



AGENDA

CABINET

Thursday, 26th January, 2023, at 10.00 am
Council Chamber

Ask for:
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UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

(During these items the meeting is likely to be open to the public)

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 January 2023 (Pages 1 - 8)
4. Cabinet Member Updates
5. Capital Programme 2023-33, Revenue Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26 (Pages 9 - 10)
6. Kent Commissioning Plan (Pages 11 - 164)
7. Strategic Reset Programme (Pages 165 - 184)

EXEMPT ITEMS

(At the time of preparing the agenda there were no exempt items. During any such items which may arise the meeting is likely NOT to be open to the public)

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel
03000 416814

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

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KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

MINUTES of a meeting of the Cabinet held in the Council Chamber on Thursday, 5 January 2023.

PRESENT: Mr R W Gough (Chairman), Mrs C Bell, Mr D L Brazier, Miss S J Carey, Mrs S Chandler, Mr P M Hill, OBE, Mr R C Love, OBE, Mr D Murphy, Mr P J Oakford and Mrs S Prendergast

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS**1. Apologies**

(Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022

(Item 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2022 were a correct record and that they be signed by the Chair, subject to it being noted that Mr Love was present at the meeting.

3. Cabinet Member Updates

(Item 4)

1) Mrs Bell said the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement had included an additional £2.8 billion for Adult Social Care. The Social Care Support Grant made up the most significant amount which had provided £32 million to the Council and a further £7 million was to be made available through the ringfenced Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. The Adult Social Care Levy was to potentially increase by 2% which would mean an extra £16.8 million for the Council. The additional funding was welcomed; however, it would not resolve the challenges being faced. The reform of Adult Social Care charging had been postponed for two years, allowing for a refocus on the service redesign entitled 'Making a Difference Everyday'. The Kara project had been included in a case study in the County Spotlight publication as an example of best practice and innovation.

Mrs Bell gave a list of services that were available that promoted health and wellbeing. Advice had been given to parents and teachers regarding symptoms of scarlet fever, that could lead to Strep A, which although rare had seen a rise over recent months. There had been a rise in Covid-19 cases, which were expected to continue. Precautions had been put in place due to the pressures currently on the health service. No trigger points on Covid-19 data had yet been reached but people were recommended to follow Public Health England guidance.

2) Mrs Chandler said as there had been 57 UASC referrals since the start of December. This was the lowest total of any month so far this year, but still the highest total for the month of December with the exception of 2021. The total for 2022 stood at 1,373. By the next meeting of Cabinet, Mrs Chandler was to provide a total for the full year.

Retaining qualified social workers was a challenge that KCC and many other local authorities faced. Social work was an extremely rewarding career but there were a range of internal and external pressures which affected retention. Government figures had shown that there had been a 16% increase in those leaving the profession in the past year, the highest number in the last five years.

To help better understand the landscape faced in social work, Kent County Council had agreed to be part of a research project run by The University of Kent. This would reflect on the experiences of those who qualified as social workers in the last three to five years (qualifying in 2017 to 2019). The goal was to understand what kept them working at the local authority and what might be a reason for them to leave. Social work staff across Kent who had joined the authority between 2017 and 2019 had been invited to take part in a short 30-minute interview on an anonymous basis as part of the study. Initial findings were expected in March 2023 and would be used to look at what measures could be put in place to ensure continuous improvement.

Thanks were given to all the individuals and organisations across Kent who donated to the Corporate Parenting Christmas Appeal. The Appeal raised just over £30,000, well above the target of £20,000 in order to provide every care leaver in Kent with a £10 gift voucher.

3) Mr Love said out of 17,254 Kent pupils completing GCSEs in 2022, the average attainment 8 score (the government metric which factors in English, Maths and English Baccalaureate subjects) was 49.2. This put Kent slightly ahead of the national average of 48.8, and ahead of neighbouring counties such as East Sussex and Essex.

There was still a notable gender divide when it came to achieving a pass in English, with 73.3% of Kent's boys achieving a strong or standard pass, compared to 83.1% of Kent's girls. However, pass rates for Maths are just 1% apart. In both cases, this was in line with national trends.

Of 7,089 Kent students who received their A Level results in 2022, 86.2% achieved 2 or more passes. This was slightly below the national average of 88%. However, Kent was in line with the national average when it came to achieving 3 or more A* and A grades, with both coming in at 21.3%. As per GCSEs, girls were again outperforming boys, although the differences are less pronounced. Again, Kent is mirroring the national picture here.

376 Kent students completed T Level qualifications in 2022, with average results being within half a percentage point of the national average. This was the first cohort of students to complete the two-year long courses which were introduced in September 2020, and included a mixture of practical, knowledge and on-the-job based learning via an industry placement.

It was announced at the end of November that, following the conclusion of a six-month review, colleges in England were to be reclassified as public sector bodies, marking a significant change which was to include new controls on borrowing, finance and governance. This affected further education colleges, sixth form college corporations and designated institutions in England and ends a decade of private sector status.

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission had announced that there would be a new SEND inspection framework. This came into force in January 2023 and was to see future inspections of Services rated with three new inspection “outcomes”. The first addressed whether SEND services were “taking action where improvements are needed”. The second focus was on whether services led to “inconsistent experiences and outcomes”. The third was to highlight “widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns”.

4) Mr Brazier said that there had not been a decision on the £35 million Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) application from the Department for Transport. If this amount were to be granted, a Members’ working group was to be established to ensure that the funding was used effectively.

Mr Brazier had been briefed on Kent’s Major Road Network bid for the Birchington, Acol and Westgate-on-Sea relief road which would provide improved connectivity between the A299 – Thanet Way and the Margate area. The scheme which was valued at £60 million consisted of 8 kilometres of new highways infrastructure together with improved cycling and walking connectivity. This was the subject of an active bid to the Department for Transport. £750,000 had been granted to produce an outline business case.

There had been a “Dragon’s Den” style, competitive event, ADEPT Live Labs 2: Decarbonising Local Roads in the UK. The submission from Brighton & Hove City Council and KCC, was concerned with the increase in the rate of the deterioration of the highways in view of the increased weight of electric freight and passenger vehicles. This was an experimental programme and the proposal was that having established the impact, work was undertaken to refine and make practicable ways of increasing the resilience of the highways. The judges responded favourably to the submission and the outcome of the competition was to be announced.

The brief period of very cold weather in December followed a longer period of persistent rain in November and December. KCC’s 64 gritters had been fully engaged during the cold period and there were positive comments made about the efficiency and thoroughness of their work. Potholes had appeared on many routes and repairs would be undertaken when the weather permitted.

The Active Travel unit had been awarded £565,000 from the Active Travel England Capability Fund, which would allow the Council and partners to work with residents to create routes that encourage walking and cycling.

5) Miss Carey said there had been two conferences, the Kent Environment Conference, held in Canterbury and the Plan Bee Conference, which was an online event. Thanks were given to staff and participants for making these a success.

Funding had been granted from The Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund for nearly £300,000 in order that officers be recruited to ensure the planting of trees in the right places. There had also been a successful bid to the Local Authority Treescape Fund for a capital grant.

There were a series of pilot schemes being undertaken at KCC's Household Waste and Recycling Centres to divert waste – in order to reduce the amount of waste being incinerated when it could be reused or recycled.

6) Mr Murphy said a joint letter been sent to the Secretary of State making the case for the Dungeness Power Station site to be included in the list of sites for small/medium reactors and to call for the government's urgent development of the national policy statement, allowing this to happen.

Mesaroli, who specialised in refrigerated/chilled transport, had recently moved to Discovery Park and had indicated that they had expansion plans involving using Kent as a distribution site for the rest of the UK. Grow Up Farms were moving into production of salads in their new facility and were looking for a provider of chilled transport.

The Kent Rural Partnership had been set up to demonstrate KCC's support for rural sector and communities. It had been well attended and the initial focus had been agreed- education, research and development.

The Broadband team had started a joint project with Dover District Council into the provision of broadband for multi-occupancy buildings.

Mr Murphy gave an update on the No-Use-Empty scheme in Dover. Tridax had been supported by the scheme with a loan of £1 million, was now in production as well as a printing firm and a glazing firm. A customs import firm from Belgium was to be welcomed and a further 22 business units were also under construction.

7) Mr Mike Hill said that a new Arts Hub for the county had been opened in Ashford as part of the regeneration of the Henwood industrial estate. It was housing a dance company and the aspiration was that creative organisations would move into the Hub, encouraging connection and collaboration. Kent Music had already bought units to join the Hub.

There had been an announcement of the Arts Council's national portfolio with 10 Kent organisations being supported, including Kent Libraries.

It had been announced that the Chairman of the Turner Contemporary was Matthew Slotover, succeeding Clive Stevens on 1 January. Matthew Slotover was cofounder of *Frieze* magazine, which he helped establish, and of the first Frieze art fair.

8) Mrs Prendergast wished a happy New Year to everyone and particularly to staff who amid all the pressures and crises in recent times, and in the vital day to day delivery of services, had been there to support residents and communities with dedication and commitment.

The normal winter pressures were being exacerbated by both Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. The latest residents e-newsletter had been published just before

Christmas. The Winter Campaign from the Communications team was centred around KCC continuing to provide consistent information and help to those who need it.

There was lots of advice and support on KCC's website for residents, to help with money and benefits issues, household bills, finding work, health and wellbeing, as well as support for families, young people, the elderly, and vulnerable people.

The Kent Together campaign, borne out of the community spirit of the pandemic was still going strong and close working with partners and the voluntary sector to help support those who needed it most.

9) Mr Oakford said the draft budget had been published and the huge amount of work to achieve a balanced budget was recognised. A balanced budget had been very hard to achieve in such difficult times, and those involved, including the Finance team, were thanked for their efforts. Work was to be done to reduce the deficit as far as possible during the final 3 months of the financial year. Money would be drawn from the reserves to ensure that the budget was balanced this financial year. Staff and Members were to be briefed on the Community Assets Plan, which would contribute to financial savings and carbon reduction.

10) Mr Gough endorsed what had been said about work across all parts of the Council on the budget.

4. Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

(Item 5)

Mr Dave Shipton, Head of Finance (Policy, Strategy and Planning), and Benjamin Watts, General Counsel, were in attendance for this item.

1) Mr Oakford introduced the report. He said that the financial settlement was much more than expected but major challenges remained, especially in Adult Social Care.

2) Mr Shipton outlined the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement. The settlement represented the largest increase in funding in over a decade but in real terms still fell short of spending growth projections, which would leave a significant gap. The process by which the freezing of business rates would be compensated for was explained. Additional funding of £2.8 billion had been announced in the Autumn Statement for Adult Social Care 2023-2024. This was to be delivered to the Council through three different grant mechanisms totalling £51.6 million for KCC including the existing grant, support for discharges and increasing capacity within the sector and the Adult Social Care Council Tax precept. The new homes bonus grant had been extended for 1 further year, with £2.3 million for KCC in 2023-24. The overall settlement was an increase of government grants to £63.9 million, and the rise in council tax referendum thresholds would allow a further £51.2 million to be raised. It was noted that this was very significant with the increase totalling £115.2 million.

3) The Leader said that he was grateful for the better-than-expected provisional settlement and the degree of priority given to Local Government and Adult Social Care.

4) Mr Watts said there had been no reduction to the statutory duties placed upon the Council.

5) RESOLVED to note the report.

5. Quarterly Performance Report (Quarter 2 2022/23) (Item 6)

Rachel Kennard, Chief Analyst was in attendance for this item.

1) Ms Kennard outlined the report for Quarter 2 (Q2), 2022-2023 and highlighted that out of the 37 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) contained within the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR), 17 achieved target (rated green), 13 achieved and exceeded the floor standard but did not meet target (rated amber), and 7 did not meet floor standard (rated red). A summary was provided of the 7 indicators which had been RAG rated as red.

2) Further to comments and questions from Members, it was noted:

- Attempts to recruit foster carers were ongoing and that despite an increase in referrals, the proportion of children in care remained below the national average. The cost-of-living crisis had potentially negatively affected the recruitment of foster carers.
- The issue regarding the target timescale for issuing EHCPs was not unique to Kent and the OFSTED annual report had shown that 40% of local authorities were missing the target. Work was ongoing to improve performance, but the volume of work had increased.
- It was acknowledged that there was a link between budget pressures and what was being reported through the Quarterly Performance Report indicators.

3) RESOLVED to note the report.

6. Corporate Risk Register (Item 7)

Mark Scrivener, Corporate Risk and Assurance Manager, was in attendance for this item.

1) Mark Scrivener introduced the report.

2) Further to comments and questions it was noted:

- Some risks were beyond the Council's ability to control, but all attempts to mitigate risks would be taken. Budget monitoring and the Strategic Reset Programme would be central to understanding and responding to these risks. Similar risks and mitigations were found in other comparable Councils, but there were some unique risks for Kent due to its geographical location.

- There had been effective ongoing work between KCC and central government to make the risk related to Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) more manageable. The risk remained considerable due to the volume of arrivals.

3) RESOLVED to note the report.

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From: Roger Gough, Leader
Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services
Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Finance

To: Cabinet - 26 January 2023

Subject: **Capital Programme 2023-33, Revenue Budget 2023-24 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2023-26**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary:

The administration's draft budget proposals were published on 3 January 2023 to support the scrutiny and democratic process through Cabinet Committees, Cabinet and culminating in the annual County Council budget setting meeting on 9 February. The publication included a comprehensive report to support the draft budget.

An updated final draft report for County Council will be published on 1 February. This final draft will include any changes from the original draft (including any changes in final grant and tax base notifications), update and re-evaluation of budget risks, and a number of additional appendices to support the final County Council decisions such as Capital Strategy including Prudential Indicators, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) statement, and Treasury Management Strategy.

