KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:
Roger Gough,
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:
14/00144

For publication

Subject: Mainstream provision for ASD and BESN: Proposal to create new provision at Oakfield Primary School - Dartford

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to:

(i) Issue a public notice to create 12 new places at Oakfield Primary School, Dartford

And, following the closure of the Public Notice:

(ii) Create 12 places at Oakfield Primary School, Dartford.

Should any objections, not already considered by the Cabinet Member when taking this decision, be received during the notice period, a separate decision will be required in order to continue the proposals and allow for proper consideration of the points raised.

Reason(s) for decision:

1.1 Kent County Council’s strategy for children and young people with special educational needs and who are disabled (SEND) identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools.

1.2 The SEND Strategy forms the County Council’s policy and strategy for special educational needs, and was approved by Cabinet in July 2013. It identifies key priorities to improve and expand our provision and close the attainment gap for disabled children and those with special educational needs. We want to decrease the demand for out-county provision which is causing a significant financial burden because of the long term impact this will have on our schools formula funding in future.

1.3 In reaching this decision I have taken into account:
- the views expressed by those put in writing in response to the consultation held between 23 June 2014 and 21 July 2014.
- the views of the District and Parish Councils, the local County Councillor; Governing Body of the school, the Staff and Pupils;
- the Equality Impact Assessment and comments received regarding this; and
- the views of the Education Cabinet Committee which are set out below

Financial Implications:

2.1 There will be 164 new places in mainstream specialist resourced provision, 34 will be offset by reductions in some areas of need that are no longer required, and the net increase will be 130.
2.2 Places in new provision will be filled incrementally from September 2014. Where provision is proposed in new schools, it will co-incide with the opening of the school. Host schools will require, for a 12 place provision, additional specialist staffing, which is likely to include a full time specialist teacher and 2 full time equivalent teaching assistants to support in the specialist base and mainstream inclusion.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:
On 3 December 2013 Education Cabinet Committee received a report on how KCC will deliver the additional Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision in Kent’s maintained schools set out in the SEN & Disability (SEND) Strategy 2013 and the Commissioning Plan for Education 2013-2018. The Committee endorsed the actions to implement key proposals set out in the SEND Strategy of which included the creation of provision at Oakfield Primary School.

Any alternatives considered:

The ‘Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision, 2013-18’ has identified the need to add 275 additional SEN places in Kent for pupils with Autism and Behavioural Needs. 175 of these places will be in special schools. This proposal forms part of a programme to deliver Kent County Council’s commitment to rebuild or refurbish all of our special school buildings.

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

Signed

Date