

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Long
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

DECISION NO:

20/00009

Unrestricted

Key decision: **YES, Over £1m**

Subject:

To agree to fund the proposal to expand Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys onto a satellite in Sevenoaks by increasing the Published Admission Number from 210 places to 300 places in September 2021.

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to

- (i) expand Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, by increasing the Published Admission Number (PAN) from 210 places to 300 places, facilitated by the establishment of a satellite of the school on the Wilderness site in Sevenoaks, from September 2021
- (ii) to publish a Public Notice on the proposal.
- (iii) Allocate £15,900,000 from the Children Yung People and Education Services Capital Budget.
- (iv) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with KCC General Counsel and the Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council
- (v) Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services to be the nominated Authority Representative within the relevant agreements and to enter into variations as envisaged under the contracts.

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) as the Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places are available. The County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision across all types and phases of education in Kent. A copy of the plan can be viewed from this link:

1.2. KCC forecasts that there will be significant short and medium-term pressure for additional Year 7 places in the West Kent Selective Planning Group which indicates that additional capacity will be needed for 2020/21 and in later years. The planning group includes all Grammar schools in the districts of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Tonbridge Wells

1.3. Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys has a Published Admission Number of 210. The school has recently accommodated an expansion on their site in Tunbridge Wells and there is no scope for expansion on that site.

1.4. In order to expand Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys by 3FE, KCC are proposing that a satellite of the school is established on the Wilderness site in Sevenoaks.

1.5. To facilitate this expansion, a new block is proposed, together with work to update and refurbish the outdoor sporting facilities and social spaces. This work would be carried out to allow a September 2021 intake, meaning the school would be able to offer 90 additional Year 7 places for September 2021.

1.6. In 2012, Kent County Council agreed to identify and pursue options to increase Grammar provision in Sevenoaks area.

Financial Implications

Capital

In line with the agreement of Cabinet Committee on 7 May 2019, the capital figure previously reported was a budget estimate for information only. Estimates were then refined as detailed design work was undertaken and the scheme progressed through the planning process. Following receipt of planning permission, the refined cost estimate is being presented to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills for a key decision to be made.

The cost has been finalised and the total funding is £15,900,000

In addition, an allowance of up to £2500 may be payable to outfit the teaching room with appropriate ICT equipment, such as touch screens or projection equipment.

Revenue

Should the scheme progress, £6,000 per new learning space will be provided towards the cost of furniture and equipment. This will be given to the school to purchase the required equipment.

The school will receive pupil growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

Equality Impact Assessment

An assessment has been completed and identified the following positive impacts, an increase in total number of places available to meet the needs of students with disabilities and/or SEN, more families able to access good school places and school places available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds. There were no negative impacts identified.

Legal Implications

These proposals 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 and Education Cabinet Committee considered the proposed and recommended to the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills that the decision outlined above was taken.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

There are no alternatives. This proposal is the fulfilment of the KCC policy from March 2012, to establish boys and girls selective provision in Sevenoaks District.

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



22 July 2020

signed

date