The proposed draft revenue budget shows a net proposed budget of £1,306.8m, an increase of £115.3m (9.7%) on the approved budget for 2022-23 funded from increased/additional grants in the provisional local government finance settlement and proposed Council Tax increases. The proposed budget includes spending growth of £216.8m (including increased spending from specific grants such as Household Support Fund), £39.1m savings and £15.7m additional income from fees and charges., increased specific grants of £31.9m and £14.8m from reserves (including an additional net contribution of £5.8m in 2023-24 budget, and £20.7m removal of contributions and drawdowns 2022-23 budget) to achieve a balanced budget.

The proposed draft capital programme 2023-33 includes spending of £1,620m of which £955m is funded from confirmed/indicative grants, £400m from borrowing and £265m other sources. The administration's strategy for the capital programme is to minimise the level of additional borrowing, for 2023-24 the changes to the programme represents a £9.6m reduction.

The draft budget includes a proposed 4.995% Council Tax increase for 2023-24 i.e. up to the maximum without exceeding the 3% referendum limit plus an additional up to 2% for the adult social care levy. This would mean the total social care levy accounts for 13.2% of the County Council share of Council Tax. The final decision on these Council Tax increases will be taken at the County Council meeting. The provisional estimated Council Tax base has increased by 1.5% compared to 2022-23 (we do not receive final estimated tax base from all districts until later in January). The Council Tax precept for 2023-24 must be based on the final estimated tax base notified by districts.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) consider any proposed amendments from Cabinet Committees.
- b) endorse the draft budget to be presented to County Council on 9 February for final decisions.

Cabinet members are asked to be able to refer to the 2023-24 draft budget report published on 3 January 2023 for this meeting

Cabinet Members are reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to any meeting where consideration is given to a matter relating to, or which might affect, the calculation of Council Tax.

Any Member of a Local Authority who is liable to pay Council Tax, and who has any unpaid Council Tax amount overdue for at least two months, even if there is an arrangement to pay off the arrears, must declare the fact that he/she is in arrears and must not cast their vote on anything related to KCC's Budget or Council Tax.

Background Documents

- 1 KCC's Budget webpage
[KCC's Budget webpage](#)
- 2 Original 2022-23 Budget approved by County Council on 10th February 2022
[KCC's approved 2022-23 Budget](#)
- 3 KCC Budget Consultation launched 19th July 2022
[2023-24 Budget Consultation \(Let's Talk Kent\)](#)
- 4 KCC report on 2021 Budget Consultation
[2023-24 Budget Consultation Report](#)
- 5 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 17th December 2020
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/provisional-local-government-finance-settlement-england-2023-to-2024#:~:text=The%20local%20government%20finance%20settlement,settlement%20for%202023%20to%202024.>

Contact details

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Relevant Corporate Director:

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From: Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Cabinet – 26 January 2023

Subject: Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: CYPE Cabinet Committee - 29 November 2022

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides the Cabinet with the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27 for approval.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to agree the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (KCP) is an annual document which sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.
- 1.2 The KCP sets out the principles by which we determine proposals, and it forecasts the need for future provision. It also sets out in more detail, plans to meet the commissioning needs which arise in each district and borough in Kent during the next five years.
- 1.3 This updated KCP is a 'live' document which underpins our on-going dialogue and consultation with schools, district and borough councils, diocesan authorities, KCC Members and local communities, to ensure we meet our responsibilities.

2. The Demographic Context

- 2.1 Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a peak in births of 18,147 children. Since this time, birth numbers have fallen to 16,633 in 2021. KCC will continue to monitor this data and forecast its impact over time.
- 2.2 As we have forecast for a number of years, the increased number of births until 2012, which required us to add significant primary school places, is now being felt in the secondary sector. Between the 2020-21 and 2025-26 academic years we forecast the secondary school age population resident in Kent will rise by 7,567 pupils.
- 2.3 The number of children on the rolls of Kent schools is driven by the size of the school-aged population in the county but is also influenced by the number of children resident outside of Kent on the rolls of the county's schools, the take-up of state funded school places and other factors such as the pace and type of new housing. Due to this a change in the overall school-aged population in the county does not on its own necessarily translate into the same change in the number of children on the rolls of schools in Kent. Additionally, changes in the overall school age population at County or district level do not necessarily mirror changes in population at smaller geographic levels, such as planning groups; these are explored in Section 7.
- 2.4 The pressure for specialist school provision continues to grow. As of January 2022, this totalled 17,733 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 2,452 since January 2021, an increase of 16% compared to 9.9% in England. In Kent 33.5% (31.1% in 2021) are educated in mainstream (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 40.5%. In Kent 39.7% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school compared to 34.8% nationally.

3. Our Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1 The KCP 2023-27 identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary mainstream school and specialist places over the Plan period. This is based on forecasts which incorporate demographic changes such as the number of births, but also migration and the level of house building.
- 3.2 Within the individual district/borough sections we break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may need to be added or removed. The pupil growth generated by new homes is forecast to produce significant demand for school places in specific planning groups over and above underlying demographic trends. This is particularly apparent in earlier years of the Plan within a number of primary planning groups impacted by substantial planned house building. The longer-term impact of this house building is also represented by the forecast need for significant additional secondary places in the latter period of the Plan.

3.3 Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and opening new ones. The overall county commissioning intentions are shown below:

3.4 The KCP 2023-27 identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary mainstream school and specialist places each year as follows. Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and establishing new ones.

Primary School Commissioning Intentions:

by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	Between 2027-30	Post 2031
1FE 36 Year R temp places	2.8FE 70 Year R temp places	3.3FE 70 Year R temp places	6.5FE	22.3FE	6FE

Total of 41.9FE across the Plan period and up to 176 temporary Year R places

Secondary School Commissioning Intentions

by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	Between 2027-30	Post 2031
9FE 285 Year 7 temp places	9FE 180 Year 7 temp places	3FE 45 Year 7 temp places	11FE 90 Year 7 temp places	18.5FE 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE

Total of 52.2FE across the Plan period and up to 630 temporary Year 7 places

SEND Commissioning Intentions:

by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27
24 places	220 places	490 places	120 places

A total of 854 permanent places across the Plan period

4. Financial Implications

4.1 The Local Authority as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools.

4.2 The pressure on the County’s Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary places and for specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for ‘Basic Need’ is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.

- 4.3 Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecasts, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.
- 4.4 The allocations for the 2023-24 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2024 (the start of academic year 2024/25); Kent has been allocated £42.7m. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.
- 4.5 One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

5 Legal implications

- 5.1 Each project identified in the KCP will be subject to a separate consultation and decision-making process. The legal implications of each proposal will be identified at that time.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 The equality impact assessment considers whether the commissioning principles and guidelines contained within the KCP may have an impact (either positive or negative) on any protected groups and if so what action, if any, should be taken to mitigate the negative impacts. Separate, more detailed equalities impact assessments will be completed as individual project consultations come forward to consider the impacts on any protected group arising from that individual education proposal.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. The commissioning intentions outlined in the KCP are planned to ensure there are sufficient school places, in the right locations and at the right time in order to fulfil our legal responsibility to offer an appropriate school place to all who require one. At the same time, we are committed to reducing the budget pressure, but without compromising on the high-quality provision our children and young people deserve.

8 Recommendation(s):

8.1 Cabinet is asked to agree the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27.

9. Background Documents

9.1 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2022-26

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>

9.2 Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/early-years-and-childcare-strategy-2020-2023>

9.3 Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategy/strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

10. Contact details

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Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent

2023 – 2027



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2. Foreword

Welcome to the County Council's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2023-27 (KCP). This is the latest version of our five-year rolling Plan which we update annually. It sets out our future plans as Strategic Commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education in Kent.

This Plan builds on the positive achievements of the last few years. We have continued to commission new primary, secondary and special provision to ensure we fulfil our statutory responsibility of ensuring a school place is available for every child, but also our non-statutory commitment to facilitate parental choice. This is not without its challenges, particularly in this period when we continue to see rolls rise in the secondary sector, primary rolls fall in some areas and the demand for specialist places increase.

For September 2023 we are pleased to report that we delivered the following commissioned provision:

- 1 FE permanent primary school places and 36 temporary Year R places.
- 9 FE permanent secondary school places and 285 temporary Year 7 places.
- 24 places in special schools or specialist resource provisions.

We could not have achieved this without the support of Headteachers, Governors and Academy Trusts who have helped us to ensure there are sufficient school places while at the same time leading their schools through the wide-ranging challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

We forecast that between the 2021-22 and 2026-27 academic years total primary school rolls will rise by 977 pupils and secondary rolls will increase by 7,268 pupils, the profile of change in school rolls will vary across the county with some local areas requiring additional places to meet demand. As new homes are built, and the overall Kent population increases accordingly, further pressures will likely be felt. To meet need in specific localities, and to reflect housing development, for the academic years 2023-24 to 2026-27, 13.6FE of primary provision and 176 temporary Year R places will be needed and 32FE of secondary provision and 600 temporary Year 7 places.

As in previous years, we continue to see a significant increase in the number of pupils requiring a specialist place to meet their educational needs. We will address the need for high quality SEN provision within the context of the recommendations made in the OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Inspection in 2019. Between the academic years 2023-24 to 2026-27 we currently intend to commission 854 additional specialist places.

Since March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on all schools, children and young people; over the last two years the nature of the impact has changed, but the challenges have been wide reaching and remain significant. We continued to ensure sufficient supply of school places through the periods of lockdown and will continue to do so as prices of construction material and other goods continue to rise; however, without additional funding these extra costs may influence the decision-making process around the location and timing of new education provision.

Rory Love - Cabinet Member for Education and Skills



3. Executive Summary

3.1 Purpose

The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient high quality places, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards and promote parental preference. The Plan details the expected future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.

This Plan reflects the dynamic and ongoing process of ensuring there are sufficient places for Kent children in schools, and other provisions. It is subject to regular discussion and consultation with schools, district/borough councils, KCC (Kent County Council) Elected Members, the diocesan authorities, and others. The content of this Plan reflects those discussions and consultations.

3.2 The Kent Context

Kent is a diverse County. It is largely rural with a collection of small towns. Economically our communities differ, with economic advantage generally in the West, and disadvantage concentrated in our coastal communities in the South and East. Early Years education and childcare are predominantly provided by the private and voluntary sectors. Our schools are a mix of maintained and academies and include infant, junior, primary, grammar, wide ability comprehensive, all-through, single sex and faith based. Post-16 opportunities are available through schools, colleges and private training organisations.

3.3 What We Are Seeking to Achieve

Our vision is that every child and young person should go to a good or outstanding early years setting and school, have access to the best teaching, and benefit from schools and other providers working in partnership with each other to share the best practice as they continue to improve. Commissioning education provision from good or better providers can assist in securing this vision. To address the commissioning needs outlined in this Plan we welcome proposals from existing schools, trusts, the three dioceses and new providers; those proposals should be aligned to the commission requirements set out in the Plan.

3.4 Principles and Guidelines

The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties which are set out in the relevant sections of the Plan. We also have a set of principles and planning guidelines to help us in our role as the Commissioner of Education Provision (Section 5). It is important that the Local Authority is transparent and clear when making commissioning decisions or assessing the relative merits of any proposals it might receive.

3.5 Kent's Demographic Trends

Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a peak in births of 18,147 children. Since this time, birth numbers have fallen to 16,537 in 2019. KCC will continue to monitor this data and forecast its impact over time.

As we have forecast for a number of years the increased number of births until 2012, which required us to add significant primary school places, is now being felt in the secondary sector. Between the 2020-21 and 2025-26 academic years we forecast the secondary school age



population resident in Kent will rise by 7,567 pupils. The primary age population is forecast to fall during the same period.

The number of children on the rolls of Kent schools is driven by the size of the school-aged population in the county but is also influenced by the number of children resident outside of Kent on the rolls of the county's schools, the take-up of state funded school places and other factors such as the pace and type of new housing. Due to this a change in the overall school-aged population in the county does not on its own necessarily translate into the same change in the number of children on the rolls of schools in Kent. Additionally, changes in the overall school age population at County or district level do not necessarily mirror changes in population at smaller geographic levels, such as planning groups; these are explored in Section 7.

3.6 Capital Funding

The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues, particularly as demand for secondary places and for specialist places grows. The cost of delivering school places is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities concerning forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity.

The Department for Education's (DfE) Free Schools Programme is another way to deliver some of the school provision Kent needs. We have encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success, but this programme is not a significant contributor to places overall and does have financial risks.

KCC also secures developer contributions to the capital programme. The budget gap between what is needed for KCC to meet its statutory duties as school place commissioner and what is available is significant. All avenues are being explored to reduce the risks, but inevitably difficult decisions will have to be made to prioritise KCC's investment of the capital budget. The cost of construction has risen considerably since 2020 and is likely to continue during the Plan period. We will continue to manage and mitigate this as far as we are able to, however, pressure from inflation may become a constraint to our commissioning strategy.



