.

d) the decision (19/00026) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £2.6m from the Children, Young People and Education Capital Budget, to fund any necessary additional works or variations to accommodation in relation to the permanent expansion of the Secondary provision at Saint George's Church of England School, Gravesend, and authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council, be endorsed.

(Dr L Sullivan asked that her vote against recommendation (d) be recorded in the minutes)

e) the decision (19/00029) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to allocate £1,500,000 from the Children's, Young People and Education Capital budget to construct a six-classroom block at Sellindge Primary School enabling the school to expand to 1FE, authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support in consultation with the Director of Governance and Law to enter into any necessary contracts/agreements on behalf of the County Council, and authorise the Director of Property and Infrastructure Support to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts, be endorsed.

f) the decision (19/00032) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to revoke the decision to expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE, and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60, and authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to revoke the planned expansion of expand Deal Parochial CE Primary School by 1FE and the associated increase in the published admissions number to 60, be endorsed.

g) the decision (19/00033) proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education to authorise the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education to issue Public Notice to increase the designated number of the Aspen Specialist Resource Provision at Whitfield Aspen Primary School from 96 to 112 places, be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2018-22 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 is further demonstrated in the 2019-23 Kent Commissioning Plan.

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


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signed

17 April 2019.....

date