

## **Briefing Note: Kelston Schools – The Kerehana Vision Project**

<b>To:</b>	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In-Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1330674
<b>Drafter:</b>	Philippa Pidd Chief Adviser Network	<b>DDI:</b>	04 463 8241
<b>Deadline Date:</b>			
<b>Key Contact and Hautū   Deputy Secretary:</b>	Isabel Evans Hautū, Te Tai Raro	<b>DDI:</b>	09 632 9333 9(2)(a)
<b>Seen by the Communications Team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### **Purpose of Briefing**

The briefing provides you with information about the Kerehana Vision Project which considers the future of schooling in Kelston. Over the past seven years we have supported the schools in Kelston, in particular the secondary schools, to strengthen their collaboration and educational opportunities for students. The project proposed by the schools included co-locating Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' High School to improve collaboration, property and education in Kelston.

### **Summary**

1. Kelston is in West Auckland and is a community where population growth and changes in enrolment patterns will mean in the future more students will need to enrol locally.
2. Since 2017 the Ministry has been supporting the principals of Kelston Girls' College, Kelston Boys' High School, Kelston Intermediate School, St Leonards Road School, and Ko Taku Reo, as they have worked collaboratively to support and strengthen education in their community.
3. The collaborative project (called the Kerehana Vision Project (KVP)), is based on the concept of a Kelston Learning Village. This concept includes the possibility of co-locating Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' High School to one site. Although co-located, it was envisioned that the schools would retain their own unique identities with enhanced opportunities for collaboration through shared facilities including an administration area, library, sports hub, wellbeing centre, technology hub and professional learning centre.

4. Community engagement resulted in the development of four detailed options to support the concept of the learning village. Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on the options in August 2021 [METIS 1266031 refers]. The options considered different ways to create a Kelston learning campus by co-locating Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' High School and potentially Kelston Intermediate School on one of the existing school sites, and then considering what other facilities could be made available either on that site, or on the Ko Taku Reo site, adjacent to Kelston Girls'.
5. Following consultation, we undertook site investigations to determine which school site best suited co-location. It was determined that the Kelston Boys' High School site was best.
6. While we can see that there are educational benefits and alignment with projected growth in the area from co-locating the schools, this is not one of the Ministry's highest priorities at this time. Therefore, the Ministry does not propose to seek funding for the co-location part of the project.
7. Improvements can be made to school infrastructure without the need for co-location. The outcome of the recent value for money review of pre-construction property projects recommended deferral as other property investments were a higher relative priority.
8. We have met with the schools to advise that, due to the significant planning, investment and time needed to realise the KVP, the co-location of their schools would not be progressing. It was agreed that the Ministry would continue to support property projects at Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' High School and continue to support collaboration between the schools.
9. The schools have requested a letter acknowledging their work on the project and reinforcing that current and future property projects will continue to be supported by the Ministry. The boards will then inform their communities of the change in plan for the future of education in Kelston. Our letters to the schools are attached as Annex 1 and will be sent after your consideration of this briefing.

## Recommended Actions

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The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** for the last seven years the Ministry has been working alongside the Kelston schools to support their collaboration and vision for the future of schooling in their community;
- b. **note** the community's preference to co-locate Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Boys' on the Kelston Boys' site, with the intermediate remaining on its current site;
- c. **note** that the schools have continued to collaborate as a learning village and provide for the needs of their students and community;
- d. **note** that following consideration this is not one of the Ministry's highest educational, network or property priorities at this time;
- e. **note** that we will send the attached letters to the schools when you have considered this briefing;

Noted

And

- f. **agree** that this briefing will be proactively released in the next publication. Any information that might need to be withheld will be redacted in line with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Release/Not release



Scott Evans  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Pou Hanganga, Matihiko

19/06/2024



Isabel Evans  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro

19/06/2024



Hon Erica Stanford  
Minister of Education

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## Background

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1. Kelston is a community in West Auckland with forecast continued population growth. The National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) identifies it as having complex growth and projections show there will be an additional 3,400 students in the catchment by 2030.
2. The schools in this area are:

	School (school number)
Secondary	Kelston Boys' High School (83) Kelston Girls' College (84)
Intermediate	Kelston Intermediate School (1330)
Primary (Y1-6)	St Leonards Road School (1499) Kelston School (1331)
Specialist	Ko Taku Reo Deaf Education NZ (903)

3. Many local Kelston students prefer to attend schools in neighbouring areas, in part due to the perceived low quality of the local schooling provision, particularly at secondary level. The implementation of enrolment schemes in all schools in the wider area, will now see many students being unable to enrol at schools other than the one they are in-zone for.
4. Kelston principals, supported by the Ministry, have been collaborating on how to strengthen schooling in Kelston. The Kerehana Vision Project (KVP) was established to strengthen educational and community outcomes.
5. The schools developed the concept of a Kelston Learning Village. They planned to have shared wellbeing strategies, and a shared future focused curriculum that provided inclusive, bicultural and immersion learning pathways.
6. The village concept included the possibility of co-locating the two secondary schools. Although co-located, it was envisaged the schools would retain their own unique identities with enhanced opportunities for collaboration through shared facilities including an administration area, library, sports hub, wellbeing centre, technology hub and professional learning centre.
7. Following community engagement, four detailed options to support the concept of the learning village were developed, and Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on these options.
8. Consultation was held in the first half of 2022. Surveys were available in Te Reo Māori, Samoan, and Tongan, with a NZSL version hosted on YouTube. Eight community facilitators also met with people, provided information and gathered responses.