3.7 Kent's Forward Plan – Commissioning Summary

Detailed analysis, at district level, of the future need for primary and secondary school places is contained in Section 7 of this Plan. Figures 3.1 and 3.2 provide a summary of the need for additional places, both permanent and temporary, identified within the Commissioning Plan:

Figure 3.1 Summary of the commissioning proposals for primary schools by district/borough

District	by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	Between 2027-30	Post 2031
Ashford			0.3FE	2FE	2FE	2FE
Canterbury		1.5FE			3FE	
Dartford	1FE	1FE			5FE	
Dover				1FE	1.3FE	2FE
Folkestone and Hythe						2FE
Gravesham		0.3FE		1FE		
Maidstone	Up to 6 Year R temp place	Up to 70 Year R temp place	1FE Up to 70 Year R temp place	2FE	2FE	
Sevenoaks						
Swale			1FE	0.5FE	5FE	
Thanet					4FE	
Tonbridge and Malling	Up to 30 Year R temp place					
Tunbridge Wells			1FE			
Totals	1FE 36 Year R temp places	2.8FE 70 Year R temp places	3.3FE 70 Year R temp places	6.5FE	22.3FE	6FE

Total of 41.9FE of additional provision across the forecast period and up to 176 temporary Year R places



Figure 11.2: Summary of the commissioning proposals for secondary schools by planning group

Non-Selective Planning Group	by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	Between 2027-30	Post 2031
Ashford North	4FE Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	2FE				2FE
Canterbury Coastal					1.5FE	
Dartford and Swanley		4FE		4FE		
Dover					2FE	
Faversham		1FE			1FE	
Gravesham and Longfield	1FE	2FE			2FE	
Maidstone District	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	Up to 90 Year 7 temp places	3FE		6FE	
Sevenoaks and Borough Green	2FE	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	
Sittingbourne	Up to 75 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places	Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		6FE	
Selective Planning Group	by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27	Between 2027-30	Post 2031
Canterbury and Faversham	Up to 15 Year 7 temp places	Up to 15 Year 7 temp places		Up to 15 Year 7 temp places	1FE	
Maidstone and Malling				1FE		
North West Kent				6FE		
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	2FE					
Thanet	15 Year 7 temp places	15 Year 7 temp places	15 Year 7 temp places	15 Year 7 temp places		
West Kent				Up to 30 Year 7 temp places		
Total secondary commissioning	9FE 285 Year 7 temp places	9FE 180 Year 7 temp places	3FE 45 Year 7 temp places	11FE 90 Year 7 temp places	18.5FE 30 Year 7 temp places	2FE

Total of 52.5FE across the forecast period and 630 temporary Year 7 places



Figure 11.3: Summary of commissioning intentions for specialist provision

District	by 2023-24	by 2024-25	by 2025-26	by 2026-27
Ashford				
Canterbury	9 places			120 places
Dartford			40 places	
Dover				
Folkestone and Hythe				
Gravesham	15 places			
Maidstone				
Sevenoaks			250 places	
Swale		120 places	200 places	
Thanet				
Tonbridge and Malling		50 places		
Tunbridge Wells		50 places		
Totals	24 places	220 places	490 places	120 places

A total of 854 permanent places across the planned period



3.8 Special Educational Needs

The LA is responsible for issuing and maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2022, this totalled 17,733 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 2,452 since January 2021, an increase of 16% compared to 9.9% in England. In Kent 33.5% (31.1% in 2021) are educated in mainstream (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 40.5%. In Kent 39.7% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school compared to 34.8% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are for only those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs.

To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan will only reflect a proportion of our commissioning intentions at this stage as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, reporting in the first half of 2023.

3.9 Early Education and Childcare

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, private, voluntary, independent and school-run providers, childminders and academies, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces.

Across the whole county, there are sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds. It is notable that there is a surplus of places in Gravesham (at this point last year there was a deficit of 229) for the first time since the requirement of LAs to report on childcare sufficiency was introduced in 2006. We consider this to be partly attributable to ongoing work over the years to encourage primary schools to lower their age range where appropriate to admit nursery aged children.

However, in Dover for the first time, the modelled demand was greater than the supply of places for the summer term in the 2021/2022 academic year. There is estimated to be a small deficit of 89 places in this district. A careful watch will be kept on this. All other districts have a surplus of places, with Tunbridge Wells and Dartford reporting a particularly significant surplus. Local intelligence is used alongside the data to assess if the indicative deficits of places are experienced 'on the ground.' For example, the large surplus of places in Dartford must be viewed in the context of the significant ongoing growth in the housing market and that children outside of Kent's geographical borders access childcare in this district.

3.10 Post-16 Education and Training in Kent

KCC has now completed the 16-19 review and the report, Pathways for all, was launched on 28 April 2022. The overall aim of the review was to improve the options and life chances of Kent's young people by enhancing the education, skills, and training opportunities available to them. To achieve this, it sought to develop a deeper and shared understanding of the issues facing both young people and providers.

KCC recognises increasing participation can only be achieved through strategic partnerships between 14-19 providers to maximise opportunities and outcomes, increase capacity, and develop appropriate high-quality learning pathways. This is a key recommendation of the 16-19



review and work has begun to set up a strategic board to facilitate this. Vulnerable learners, particularly those who do not have Mathematics and/or English GCSEs should have opportunities to engage in personalised pathways which lead to sustained employment. The low level and flexible learning offer have contracted dramatically across the whole County and a proactive approach is necessary to meet this need.

There has been an increase in the amount of provision available this year due to a final round of European Social Fund becoming available after lobbying of the DfE. However, this ends in March 2023 after which we will have to find another solution. The Shared Prosperity Fund, the government's replacement of ESF has been devolved to district rather than county level and skills will not be prioritised in this until 2024.

The results of DfE consultation on Level 3 qualifications has now been published; the main recommendation is that in future there should be two main pathways of study for 16-19 year olds, T levels and A levels. Other qualifications, including applied generals such as BTECs, will be defunded in stages from 2024 (Delayed from 2023 due to Covid), unless there is no overlap with a T level or A level. There is a recognition that some areas are not well served by A levels or T levels and there will be a process to develop new qualifications to meet that gap for delivery from 2025 onwards. The planned creation of this binary system, particularly as the implementation of T-levels, is untested and employer support for the workplace element has not been secured, has raised significant concerns across the sector and lobbying of government is taking place.



4. What We Are Seeking to Achieve

The Children, Young People and Education Directorate has a clear Mission Statement. This being as follows:

Our aim: Making Kent a county that works for all children.

Our vision: All Kent children feel safe, secure, loved, fulfilled, happy and optimistic.

We will do this by:

- Joining up services to support families at the right time and in the right place;
- Securing the best childcare, education and training opportunities;
- Being the best Corporate Parent we can be;
- Developing a culture of high aspiration and empathy for children and their families;
- Valuing children and young people's voices and listening to them.

The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent aims to support the Mission statement through 'securing the best childcare, education and training opportunities.'

Our Principles and Planning Guidelines (Section 6) underpin our commissioning decisions. This is further supported by a suite of key strategies including, but not limited to:

- Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23
- Kent Strategy for SEND 2021-2024

To this extent we aim to:

- Ensure sufficient good or better school places for all children and young people in Kent.
- Implement the Early Years and Childcare Strategy 2020-23 to ensure we: develop a more integrated approach to early years and childcare provision and services; ensure better continuity of provision and services across the 0-5 year old age range; ensure an increasing number of children are school ready at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage and mitigate the effect of poverty, inequality and disadvantage through the provision of high quality early education and childcare, including support for parents and carers and narrowing early development achievement gaps.
- Commission more high-quality specialist provision and support for pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Speech, Language and Communication Needs and Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs in mainstream and special schools.
- Work with schools, colleges, employers and training organisations to deliver the 14-24 Strategy for Learning, Employment and Skills to ensure the post-16 offer meets the requirements of increasing participation and offers a wide range of options which lead to progressive routes towards sustainable further or higher learning, employment with training or employment.



5. Principles and Planning Guidelines

In the national policy context, the Local Authority is the Commissioner of Education Provision and providers come from the private, voluntary, charitable and maintained sectors. The role of the Local Authority is set within a legal framework of statutory duties; the duties for each phase or type of education in Kent are shown under the relevant section in this Plan. Within this framework, the Local Authority continues to be the major provider of education by maintaining most Kent schools and it also fulfils the function of “provider of last resort” to ensure new provision is made when no other acceptable new provider comes forward.

Education in Kent is divided into three phases, although there is some overlap between these. These three phases are:

- Early Years: primarily delivered by private, voluntary and independent pre-school providers, accredited child-minders, and schools with maintained nursery classes.
- 4-16 years: “compulsory school age” during which schools are the main providers.
- Post-16: colleges and schools both offer substantial provision, with colleges as the sole provider for young people aged 19-25 years.

The Local Authority also has specific duties in relation to provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs, pupils excluded from school or pupils unable to attend school due to ill health.

5.1 Principles and Guidelines

It is important that the Local Authority is open and transparent in its role as the Strategic Commissioner of Education. To help guide us in this role we abide by clear principles and consider school organisation proposals against our planning guidelines. We stress that planning guidelines are not absolutes, but a starting point for the consideration of proposals.

5.2 Over-Arching Principles

- We will always put the needs of the learners first.
- Every child should have access to a local, good or outstanding school, which is appropriate to their needs.
- All education provision in Kent should be financially efficient and viable.
- We will aim to meet the needs and aspirations of parents and the local community.
- We will promote parental preference.
- We recognise perceptions may differ as to benefits and detrimental impacts of proposals. We aim to ensure our consultation processes capture the voice of all communities. To be supported proposals must demonstrate overall benefit to the community.
- The needs of Children in Care and those with SEN and disabilities will be given priority in any commissioning decision.
- We will also give priority to organisational changes that create environments better able to meet the needs of other vulnerable children, including those from minority ethnic communities and/or from low income families.
- We will make the most efficient use of resources.
- Any educational provision facing difficulties will be supported and challenged to recover in an efficient and timely manner. Where sufficient progress is not so achieved, we will seek to commission alternative provision or another provider.
- If a provision is considered or found to be inadequate by Ofsted, we will seek to commission alternative provision where we and the local community believe this to be the quickest route to provide high quality provision.
- In areas of housing growth, we will actively seek developer contributions to fund or part fund new and additional school provision.



- In areas of high surplus capacity, we will take action to reduce such surplus.¹

5.3 Planning Guidelines – Primary

- The curriculum is generally delivered in Key Stage specific classes. Therefore, for curriculum viability primary schools should be able to operate at least four classes.
- We will actively consider federation opportunities for small primary schools.
- Where possible, planned Published Admission Numbers (PANs) will be multiples of 30, but where this is not possible multiples of 15 are used.
- We believe all-through primary schools deliver better continuity of learning as the model for primary phase education in Kent. When the opportunity arises, we will either amalgamate separate infant and junior schools into a single primary school or federate the schools. However, we will have regard to existing local arrangements and seek to avoid leaving existing schools without links on which they have previously depended.
- At present primary school provision is co-educational, and we anticipate that future arrangements will conform to this pattern.
- Over time we have concluded that a minimum of 2FE provision (420 places) is preferred in terms of the efficient deployment of resources.

5.4 Planning Guidelines – Secondary

- All schools must be able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum and progression pathways for 14-19 year olds either alone, or via robust partnership arrangements.
- PANs for secondary schools will not normally be less than 120 or greater than 360. PANs for secondary schools will normally be multiples of 30.
- Over time we have concluded that the ideal size for the efficient deployment of resources is between 6FE and 8FE.
- Proposals for additional secondary places need to demonstrate a balance between selective and non-selective school places.
- We will encourage the formation of all-aged schools (primary through to secondary), if this is in the interests of the local community.

5.5 Planning Guidelines - Special Educational Needs

- We aim, over time, to build capacity in mainstream schools by broadening the skills and special arrangements that can be made within this sector to ensure compliance with the relevant duties under SEN and disability legislation.
- For children and young people who mainstream provision is not appropriate, we seek to make provision through Kent special schools. For young people aged 16-19 years provision may be at school or college. For young people who are aged 19-25 years provision is likely to be college based.
- We recognise the need for children and young people to live within their local community where possible and we seek to provide them with day places unless residential provision is needed for care or health reasons. In such cases agreement to joint placement and support will be sought from the relevant KCC teams or the Health Service.
- We aim to reduce the need for children to be transported to schools far away from their local communities.

¹ Actions might include re-classifying accommodation, removing temporary or unsuitable accommodation, leasing spaces to other users and promoting closures or amalgamations. We recognise that, increasingly, providers will be responsible for making such decisions about the use of their buildings, but we believe we all recognise the economic imperatives for such actions.



5.6 Planning Guidelines - Expansion of Popular Schools and New Provision

- We support diversity in the range of education provision available to children and young people. We recognise that new providers are entering the market, and that parents and communities are able to make free school applications.
- We also recognise that popular schools may wish to expand or be under pressure from the local community to do so.
- As the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, we welcome proposals from existing schools and new providers that address the needs identified in this Plan. This includes new provision to meet increased demand and new provision to address concerns about quality.
- In order for us to support any such proposal they must meet an identified need and should adhere to the planning principles and guidelines set out above.

5.7 Small Schools

KCC defines small schools as ‘those schools with fewer than 150 pupils on roll and/or a measured capacity of less than 150 places’. We have over 100 primary schools that fit this criterion.

We value the work of our small schools and appreciate the challenges faced. We continue to work with partners to ensure small schools have the resilience to deal with the challenges they face in terms of leadership and management, teaching and learning and governance and finance so that they can enable their pupils to grow up, learn, develop and achieve and continue to play a valued role in their communities.

KCC and its partners, in particular the dioceses, will ensure that:

- Support is given to small schools seeking to collaborate, federate or join appropriate multi-academy trusts.
- They will work closely together to ensure that the distinctive character and ethos of small Church of England schools are protected and maintained in future collaborative arrangements.



6. Capital Funding

6.1 Introduction

The Local Authority as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the County, particularly in schools.

The cost of providing additional school places is met from Government Basic Need Grant, prudential borrowing by KCC and developer contributions. It continues to be clear through the County Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan that KCC is not in a position to undertake prudential borrowing to support new provision. To do so would place undue pressure on the revenue budget at what is already challenging times for the Authority. The prospect of having to meet the growth in demand for places through additional borrowing confronts the County Council with a dilemma between delivering its statutory duty on school places and maintaining its financial soundness. Members and officers continue to lobby Ministers and officials within the DfE over this critical issue. Delivery of the additional school places needed in the County will rely more than ever on an appropriate level of funding from Government and securing the maximum possible contribution from housing developers.

6.2 Basic Need

Basic Need funding is allocated by Government on the basis of a comparison of school capacity (not pupil admission numbers) against forecast mainstream pupil numbers from reception year to year 11 uplifted to provide a 2 per cent operating margin. Where capacity is lower than forecasts, the DfE provides funding towards the gap.

