

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

**Richard Long, Cabinet Member for
Education and Skills**

DECISION NO:

20/00008

Unrestricted

Key decision: YES

Subject:

Proposal to expand Water Meadows Primary school, Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4HS by increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 15 places to 30 places from September 2020.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and skills, I agree to:

- (i) Allocate £2.4M from the Children, Young People and Education Capital budget;
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure in consultation with the General Counsel to enter into any necessary contracts/ agreements on behalf of the County Council; and
- (iii) 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.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2019 -2023 identifies a need for additional places in the Marshside Primary Planning Area from 2020. This is due to pressure from new housing in Sturry and Hersden which has already commenced build-out. This proposal to expand Water Meadows Primary school by 0.5FE will provide the additional places needed to accommodate pupils from these new housing developments coming forward in the planning area.

In reaching this decision I have taken into account:

- the need for additional places identified in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23.
- the views expressed by those who responded to the public education consultation
- the Equalities Impact Assessment regarding this; and
- the views of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below.

Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of this proposal and is attached for information.

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s95249/Item%2015%20-%20Water%20Meadows%20EQIA.pdf>

Financial Implications

- a. Capital – A feasibility study has been completed and the detailed designs have been developed. Planning agreement has been confirmed. The cost of the expansion is £2.4M
- b. Revenue – Revenue funding will be allocated to enable the School to resource new classrooms which at present is at a value of £6,000 per classroom.
- c. Human – The School will appoint additional staff as the need arises.

Legal Implications

The proposal will help to secure our ambition “to ensure that every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can fair access to school places” as set out in the Kent Commissioning Plan.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

At its meeting on 10 January 2020, the Children, Young People's and Education Cabinet Committee RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills to expand Water Meadows Primary school, Shaftesbury Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent, CT3 4HS increasing the Published Admissions Number (PAN) from 15 places to 30 places from September 2020, be endorsed.

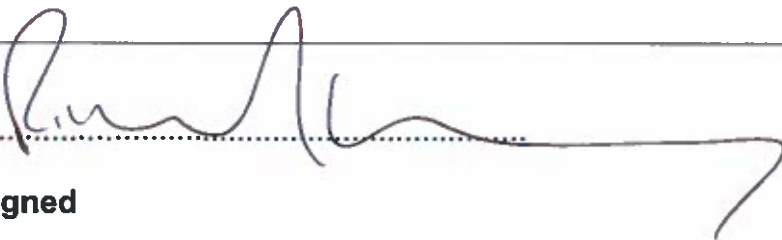
Water Meadows Primary School undertook a consultation during the 'In Round' admissions consultation in 2018/2019 to increase their PAN to 30 from September 2020. No responses were received to the consultation. A business case was submitted to the Department for Education for approval and in April 2019 Dominic Herrington, Regional Schools Commissioner approved the school request to expand by 0.5FE from September 2020.

A pre-planning letter drop to local residents was circulated on 13 September 2019 by Gen2. No responses were received from the pre-planning letter drop.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Water Meadows Primary School has the capacity on its current site to expand and meet the needs of the planned housing in the Primary Planning Area. Other schools in the planning area do not have the capacity to expand as they are on restricted sites.

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


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signed

4th February 2020
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date