### Preferred option from consultation

9. The preferred option from the consultation was that Kelston Girls' College be relocated to the current Kelston Boys' High School site and Kelston Intermediate School stay where it was.

### Property details

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10. The estimated cost of co-location is about 9(2)(b)(ii) . This would need to be funded over a number of years from budget rounds.
11. We now consider that improvements can be made to the school infrastructure without the need for co-location. The outcome of the recent value for money review of pre-construction property projects recommended deferral as other property investments were a higher relative priority.

#### Kelston Girls' College / Kelston Boys' High School

12. Kelston Girls' College has approximately 9(2)(b)(ii) for current property works, mostly allocated to 5YA projects. Included in this is an 9(2)(b)(ii) roofing project which is underway and the refurbishment of B Block / Library which is in design.
13. Kelston Boys' High School has approximately 9(2)(b)(ii) with a new cycle of 5YA in the 2025/26 financial year. A weathertightness project to upgrade the administration block is in preliminary design.

#### Other schools in Kelston

14. Kelston Intermediate and St Leonards Road School have gone through master planning in response to roll growth.
15. The property on the Ko Taku Reo campus in Kelston was rebuilt and reopened in 2016/17.

### Recent Discussions

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16. The principals of both Colleges contacted the Ministry to discuss the likelihood of the co-location plan progressing given the high cost of doing so and recent publicity surrounding the cancellation of Te Tātoru o Wairau.
17. Following discussions, it was agreed that while the Ministry would continue to support the collaboration taking place between the schools, it would not be seeking funding to support the co-location proposal as it was not considered an investment priority. Both principals were disappointed by this after the huge contribution they, the Ministry and others have made to the KVP colocation proposal.
18. The schools have requested a letter acknowledging the work that has been done on the KVP project and reinforcing that both Colleges will continue to be supported with their 10YPP, 5YA and weathertightness projects, while collaboratively seeking solutions to support their curriculum objectives through current funding policies and programmes.

19. The schools, supported by the Ministry, will then update their communities on the decision.

#### Proactive release

20. It is intended that this briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

#### Annexes

- Annex 1: Letters to the boards of Kelston Boys' High School and Kelston Girls' College.

Proactively released



Annex 1: Letters to the boards of Kelston Boys' High School and Kelston Girls' College.

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Proactively released



Dr Moses Faleolo  
Presiding Member  
Kelston Boys' High School Board  
PO Box 15103  
New Lynn  
Waitakere 0640

Board secretary: [r.clark@kbhs.school.nz](mailto:r.clark@kbhs.school.nz)

Tēnā koe Moses

We have been informed about the Kerehana Vision Project (KVP) and want to update your board and community on its future.

We are aware of the work that your board, staff and community have done to support your vision for a collaborative learning village. This model has undoubtedly been a positive support to board members, staff and students. We want to congratulate you and the board on working to find the best way to provide education in Kelston and we are confident that this will continue.

Although we can see that there are educational benefits and alignment with projected growth in the area from co-locating the schools, other property investments were considered a higher relative priority. Considering its relative priority and the cost needed to deliver a transformation project like the KVP, the Ministry will not be seeking funding for the project.

We recognise that this will be a disappointment to many at your school and in the community. I do want to assure you that the Ministry will continue to support Kelston Boys' High School with their immediate property projects. The Ministry will also provide future property in line with Ministry policy.

Please contact Nicholas Raw via email: [nicholas.raw@education.govt.nz](mailto:nicholas.raw@education.govt.nz) or phone: 09 638 02622 or 0274170140 if you have any questions about your school's property projects.

The Ministry will also continue to support the collaboration that has become your College's foundation for growing and strengthening educational opportunities for your staff and students. Please contact Jess Robertson email: [jess.robertson@education.govt.nz](mailto:jess.robertson@education.govt.nz) or phone: 09 4871145 or 0272041789 if you have any queries about this.

Nāku noa, nā

Scott Evans  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Pou Hanganga, Matihiko

Isabel Evans  
Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
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Dr James Prescott  
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Tēnā koe James

We have been informed about the Kerehana Vision Project (KVP) and want to update your board and community on its future.

We are aware of the work that your board, staff and community have done to support your vision for a collaborative learning village. This model has undoubtedly been a positive support to board members, staff and students. We want to congratulate you and the board on working to find the best way to provide education in Kelston and we are confident that this will continue.

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I know this will be a disappointment to many at your school and in the community. I do want to assure you however that the Ministry will continue to support the completion of property remediation at Kelston Girls' College. The Ministry will also provide future property in line with Ministry policy.

Please contact Nicholas Raw via email: [nicholas.raw@education.govt.nz](mailto:nicholas.raw@education.govt.nz) or phone: 09 638 02622 or 0274170140 if you have any questions about your school's property projects.

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Nāku noa, nā

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