The allocations for the 2023-24 financial year are based upon the projected need for new places by September 2024 (the start of academic year 2024/25); Kent has been allocated £42.7m. The 'lumpy' nature of establishing new school provision means that the County Council incurs the majority of the capital costs at the outset of mitigating a forecast place deficit, e.g. expanding a school by a whole FE; whereas the Basic Need formula does not account for this and provides the Council with funding for places in an incremental way over a longer period of time.

6.3 Free Schools Programme

One funding option which can assist with or overcome the challenges of forward funding new schools is the Free Schools programme. We encouraged promoters to submit bids to Waves 13 and 14, with some success. However, as the free school programme has become more restrictive, being targeted to certain geographical areas of the Country in relation to mainstream schools, and of limited number for special schools and alternative provisions, it will not be the answer to all our needs. Additionally, it is not risk free for the Local Authority. Delays in delivery can require the Authority to put in place temporary provision with the resultant unplanned expense.

6.4 Developer Contributions

Each of the 12 districts in Kent are planning significant housing growth, it is essential that this growth is supported by sufficient education provision that is well integrated within the areas of growth and established at the right time. The cost of providing school places in response to housing growth is significant, the County Council seeks developer contributions towards mitigating this cost. Developer contributions for education are secured either through Section 106 (s106) agreements or through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

S106 agreements are secured from housing developers at the time that planning permission is granted, they are intended to ensure development proposals are acceptable in planning terms. When securing a s106 agreement KCC will outline the additional impact the development would



have on local schools, where we would need to add additional provision in response and the cost of doing so. Whilst district authorities, as the relevant Local Planning Authority, are the decision maker on whether contributions towards education provision should be made or not, once a s106 agreement is in place the housing developer becomes legally obligated to pay KCC contributions at specified points. We will continue to seek developer contributions at every opportunity allowed through legislation and apply funding secured to the most appropriate project in order to mitigate development. Where additional secondary school places are required in order to mitigate development we will seek to secure funding towards both selective and non selective places on the basis of 25% of the additional demand being within the selective sector; this will not preclude future residents of the development being able to apply for and access a school place in the same way as all other residents in Kent and does not impact the commissioning approach in an area which is based on the forecast need.

Five districts in Kent have adopted a CIL, which has largely replaced s106 agreements in those areas. The levy is a tariff-based system where developers are charged a set rate per square metre of development. There is no direct link between the development's impact on local infrastructure and the amount it pays. All CIL funding is paid to the relevant district or borough, which then determines how it will be spent once it is received; there is no funding ring-fenced for education provision and KCC will usually be required to 'bid' to the Borough for a share of the funding. This provides KCC with no security that development charged under CIL will contribute to the cost of new school provision at the time planning permission is granted. Under CIL the amounts collected for community infrastructure are typically lower than could be secured through S106 and the spending of CIL is entirely at the discretion of the District Authority and not KCC, which places the County Council at significant risk moving forward.

The reality is that in two-tier areas such as Kent, where education and planning responsibilities are not held within the same local authority, s106 agreements are the most effective mechanism for securing developer contributions for education, however an increasing number of District Authorities have adopted CIL; whilst s106 can continue to be used on the largest of developments in those areas, KCC's ability to secure contributions directly from developers to fund additional school places is diminishing. The County Council will continue to seek to contribute to national policy by presenting the case for reforms to the planning system to ensure capital funding is secured towards new school places at the point that planning permissions are issued.

6.5 Value for Money

In drawing up options for providing additional places, in addition to the Principles and Planning Guidelines set out in Section 5, the Local Authority consider a range of practical issues, such as:

- The condition and suitability of existing premises.
- The ability to expand or alter the premises (including arrangements whilst works progress).
- The works required to expand or alter the premises.
- The estimated capital costs.
- The size and topography of the site.
- Environmental considerations.
- Future proofing.
- Road access to the site, including transport and safety issues.

Kent is committed to securing value for money when providing additional school accommodation, in line with the DfE's baseline designs, and output performance specification. The construction method for new accommodation will be that which is the most appropriate to meet the needs of provision, e.g. temporary or permanent provision and that which represents good value for money.



One of the key benchmarks against which we will be monitoring all Basic Need projects is the 'cost per pupil'. This benchmark divides the construction cost of the project by the number of pupils that the facility will accommodate to provide a project cost per pupil.

KCC commissioned consultancy AECOM to analyse costs of the KCC school construction programme and to benchmark against other Local Authority and DfE schemes. This report provides high level findings of a comparison between KCC costs and the National Schools Delivery Cost Benchmark database. KCC's average historic cost of delivering additional places in the primary phase is below national average; in the secondary phase it is above. These represent historic average costs (at Q4 2020 prices) and will increase with inflation in line with the cost of construction over time. The findings are below:

Figure 6.1: Average costs - National and Kent

Education Phase	Type	National School Delivery Average Costs	KCC Average Costs
Primary	Expansion	£17,470	£17,441
	New Build	£25,285	£22,817
Secondary	Expansion	£20,026	£24,040
	New Build	£22,127	£25,204



7. Commissioning Statutory School Provision

7.1 Duties to Provide for Ages 4-16 Years

The law requires local authorities to make provision for the education of children from the September following their fourth birthday to the end of the academic year in which their sixteenth birthday falls. Most Kent parents choose to send their children to Kent schools. Some parents choose to educate their children independently, either at independent schools or otherwise than at school (i.e. at home); others will send their children to maintained schools outside Kent (Kent maintained schools also admit some children from other areas). Kent will offer a school place to any resident child aged between 4-16 years.

A minority of young people aged 14-16 years are offered college placements or alternative curriculum provision, usually through school links. Some children are educated in special schools or non-school forms of special education provision because of their special educational needs.

The local authority has a statutory duty to provide full time education for pupils “not in education by reason of illness, exclusion or otherwise” which is appropriate to individual pupil needs. This duty is discharged through pupil referral units, alternative provision commissioned by secondary schools and the Health Needs Education Service.

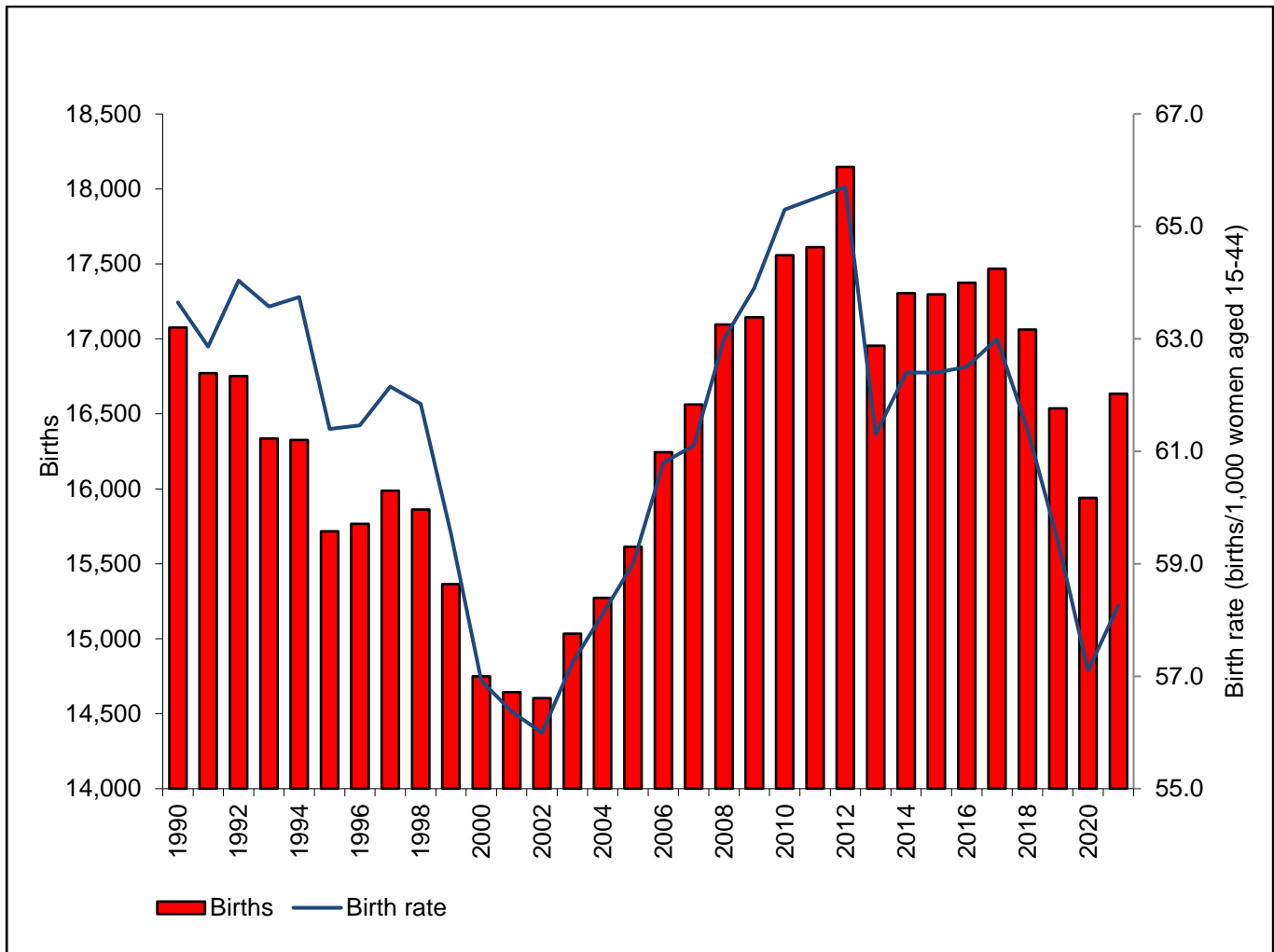
7.2 Kent-Wide Summary

Detail on the requirement for additional school places is contained in the district/borough commentaries which follow. For 2023-24 and 2024-25 many projects are already in progress. For later years, the need for expansion in planning groups has been noted, but specific schools may not have been identified. For projects beyond 2024 the commissioning proposals may be dependent on the pace of planned housing development being realised. A Countywide summary of the proposals for primary, secondary and SEN school places in each district/borough are set out in Section 3.7.

Figure 7.1 shows the Kent birth rate and the number of recorded births as published by the Office of National Statistics (ONS). Births recorded by the ONS provide a consistent way of measuring and demonstrating changes in births over the last 30 years; it should be noted that the quantum of school places needed is not solely driven by the number of births and our forecasting takes into account those children resident in the county that were born elsewhere, and the forecast inward migration led by housing growth and other factors. Overall, Kent birth figures indicate a significant fall in the number of births since 2017 but show a slight upturn in 2021.



Figure 7.1: Kent births and birth rates 1990-2021



*Source: Office for National Statistics, 2021

Figure 7.2 sets out the long-term population forecasts as generated by Kent Analytics. These represent a resident-based forecast of the number of children projected to reside in each district in the relevant periods, incorporating each district’s adopted housing plans. These long-term forecasts provide strategic context to the Plan and forecast beyond the period that the more detailed school-based forecasts (included in each District section of this document) can offer.

At a County level, these forecasts suggest that the number of primary aged children will decrease by 2,557 pupils by 2031 but increase in the longer term, by 2036 the primary aged population will have increased by 2750 pupils over 2021. The number of secondary aged young people is forecast to rise by around 7,000 over the next five years, but will then decrease to circa 3,000 more young people by 2036-37 compared with 2021.

There are distinct differences in the population forecasts between the district/boroughs which need to be considered when making commissioning decisions. For example, both the primary and secondary aged child population in Ashford and Dartford Boroughs is expected to rise while in Dover the primary aged population is expected to fall throughout the period.

Figure 7.2: Long term population projections by district (KCC Business Intelligence)

District	Primary Children Aged 4-11 Years				Secondary Children Aged 11-16 Years			
	2021-22	2026-27	2031-32	2036-37	2021-22	2026-27	2031-32	2036-37
Ashford	13,314	13,254	13,748	14,634	8,841	9,752	9,690	9,718
Canterbury	12,783	12,405	12,738	13,184	9,171	9,827	9,377	9,502
Dartford	12,817	13,490	13,146	13,237	8,098	9,291	9,674	9,298
Dover	9,954	9,749	9,521	9,519	7,059	7,530	7,020	6,868
Folkestone and Hythe	9,162	8,583	8,531	8,693	6,415	6,453	6,041	5,933
Gravesham	11,234	11,004	10,888	11,094	7,351	7,957	7,765	7,527
Maidstone	17,147	17,185	16,984	17,354	11,072	12,346	12,193	12,059
Sevenoaks	12,009	11,658	11,893	12,778	8,271	8,805	8,549	8,575
Swale	15,073	14,705	14,398	14,713	10,117	10,733	10,555	10,159
Thanet	12,844	12,272	12,492	13,215	8,835	9,468	9,190	8,841
Tonbridge and Malling	13,098	13,253	13,561	14,166	9,200	9,769	9,865	9,951
Tunbridge Wells	11,253	10,573	10,397	10,851	8,731	8,800	8,295	8,016
Kent	150,687	148,130	148,296	153,437	103,163	110,730	108,212	106,447

Figure 7.3 outlines the historic and forecast house building by district/borough.



