

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough,

Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

19/00048

For publication

Subject:

Release funding for Phase 2 of the works to change the age range of Saint George's Church of England School to create an all-through school for pupils aged 4 to 19 from September 2019

Proposed Decision:

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

- a. Allocate £2,500,000 from the Children, Young People & Education Capital Budget to fund any necessary works or variations to accommodation for Phase 2 of the age range expansion project at St George's Church of England School.
- 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

On 1st February 2017, the decision of the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee, was to recommend that St George's CE School should expand, by virtue of a change of age range, taking pupils age range of reception to Year 6. The original Record of Decision (17/00011) agreed to allocate £7.1m from the CYPE Capital Budget to fund the build.

The build was phased with the original intention being that Phase 1 would provide a 2FE infrastructure core build with 1FE of accommodation for 2018, with the second FE being produced for 2021. However due to delays through the planning process the first FE will now open in September 2019.

Due to pressures on the CYPE capital budget at the time of agreeing this scheme it was agreed that the scheme would be phased to aid cash flow, whilst recognising that this could ultimately increase the overall cost of the scheme. However, to ensure costs do not escalate further by continuing to delay the production of the second FE, the advice from Gen2 is that it would be more beneficial to the school in terms of reducing disruption to its operation and financially advantageous to build Phase 2 while the construction plant and builders are on site, rather than starting a new build, some time further in the future.

There have been significant planning issues, owing to the site's proximity to the Coldharbour development area. Two ransom strips have been identified, one belonging to Colyer Ferguson Trust and one to Gravesham Borough Council. Both took some time to be resolved.

There have been challenging highways issues with a new access being created off a local residential

road.

The land has required some grading as the whole site slopes upward to the south.

Financial Implications

Capital

Kent County Council's contribution was £7.1m from the Capital Budget to ensure the first intake of 30 year R pupils could be accommodated, This allocation of £2.5m will ensure the build programme can be completed cost effectively, and will ensure the second FE intake can be accommodated as and when it is required.

Revenue

When required, the school will offer places in the second Form of Entry. This will attract Growth Funding.

Human

The school will appoint additional staff as required, in line with the growth in pupil numbers.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

As the school is an Academy KCC is not responsible for carrying out an impact assessment.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

[To be added after Committee meeting]

Any alternatives considered:

The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2016-20 identified a pressure on primary school places in the Gravesham district due to increased demand from changes in demographics and small scale house building. 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

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Date