

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

**To: Richard Long TD, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills**

**Subject: Proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021 (allocation of funding)**

**Decision Number and Title – 20/00100 - Proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021. (allocation of funding)**

**Key Decision**

- *It affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions*
- *It involves expenditure or savings of maximum £1m – including if over several phases*

**Classification: Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of report: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 20 March 2020**

**Future Pathway of report: Cabinet member decision**

**Electoral Division: Northfleet & Gravesend West, John Burden and Dr Lauren Sullivan**

**Summary:** This report advises the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills of the refined costs of the project following detailed design work and the planning process and that a decision is taken to allocate the necessary funding

**Recommendation(s):**

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree to:

- agree to provide £3.7m from the school's basic need capital budget to progress the proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021, and
- Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council
- 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.

## **1. Introduction**

- 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 found using this link:

[council strategies and policies for education.](#)

- 1.2. KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2020-21 academic year. The Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.
- 1.3. As part of the measures being taken to address the capacity issues illustrated above, KCC is proposing that Mayfield Grammar School increase their PAN to 210 for 2021.
- 1.4. To expand Mayfield Grammar School, KCC are proposing the removal of the old wooden block and building a new block at the school, together with other infill and enhancement work to social spaces. This work would be completed before the September 2021 intake. This build would enable the school to offer 210 Year 7 places for September 2021.

## **2. Alternative Proposals**

- 2.1. Mayfield Grammar School is a popular school that was judged Outstanding in every area by Ofsted in 2013.
- 2.2. The school site lends itself to expansion for a number of reasons including the age and sustainability of existing structures, proximity to local demand and sympathetic leadership and governance.
- 2.3. The school is the only girl's grammar school in the Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group, so is therefore the only option.
- 2.4. If no action is taken, Kent County Council will find it extremely difficult to provide sufficient local selective secondary school places in Gravesham borough.

## **3. Financial Implications**

### Capital

- 3.1. A feasibility study was carried out which estimated the cost to the KCC school's basic need capital budget. The amount estimated was £3.7m.
- 3.2. The planning process has now been completed and the estimate was accurate in that the cost to the basic need budget remains £3.7m. The total project cost is c£5.8m, with £2.080m being provided by the DfE through PSBP funding. This funding is specifically to remove an old building on the school site.

- 3.3. 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

- 3.4. 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.
- 3.5. The school will receive pupil growth funding in accordance with the Pupil Growth Policy established by KCC and its Schools' Funding Forum.

#### Human

- 3.6. The school will appoint additional staff as it grows over the years.

### **4. Kent Policy Framework**

- 4.1 The 'Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2020-24 identified a pressure on 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement (2015-2020)'.

### **5. Consultation**

- 5.1. The Academy Trust held a consultation from 27 January 2020 to 28 February 2020, with a drop-in event for stakeholders to raise issues and concerns on 11 February 2020.
- 5.2. The Academy Trust have considered the responses received from the consultation and have confirmed that they will proceed with the expansion proposal.
- 5.3. Consultation page on kent.gov:  
[KCC consultation Mayfield Expansion](#)

Consultation letter

[Mayfield Proposal Letter](#)

### **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. The provision of sufficient school places is a statutory duty and contributes to the Strategic Business Plan Priorities to ensure that "Children and Young People in Kent get the best start in life".
- 6.2. A license has been granted which allows KCC to undertake the construction works on the Academy site.
- 6.3. This project is funded jointly between the KCC Basic Need Programme and the DfE PSBP2. The funding breakdown is included at 3.2 above. KCC are delivering the entire project on behalf of both the DfE and themselves. The DfE contribution covers the cost of the DfE element of the scheme.

6.4. The DfE contribution is capped with the exception of two risk items. The DfE have agreed to pay any additional costs towards asbestos removal and mitigation relating to the demolition of the old building. The DfE have also agreed that they will pay a proportional contribution towards the remediation of any contamination in the ground that is discovered once foundation work begins. Any overspend that is not attributable to these two items will need to be funded by KCC, however there is a contingency fund within the project which will be reviewed and managed regularly throughout the construction.

## **7. Equalities implications**

7.1 An EqIA has been completed and identified no negative impacts and the following positive impacts were identified:

7.2 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; School places available to students with and without faith-based backgrounds.

7.3 The full assessment can be viewed here:

[Mayfield EqIA](#)

## **8. Views**

The Local Members:

8.1. Mr John Burden and Dr Lauren Sullivan have been informed of the proposal An impact assessment identified no adverse implications as KCC did not handle any personal data relating to this decision.

Area Education Officer:

8.2. The analysis of the demand for secondary selective provision in the area, indicates that there are immediate and future pressures and we urgently need the additional capacity provided by this proposed expansion. I therefore support the proposal.

## **9. Governance**

9.1. The decision asks the Cabinet member to agree to authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council and 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, as set out in the Scheme of Delegations.

## **10. Conclusions**

10.1. KCC forecasts indicate a growing demand for Year 7 places in Gravesham from the start of the 2020-21 academic year. The Gravesend and Longfield Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of 36 Year 7 places (1FE) from 2019-20 that increases to a deficit of 62 places (2FE) for the 2021-22 intake and increases again to 99 places (3.3FE) by 2023/24.

## **11. Recommendation(s):**

11.1 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is asked to agree to:

- i. agree to provide £3.7m from the school's basic need capital budget to progress the proposal to expand Mayfield Grammar School, Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE from 180 places to 210 places for Year 7 entry in September 2021, and
- ii. Authorise the Director of Infrastructure, Strategic and Corporate Services in consultation with the General Counsel and Director of Education to enter into any necessary contracts / agreements on behalf of the County Council
- iii. 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.

## **12. Background Documents**

12.1. Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020.

[KCC council strategies and policies increasing opportunities improving-outcomes](#)

12.2. Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision. [KCC Education Provision](#)

## **13. Contact details**

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