Figure 7.3: Housing completions and expected new housing by district as reported by end March 2022

District	Completions			Period 2017-22				Period 2022-27			Grand total 2002-27
	2002-07	2007-12	2012-17	Completions*	Extant*	Allocations*	Total	Extant	Allocations	Total	
Sevenoaks	1,431	1,394	1,535	1,132	1,058	23	2,213	860	225	1,085	7,658
Gravesham	1,596	1,511	1,080	733	653	0	1,386	2,275	675	2,950	8,523
Tunbridge Wells	2,091	1,723	1,558	1,636	2,116	0	3,752	1,184	190	1,374	10,498
Dover	1,644	1,421	2,015	1,380	1,462	0	2,842	2,363	1,043	3,406	11,328
Folkestone and Hythe	2,162	1,577	1,659	1,174	1,008	13	2,195	2,328	1,986	4,314	11,907
Tonbridge and Malling	3,679	2,957	3,444	2,012	1,147	33	3,192	1,220	46	1,266	14,538
Dartford	3,170	2,085	3,770	2,602	470	357	3,429	741	3,250	3,991	16,445
Thanet	2,520	3,452	1,799	1,031	997	60	2,088	2,890	4,087	6,977	16,836
Swale	3,351	2,875	2,641	2,096	1,878	80	4,054	2,136	3,053	5,189	18,110
Canterbury	2,755	3,674	2,209	1,515	1,124	80	2,719	3,518	3,682	7,200	18,557
Ashford	3,620	2,912	2,571	2,247	2,355	198	4,800	2,768	3,174	5,942	19,845
Maidstone	3,261	3,786	3,477	4,494	1,464	905	6,863	1,026	2,881	3,907	21,294
Kent	31,280	29,367	27,758	22,052	15,732	1,749	39,533	23,309	24,292	47,601	175,539

Source: Housing Information Audit (HIA) 2019-20, Strategic Commissioning (Analytics), KCC

Notes:

(1) Housing data relates to financial year (i.e. 2021-22 is the year up to 31st March 2022)

(2) The first three 5-year time periods between 2002-17 show actual (gross) housing completions (excluding losses from demolitions etc.)

(3) The period 2017-22 includes three years (2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) of actual (gross) housing completions and two years (2020-21 and 2021-22) of expected housing completions (extant permissions and allocations)

(4) The period 2022-27 shows expected housing completions (extant permissions and allocations)

***Completions** - Dwellings completed; **Extant**- Dwellings with planning permission but construction not yet completed; **Allocations** - Dwellings within an area designated for future housing development but not yet with planning permission



All districts/boroughs are planning for significant house building, each district/borough is at a different stage of adopting their Local Plan, the figures above incorporate housing numbers from adopted Local Plans, not every district currently has a Local Plan covering the period 2026-31, however our school-based forecasts incorporate all consented housing whether that housing was allocated within a Local Plan or not.

Around 6,000 dwellings were built annually in the ten-year period up to 2011-12. This reduced to circa 5,500 dwellings per year in period 2012-17. A significant step change in housing completions has been seen since 2016-17 with 39,533 new homes built in the five year period 2017-22, an average of 7,907 new homes in each year. A long-term yearly average of around 9,500 dwellings is anticipated for the period 2022-27.

We need to ensure we are planning for the education infrastructure required. How we plan to provide for new housing is outlined in the individual district/borough sections. It is important to note that additional demand for school places from proposed housing plans that do not yet have planning permission or form part of a Borough's adopted Local Plan are not incorporated within the forecasts presented in 7.4 to 7.9. It is equally important to recognise that while surplus places might exist in districts, these will not always be in the right place to support demand generated by new housing.

7.3 Forecast Pupils in Mainstream Primary/Secondary Schools

For Kent primary schools we have seen a steady rise in the overall number of pupils since 2009-10 to 2019-20, rising from 106,097 to 126,251. However, in 2020-21 the primary total saw a slight drop to 125,939, before increasing to 126,768 in 2021/22; this is an annual increase of 829 and represents an increase in excess of 20% since 2009-10.

Figure 7.4 provides a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year R by district/borough, across the ten-year period to 2031-32. In general, the forecast indicates that there will be surpluses of places across the county with the exception of Dartford Borough that shows a small but growing deficit of places from 2027-28. In the individual district/borough sections we break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may need to be added or removed.

This year's forecasts incorporate data relating to the pre-school aged population from NHS Digital, this is a new dataset produced by the NHS which the DfE has encouraged all Local Authorities to use; it replaces pre-school aged population data previously obtained from Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT). In a small number of areas in Kent the NHS Digital data indicates there are more pre-school aged children resident than the KCHFT data; the effect of this is an increase in the forecast Year R demand compared for these areas compared to last year's forecasts, the impact of this is greatest in rural areas that have also seen high housing completions. The change in dataset will only impact forecasts for one year, we will closely monitor the pre-school aged population and ensure appropriate commissioning plans are in place within these areas to ensure sufficiency and sustainability of places at all times.



Figure 7.4: School-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year R)

District	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Ashford	1,715	166	91	277	199	232	215	211	200	187	175	163	1,715
Canterbury	1,553	185	96	147	217	210	215	219	231	241	249	256	1,544
Dartford	1,722	66	63	58	71	27	6	-5	-6	-16	-26	-34	1,755
Dover	1,338	198	179	230	205	198	187	174	165	159	154	151	1,350
Folkestone and Hythe	1,323	210	219	204	250	221	230	228	230	232	233	235	1,278
Gravesham	1,506	129	183	196	214	202	203	214	221	228	235	241	1,536
Maidstone	2,129	118	-6	114	74	80	61	55	53	41	33	28	2,129
Sevenoaks	1,547	262	160	191	317	197	194	192	190	191	195	198	1,502
Swale	2,060	258	248	134	337	342	346	348	344	339	334	332	2,055
Thanet	1,680	209	158	236	205	296	308	315	330	333	336	340	1,635
Tonbridge and Malling	1,798	211	94	176	182	175	152	146	142	131	124	120	1,772
Tunbridge Wells	1,326	137	66	101	90	114	117	121	126	129	132	135	1,296
Kent	19,697	2,149	1,550	2,065	2,362	2,295	2,234	2,219	2,226	2,193	2,175	2,164	19,567

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC



The overall number of pupils in Kent secondary schools has risen since 2014-15, from 77,931 pupils to 89,866 in 2020-21, an increase in excess of 14% over a seven-year period. This has been driven by larger Year 6 cohorts entering the secondary sector and demand generated by housing development. We anticipate that the Year 7 rolls continue to increase during the Plan Period. This this level of roll will continue to require significant further investment in the secondary estate to maintain sufficiency of school places and will represent a major challenge to the Council and its commissioning partners in the years to come.

Figures 7.5 and 7.6 provides a breakdown of expected surplus or deficit capacity in Year 7 by non-selective and selective planning groups, across the 10-year period to 2031-32. Many of districts/boroughs are showing a need for additional non-selective Year 7 secondary school places at some point in the forecast period. Within the selective sector the forecast (Figure 7.6) shows a deficits of Year 7 places throughout the forecast period for the majority of planning groups. In part this has been due to selective schools accepting over PAN for a number of years rather than cohorts growing significantly.

The need for additional places in part can be managed through existing schools increasing the number of places offered on a temporary or permanent bases, but as not all of the pressure can be managed this way, there will be a need for new schools or satellites of existing schools. The individual district/borough sections break down the expected surplus/deficit of places into smaller planning groups based on pupil travel to learn patterns for both selective and non-selective. This enables us to identify in more detail where and when provision may be needed.



Figure 7.5: Non-selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7)

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Ashford North	840	-13	-104	-149	-146	-86	-154	-140	-142	-179	-45	-98	758
Canterbury City	560	3	99	101	98	93	67	52	66	12	36	29	680
Canterbury Coastal	618	-16	-33	-71	-8	-7	-13	-23	25	-12	22	79	618
Tenterden and Cranbrook	540	151	-7	-56	-17	-39	-59	-66	-63	-90	-67	-90	360
Dartford and Swanley	1,200	9	41	9	40	-6	-9	-45	-88	-103	-123	-87	1,260
Dover	480	58	48	20	48	64	27	43	59	70	84	86	480
Deal and Sandwich	435	31	20	-15	-18	10	3	8	15	-5	26	12	435
Folkestone and Hythe	685	81	-28	-16	-15	2	22	18	20	23	24	55	625
Faversham	210	-14	0	-5	-7	1	11	-32	-10	-2	-33	-7	210
Gravesham and Longfield	1,324	-14	35	-110	-50	-93	-110	-123	-139	-110	-76	-62	1,340
Maidstone District	1,560	119	-102	-180	-135	-177	-194	-248	-250	-351	-254	-276	1,530
Malling	540	108	101	81	79	93	109	64	87	67	80	62	543
Romney Marsh	180	-21	-8	-14	-10	-12	8	11	-8	5	14	17	180
Sevenoaks and Borough Green	585	-50	-31	-1	-27	13	-22	2	7	-26	9	40	610
Isle of Sheppey	390	57	104	77	66	99	107	101	103	105	99	125	390
Sittingbourne	840	-2	-47	-103	-74	-80	-42	-124	-70	-74	-125	-21	765
Thanet District	1,129	40	17	3	14	33	11	31	53	28	124	108	1,129
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells	1,529	105	48	42	95	86	25	60	65	-8	75	91	1,584
Kent	13,645	632	153	-387	-67	-6	-214	-412	-270	-648	-131	60	13,497

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC



Figure 7.6: Selective school-based surplus/deficit capacity summary (Year 7)

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Ashford	420	5	5	2	7	6	-5	-3	-5	-26	9	-2	420
Canterbury and Faversham	615	-4	-55	-20	-12	-3	-19	-45	-14	-49	-36	-10	645
North West Kent	720	-4	-29	-40	-24	-42	-48	-63	-76	-84	-89	-72	720
Dover District	440	2	3	-6	-6	6	-6	-1	-5	4	27	31	440
Folkestone and Hythe District	330	-19	36	43	43	51	61	59	57	60	63	76	330
Gravesham and Longfield	420	-28	-5	-61	-35	-54	-57	-61	-67	-59	-48	-46	420
Sittingbourne and Sheppey	300	11	23	5	10	13	24	1	19	10	-1	34	300
Thanet District	345	-6	-17	-19	-15	-10	-19	-12	0	-13	13	12	345
Maidstone and Malling	785	-1	-5	-33	-24	-29	-30	-56	-57	-99	-59	-69	785
West Kent	1,265	-19	-63	-39	-15	0	-53	-28	-2	-48	13	59	1,235
Cranbrook	60	-3	-5	19	24	31	26	17	19	11	12	12	90
Kent	5,700	-66	-110	-150	-47	-30	-125	-191	-132	-293	-95	26	5,730

Source: Management Information, Children, Young People and Education, KCC



7.4 Travel to School Flows

Figures 7.7 and 7.8 outline the travel to school flows for selective and non-selective provision in Kent districts. There are big differences between both the scale of travel to school flows and the direction of flows between districts; for example, Sevenoaks has a net outflow of circa 3,900 pupils across the selective and non-selective sectors combined, whereas Dartford has a net inflow of over 3,100 pupils. In the 2021-22 academic year of the 4,163 pupils that flowed into Dartford to take up secondary school places, over half of these (2,384 pupils) were from outside of Kent (mostly from London Boroughs). Tunbridge Wells has a high flow of pupils into the District particularly to access both non-selective denominational provision and selective provision. Tonbridge and Malling has high flows into and out of the District for both selective and non-selective provision.

Figure 7.7: Travel to school flows for non-selective pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2021)

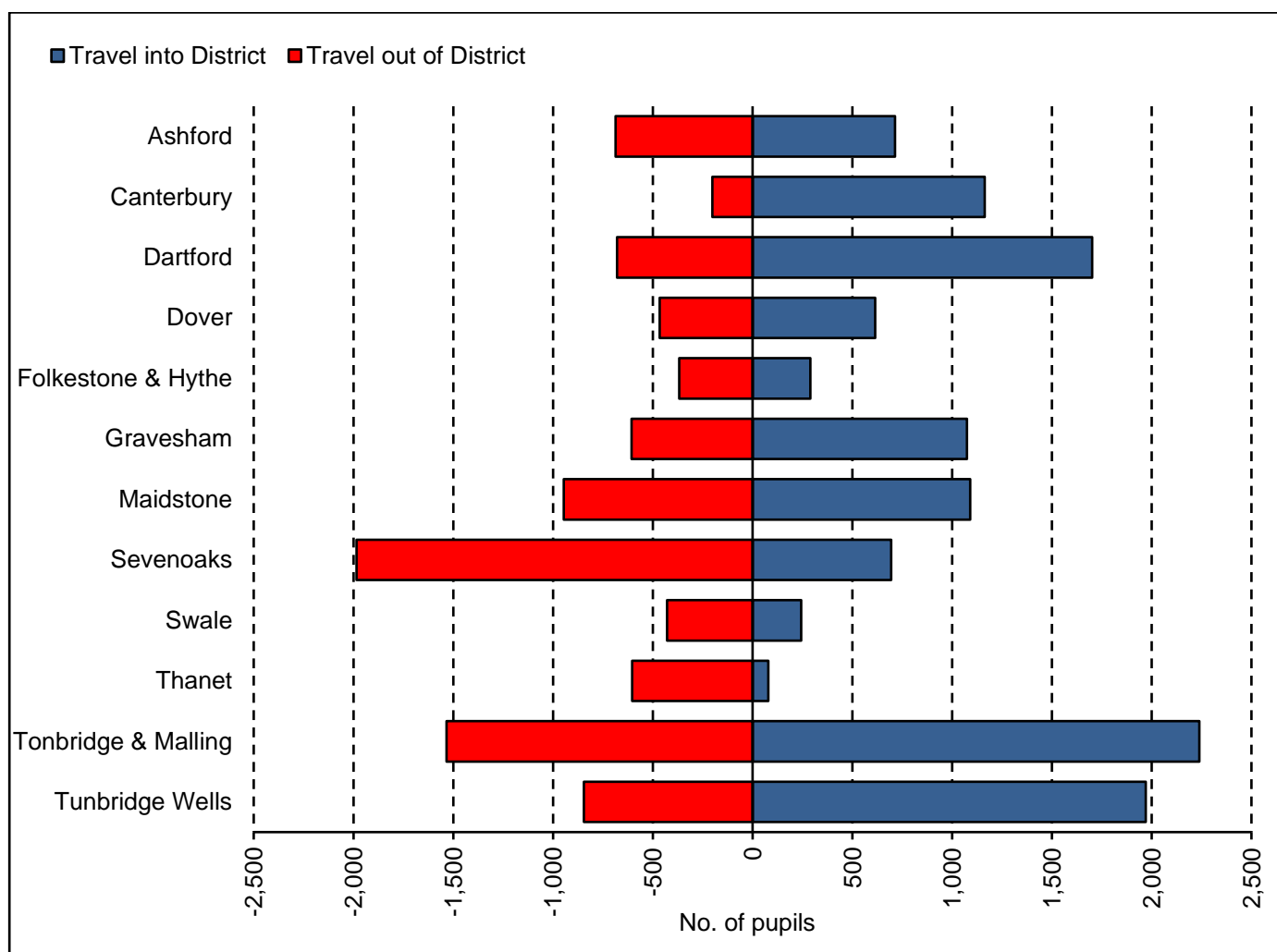
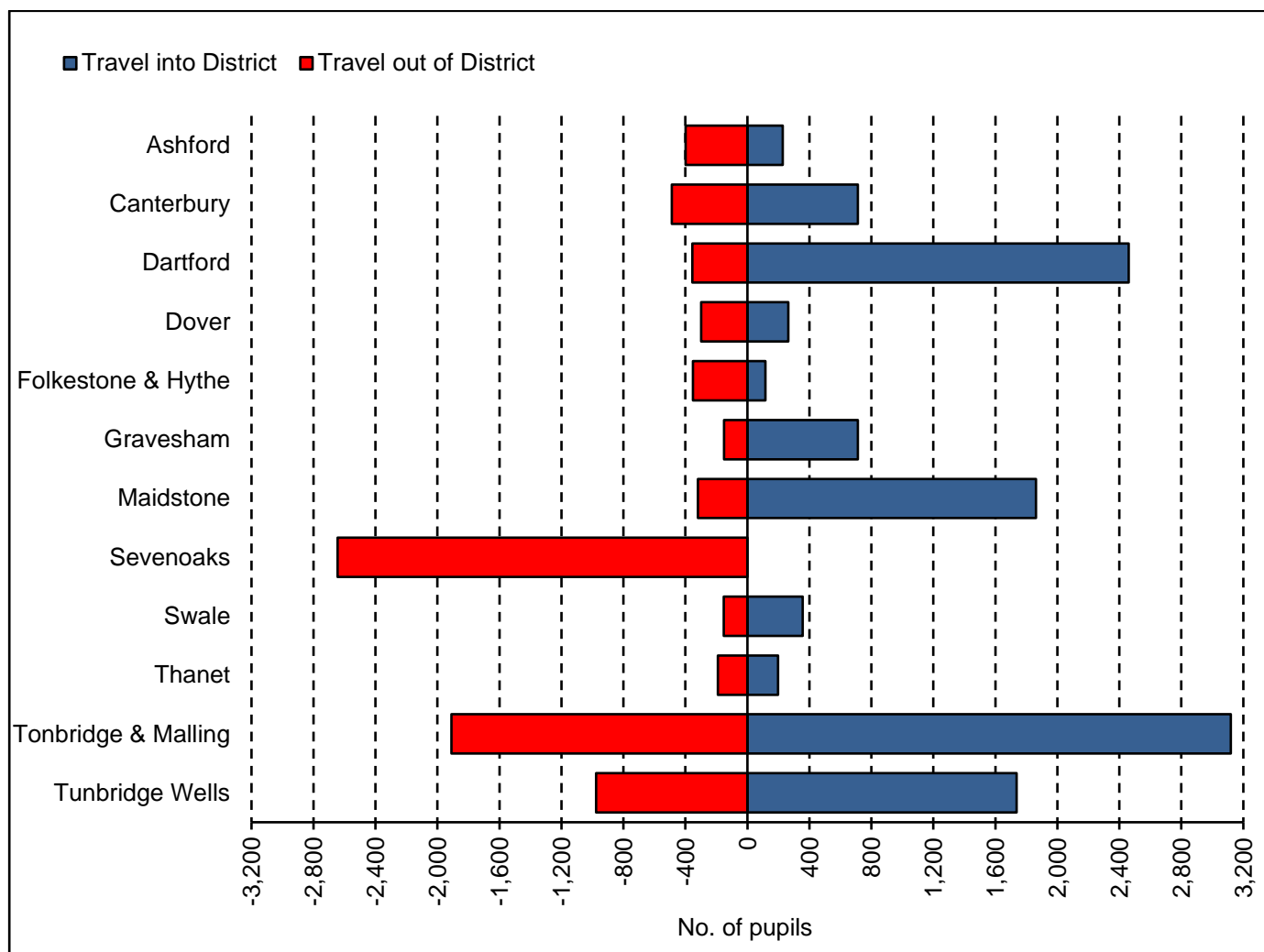


Figure 7.8: Travel to school flows for selective grammar pupils (years 7-11) in Kent mainstream schools (Autumn 2021)



Source: Management Information and Intelligence, Children, Young People and Education, KCC

Notes:

(1) Actual roll data 2021-22 - Schools Census, Autumn 2021

(2) Data excludes Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover

(3) The Sevenoaks Annex of Weald of Kent Grammar School is treated as being located in Tonbridge and Malling

7.5 Migration into Kent

Figure 7.9 sets out the net migration by pre-school, primary school and secondary school ages for 2019 and 2020. This shows that the overall net migration into Kent significant decline in net migration of school-age children to Kent; this includes three months of the Covid crisis where families may have put planned moves on (temporary) hold from the start of the pandemic in mid-March 2020 to end June 2020.



Figure 7.9: Pre-school (0-3 year olds), primary (4-10 year olds) and secondary aged (11-15 year olds) net migration year ending 30th June 2020

District	2019				2020			
	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total	Kent districts*	London	Elsewhere	Total
Pre-school	46	1,420	-368	1,098	67	1,051	-252	865
Primary	133	2,017	-408	1,742	67	1,576	-326	1,317
Secondary	22	956	-122	856	62	815	-127	750

*Including Medway

Source: Office for National Statistics, Table IM2018-20

Across the County as a whole, any fluctuation in migration may only have a small proportional impact on pupil numbers. However, at a district/borough level the fluctuation from one year to the next can be significant requiring the LA to respond swiftly to ensure sufficient school places.



7.6 Ashford

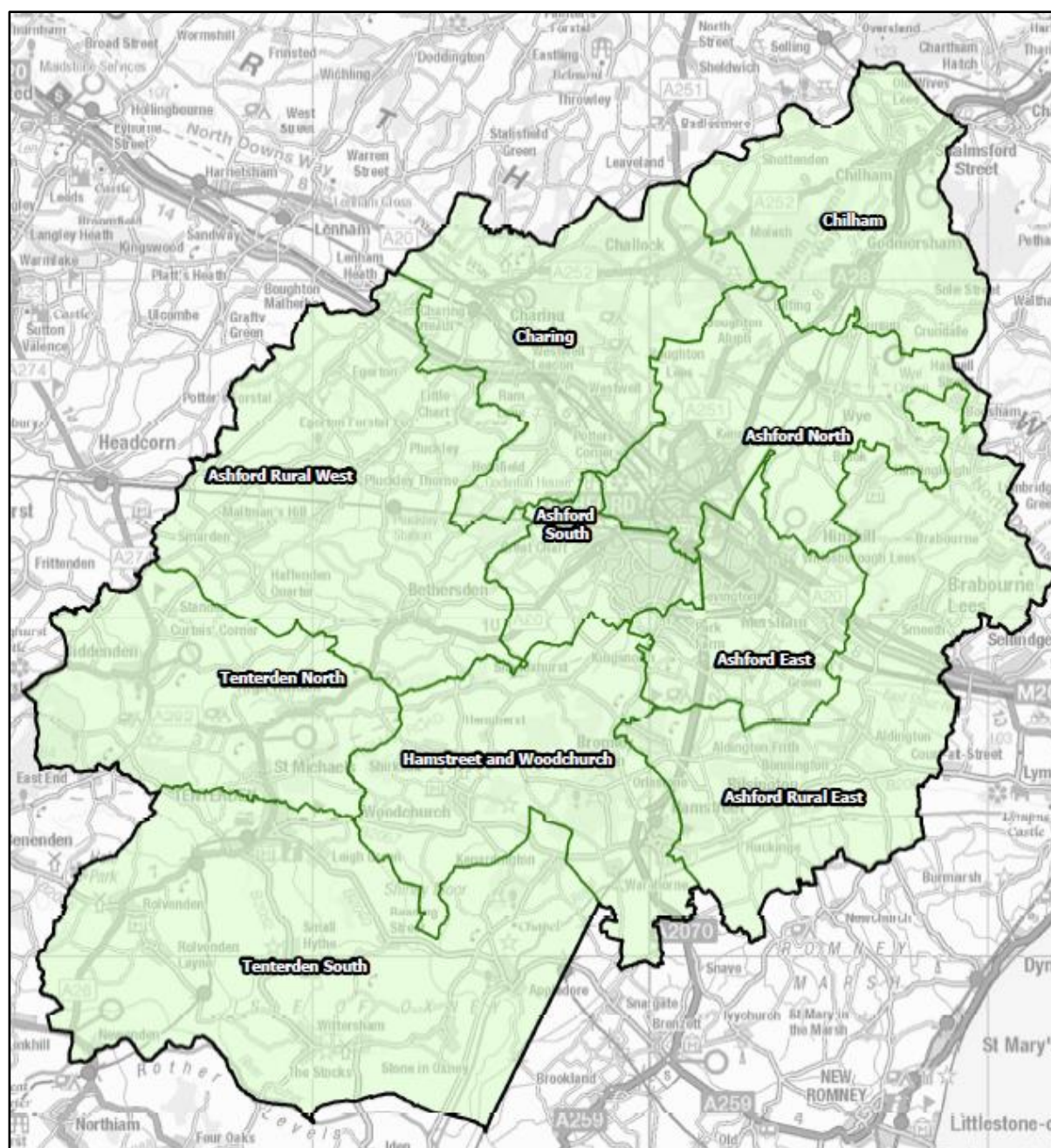
Borough Commentary

- The birth rate in Ashford has continued on a downward trend since 2017 at a greater rate than both the County and national averages. The number of recorded births has followed the same trend and is 156 births below the last high point in 2017.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although there could be some localised pressures which may need to be addressed with localised solutions.
- Within the secondary sector, we will continue to see a deficit of non-selective secondary school places across Ashford Town and now in Tenterden due to the Department for Education's decision to close High Weald Academy from the end of the 2021-22 academic year.
- A new 900 place secondary school at Chilmington Green has received planning permission in June 2022. We are working with the Department of Education and the sponsors United Learning Trust to open the new school off-site in September 2023². The off-site provision will offer 120 Year 7 places. This, alongside the additional temporary Year 7 places already agreed with existing schools, will ensure that sufficient Year 7 places are available.
- The Local Plan (up to 2030) was adopted in the first quarter of 2019. Within the Plan, the Borough Council have identified that up to 13,544 new homes could be delivered by 2030. This equates to an average of 1,129 new homes per annum. During the period 2010/11 to 2019/20 an average of 608 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin January 2022).

² Subject to agreement by the Secretary of State for Education



Map of the Ashford Borough primary planning groups



Ashford primary schools by planning group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Chilham	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Chilham)	Voluntary Controlled
Charing	Challock Primary School	Foundation
	Charing CE Primary School	Academy
Ashford North	Downs View Infant School	Community
	Goat Lees Primary School	Foundation
	Godinton Primary School	Academy
	Kennington CE Academy	Academy
	Lady Joanna Thornhill Endowed Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Phoenix Community Primary School	Foundation
	Repton Manor Primary School	Foundation
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Ashford)	Voluntary Aided
St. Teresa's RC Primary School	Academy	



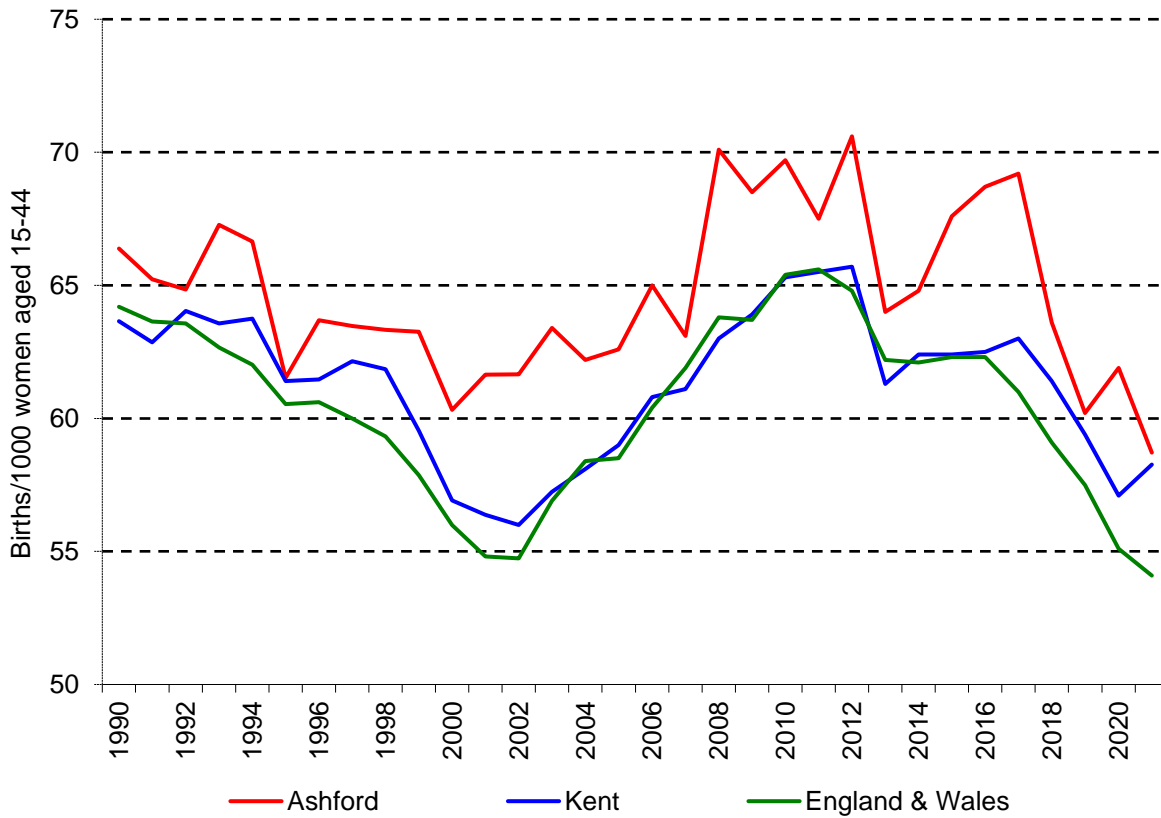
Planning Groups	School	Status
	Victoria Road Primary School	Community
Ashford Rural East	Aldington Primary School	Foundation
	Brabourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Brook Community Primary School	Foundation
	Smeeth Community Primary School	Foundation
Ashford East	East Stour Primary School	Academy
	Finberry Primary School	Academy
	Furley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Kingsnorth CE Primary School	Academy
	Mersham Primary School	Foundation
	Willesborough Infant School	Community
	Willesborough Junior School	Foundation
Ashford South	Ashford Oaks Primary School	Community
	Beaver Green Primary School	Academy
	Chilmington Green Primary School	Free
	Great Chart Primary School	Community
	John Wallis CE Academy	Academy
	John Wesley CE and Methodist Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Simon of England RC Primary School	Academy
Ashford Rural West	Bethersden School	Community
	Egerton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Pluckley CE Primary School	Academy
	Smarden Primary School	Academy
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	Hamstreet Primary Academy	Academy
	Woodchurch CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Tenterden North	High Halden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	John Mayne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Michael's CE Primary School	Academy
Tenterden South	Rolvenden Primary School	Academy
	Tenterden CE Junior School	Academy
	Tenterden Infant School	Academy
	Wittersham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided



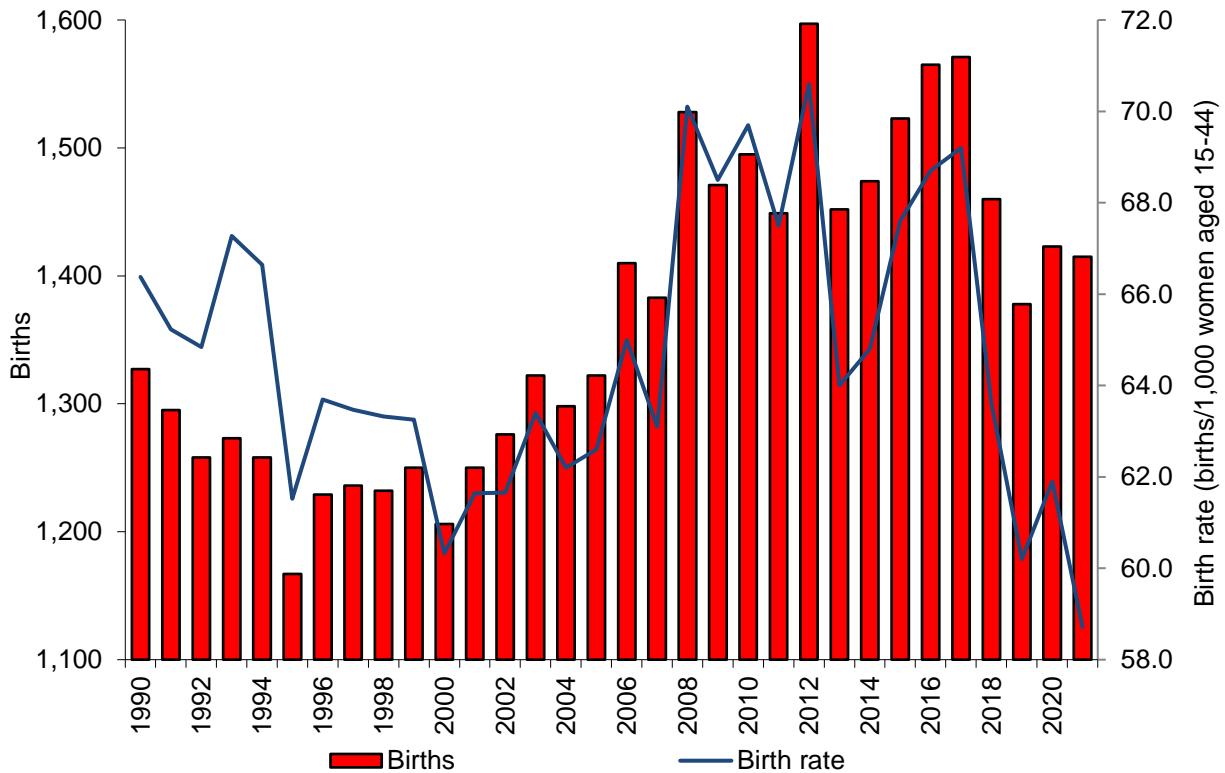
Birth rate and births analysis

the charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Ashford, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Ashford births and birth rate 1990-2021



Ashford Forecasts

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Chilham	15	1	1	1	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	15
Challock and Charing	50	3	2	1	0	-5	-5	-5	-5	-6	-6	-6	50
Ashford North	450	39	-23	65	45	33	27	24	19	13	8	4	450
Ashford Rural East	80	6	16	8	13	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	80
Ashford East	420	52	31	90	42	89	86	84	82	78	75	72	420
Ashford South	390	29	48	86	85	79	74	72	69	65	59	54	390
Ashford Rural West	80	4	-4	4	1	-8	-8	-7	-6	-5	-5	-4	80
Hamstreet and Woodchurch	71	11	14	10	8	12	11	11	10	9	8	7	71
Tenterden North	65	8	-1	2	1	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	65
Tenterden South	94	13	6	10	0	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	94
Ashford	1,715	166	91	277	199	232	215	211	200	187	175	163	1,715

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Secondary - Forecast Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Ashford North Non-Selective	840	-13	-104	-149	-146	-86	-154	-140	-142	-179	-45	-98	758
Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective	540	151	-7	-56	-17	-39	-59	-66	-63	-90	-67	-90	360
Ashford Selective	420	5	5	2	7	6	-5	-3	-5	-26	9	-2	420



Primary Borough Commentary

Overall there is forecast to be surplus Year R places in the Borough that gradually reduces during the Plan period, but remains well over 2% surplus. Two planning groups are forecast to have a deficit of Year R places: Challock and Charing, and Ashford Rural West.

Ashford North Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a deficit of places in Year R in 2022-23 but a significant surplus from 2023/24 until the end of the decade. The increasing need for primary school places in the planning group over the last few years has been driven by ongoing developments in and around central Ashford which are now nearing completion.

In the longer term, planned new developments north of the M20 between Kennington, Willesborough and Eureka Park will increase demand. To address the need for primary school places to support new housing in and around the planning group, the Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Conningbrook Park' development. The opening of the school is yet to be decided and will depend on the pressure that additional housing will bring. It is unlikely to be required until the latter half of the decade.

Ashford East Planning Group

Although forecasts suggest a significant level of surplus places across the forecast period (17.2% surplus capacity across Year R 2031-32). The level of surplus places will reduce as existing, permitted and allocated sites come forward. This included: Finberry, Waterbrook, New Town Works, Park Farm, Court Lodge and Willesborough Lees.

The Local Plan makes provision for a new 2FE primary school to be incorporated into the 'Court Lodge' development area, to meet the longer-term primary education needs driven by that development. As the masterplan for the development is still in progress, we would not expect the new primary school to be available until the latter half of this decade.

Charing and Challock Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a small deficit of primary school places throughout the Plan period, further development in the planning group could lead to the need for additional places in the long term. Additional provision if required could be achieved by the expansion of Charing CE Primary School by 0.3FE.

Ashford Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a deficit of places in this planning group from the 2025/26 academic year. This is due to an academy offering over their Published Admissions Number for a number of years which they are free to do as their own admissions authority. Should the Academy choose not to offer over their published Admissions Number in the future, it is expected that local families will be able to secure places in the planning area schools and those applying from further afield will secure place closer to their homes.

Secondary Borough Commentary

There are three planning groups which are within Ashford Borough or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Ashford North, Tenterden and Cranbrook), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.



Ashford North Non-Selective Planning Group

There are four existing schools in the Ashford North non-selective planning group: John Wallis Church of England Academy, The North School, The Towers School and Sixth Form Centre and Wye School.

Forecasts suggest a deficit of Year 7 places throughout the forecast period peaking at the end of the decade. Plans for a new school at Chilmington Green were approved in June 2022. It is the intention that this will be open in temporary accommodation for the 2023-24 academic year. Temporary places have been added previously and will continue to be required until Chilmington Green relocates onto the permanent site and can offer the full 6FE (180 places).

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

Following a substantive decision by the Secretary of State for Education to close High Weald Academy on 31 August 2022, this is a single school planning group containing Homewood School.

The Closure of High Weald Academy and the decision by the Tenterden Schools Trust to reduce the published admissions number of Homewood School from 390 to 360 places has led to deficits across the forecast period. The forecast suggests fluctuating deficits, with a low of -17 in 2024-25, before moving up to around 2 FE in the medium term forecast.

We anticipate that the additional places added at existing Ashford Schools for September 2023, the opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School off-site and additional places in Tunbridge Wells will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the pupils.

Ashford Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the Borough: Highworth Grammar School and The Norton Knatchbull Grammar School. Forecasts suggest that there will be a small deficit of places throughout, but we anticipate that this could be managed within the existing schools



Planned Commissioning – Ashford

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 2027-2030	Post 2031
Ashford North				2FE New provision at Conningbrook Park		
Ashford East					2FE of New provision at Court Lodge	
Charing			0.3FE Charing CEPS			
Ashford South						2FE of new provision at Chilmington Green
Ashford North Non-Selective	4FE (120) place at Chilmington Green Up to 90 temporary year 7 places	Additional 2FE (60 places) Chilmington Green				2FE Expansion of Chilmington Green



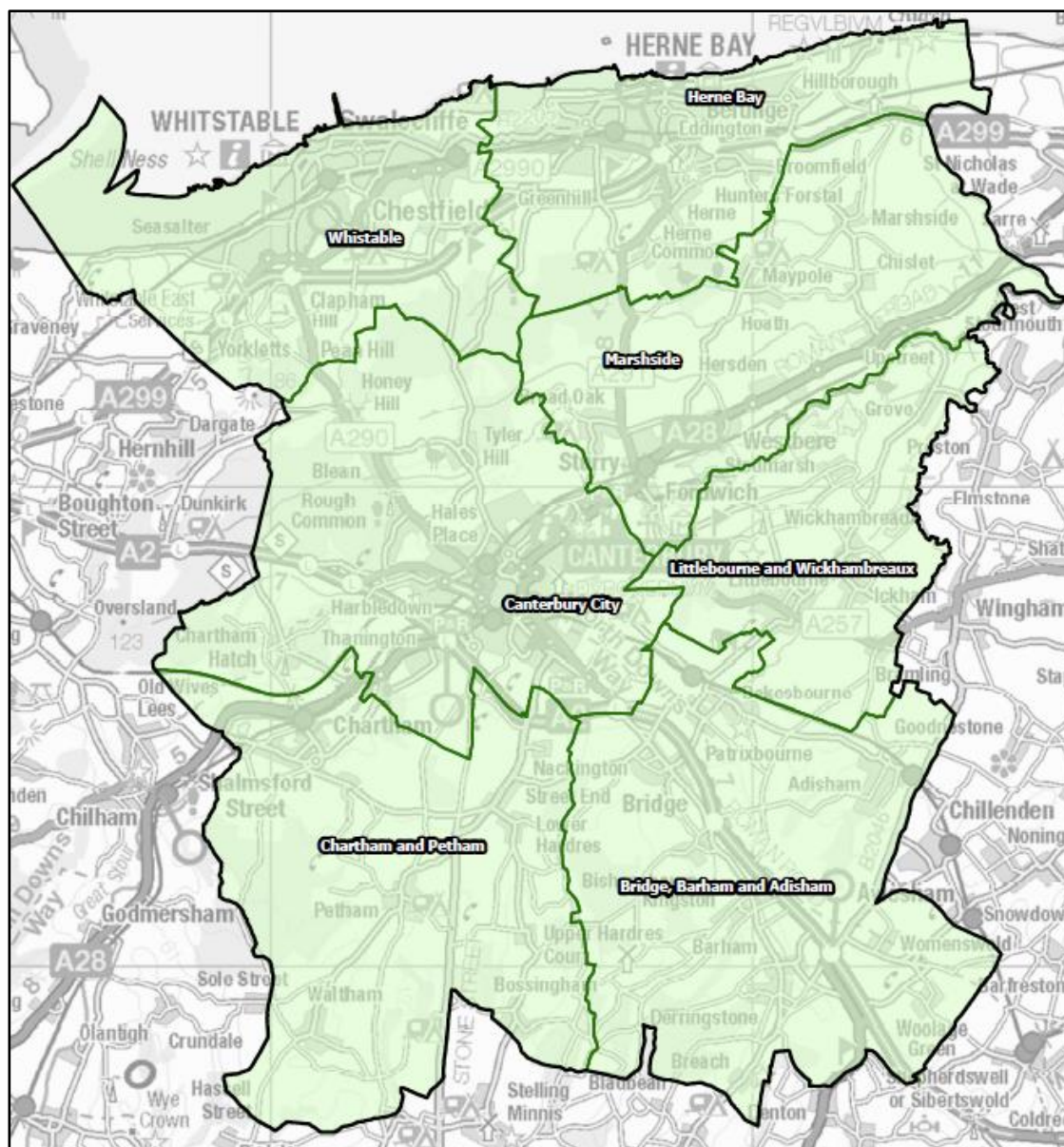
7.7 Canterbury

District commentary

- The Canterbury district birth rate differs to Kent and the national picture as it is significantly lower, reflecting the large student population. The birth rate has had a downward trend since the 1990s. However, following a sharp fall in 2020, its birth rate rose notably in 2021 to around the rate evident in 2017. Similar, the number of births has declined since 2011, with a significant reduction in 2020, followed by a relatively strong recovery in 2021.
- We forecast surplus primary school places across the District throughout the forecast period of up to 14% in 2024/25, however there are variances across the planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we forecast surplus capacity for non-selective planning groups but pressures for selective places throughout the forecast period.
- Canterbury City Council's current Local Plan, adopted on 13 July 2017, proposed a total of just over 16,000 new homes during the Plan period up to 2031. This equates to an average of 925 dwellings per annum. During the 2010/11 to 2019/20 a total of 4329 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 433 per year. This figure includes a high percentage of student accommodation.
- Canterbury City Council is in the process of drafting their new Local Plan for the district, which will set the blueprint up until 2040. The draft Local Plan (including the sites) will go out for public consultation in 2022 before it is examined by an inspector and a final decision is made.



Map of the Canterbury Primary Planning Groups



Canterbury Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Group	School	Status
Canterbury City	Blean Primary School	Community
	Canterbury Primary School	Academy
	Parkside Community Primary School	Foundation
	Pilgrims' Way Primary School	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's Methodist Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Stephen's Infant School	Academy
	St. Stephen's Junior School	Academy
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Canterbury)	Voluntary Aided
	Wincheap Foundation Primary School	Foundation
Marshside	Chislet CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Water Meadows Primary School	Academy
	Hoath Primary School	Community
	Sturry CE Primary School	Academy
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	Adisham CE Primary School	Academy



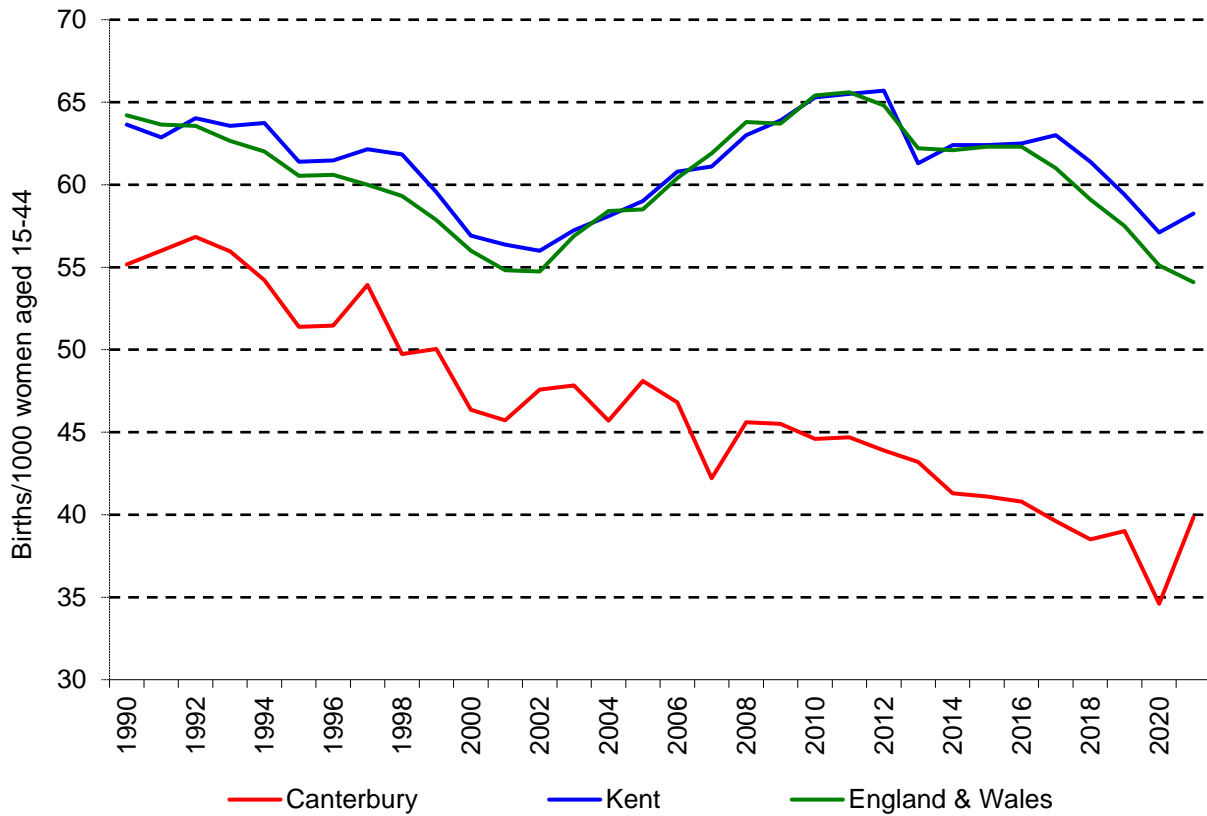
Planning Group	School	Status
	Barham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bridge and Patixbourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	Littlebourne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Wickhambreaux CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Chartham and Petham	Chartham Primary School	Academy
	Petham Primary School	Academy
Whitstable	Joy Lane Primary School	Foundation
	St. Alphege CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Whitstable)	Academy
	Swalecliffe Community Primary School	Foundation
	Westmeads Community Infant School	Community
	Whitstable and Seasalter Endowed CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Whitstable Junior School	Foundation
Herne Bay	Briary Primary School	Academy
	Hampton Primary School	Academy
	Herne Bay Infant School	Community
	Herne Bay Junior School	Foundation
	Herne CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	Herne CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Reculver CE Primary School	Academy



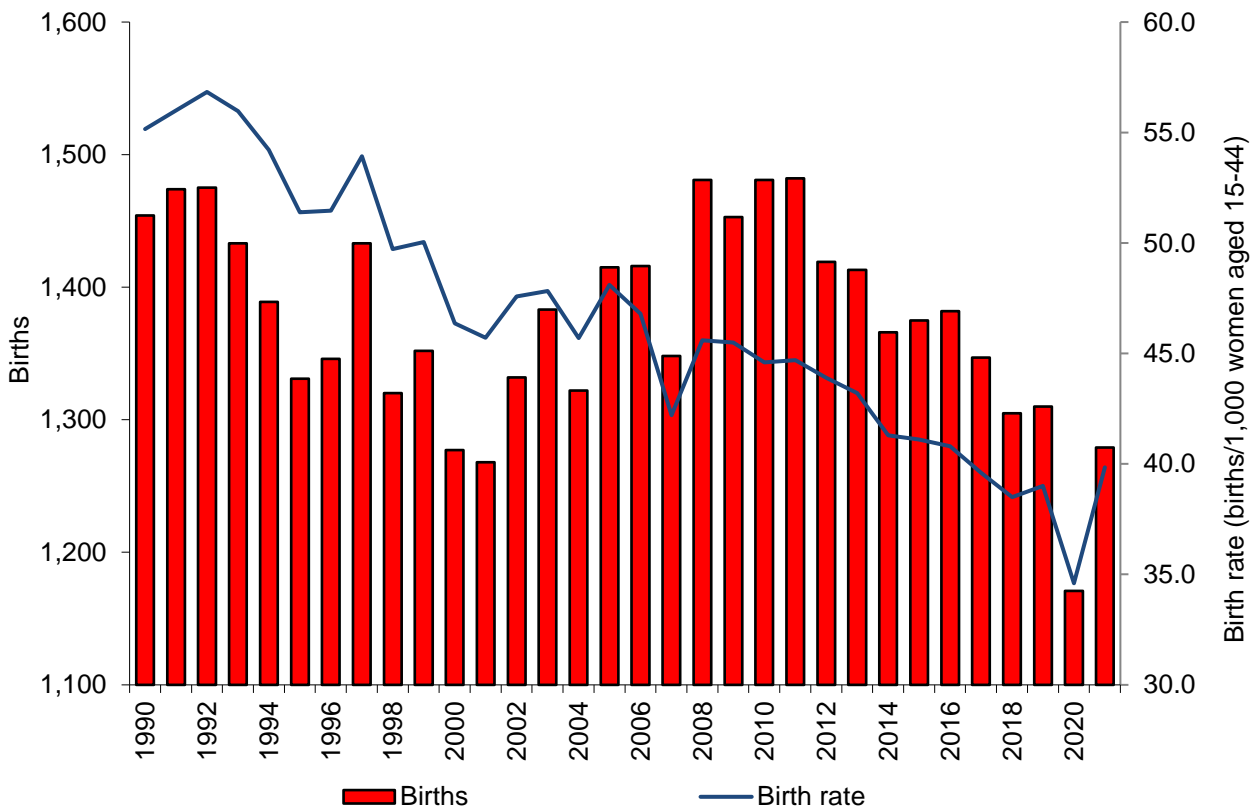
Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.

Canterbury, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Canterbury births and birth rate 1990-2021



Canterbury Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Canterbury City	465	50	23	31	31	38	43	49	58	69	82	98	465
Marshside	119	9	3	2	5	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	119
Bridge, Barham and Adisham	105	7	-17	-14	-23	-33	-36	-39	-42	-45	-48	-52	105
Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux	30	0	-3	-5	-9	-8	-9	-9	-9	-10	-10	-11	30
Chartham and Petham	84	14	12	11	16	19	20	21	22	23	23	23	75
Whitstable	360	76	73	102	131	115	118	120	124	126	127	127	360
Herne Bay	390	29	4	20	66	66	66	65	65	64	62	58	390
Canterbury	1,553	185	96	147	217	210	215	219	231	241	249	256	1,544

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
NS - Canterbury City	560	3	99	101	98	93	67	52	66	12	36	29	680
NS - Canterbury Coastal	618	-16	-33	-71	-8	-7	-13	-23	25	-12	22	79	618
SG - Canterbury and Faversham	615	-4	-55	-20	-12	-3	-19	-45	-14	-49	-36	-10	645



Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Canterbury district there will be surplus capacity for Year R places. The surplus for Year R fluctuates throughout the forecast period from 147 surplus for 2023/24 to 256 for 2031/32 with significant difference in the different Planning Groups.

The lower rate of housebuilding combined with the decline in birth rate has resulted in surplus primary places, particularly in Herne Bay and Whitstable. Pressures in Bridge, Barham and Adisham and Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux are offset by surplus capacity in Canterbury City and will help to realign historical travel patterns of pupils travelling out of Canterbury to attend a village school.

Canterbury City Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group of over 1FE for Year R for the plan period. Increasing to over 3FE in 2031-32. However, new housing which is currently being built out on the Howe Barracks site in Canterbury (Howe Green) will increase demand in the medium term. To ensure sufficient local places are available, Pilgrims Way School will be expanded by 0.5FE to meet this localised need.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places in the planning group of over 1FE for Year R for the plan period. Increasing to over 3FE in 2031-32. However, new housing which is currently being built out on the Howe Barracks site in Canterbury (Howe Green) will increase demand in the medium term. To ensure sufficient local places are available, Pilgrims Way School will be expanded by 0.5FE to meet this localised need. The first phase (1FE) of a new 2FE primary school in Thanington will also be established to serve the new housing development of 750 homes this phased approach will prevent overcapacity in the planning area.

Chartham and Petham Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a 0.5FE surplus capacity for Year R across the plan period.

Marshside Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a 0.5FE surplus of Year R places for the forecast period. However later in the forecast period, dependant on the order in which developments are built, we will expand Water Meadows Primary Academy by a form of entry or establish the first phase of a new 2FE primary school in Sturry/Broad Oak to serve the housing development in this planning group.

Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux Planning Group and Bridge, Barham and Adisham

Forecasts indicate that there will be a pressure for Year R places and a deficit of Year R-6 places within the planning groups. This is due to the significant number of families who traditionally travel into the planning groups for places rather than any indigenous pressure. No additional provision is required as there will remain sufficient places for local residents and those who have traditionally travelled into the planning groups will be able to access school places closer to their homes.

Whitstable Planning Group

Forecasts indicate between 3.5FE and 4FE surplus Year R places across the Plan period. Discussions will take place with schools on managing this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable.

Herne Bay Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a 2FE surplus for Year R places across the Plan period. If new housing developments are delivered in line with the Local Plan, additional capacity will need to be provided later in the plan period. Dependent on the order in which developments are built out,



this could be delivered through a 1FE expansion of Briary Primary School or the phased establishment of a new 2FE primary school on the Hillborough development.



Secondary District Commentary

There are three planning groups within Canterbury district, or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Canterbury City and Canterbury Coastal), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Canterbury City Non-Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury City non-selective planning group: Archbishop's School, Canterbury Academy, St Anselm's Catholic School and Barton Manor.

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places for Year 7 of 3.3 FE in 2023/24 reducing to 12 places in 2029-30. The surplus is a result of the opening of the new 5 FE Barton Manor School which was commissioned to meet demand from planned housing in Canterbury City. These developments have not been built out according to the timetable set out in the local plan resulting in this over-capacity, however the surplus capacity will support the deficit of places in the coastal planning group.

Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Canterbury Coastal non-selective planning group: The Whitstable School, Herne Bay High School and Spires Academy.

Year 7 forecasts indicate a fluctuating deficit and surplus places in the planning group. A deficit of 71 places (2.3FE) in 2023/24 to a surplus of 79 (2.6FE) places by 2031/32. This does not include strategic housing developments within the current local plan which have not progressed. The historical trend of students travelling from the coast to Canterbury City is starting to change as the popularity of all coastal schools continues to rise. The surplus of places in Canterbury City will support the need for places from 2023. Feasibilities have been undertaken to explore the future expansion of Herne Bay High by 1.5FE later in the forecast period to support the predicted growth in demand as a result of new housing developments in Herne Bay.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a pressure of between -0.1FE and 1.5FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. Options will have to be considered to address the additional forecast need with either temporary expansion or a permanent expansion if large strategic development are built out.



Planned Commissioning - Canterbury

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Canterbury City		0.5FE expansion of Pilgrims Way	1FE of new Primary School in Thanington			
Marshside					1FE expansion of Water Meadows 1 st 1FE of new provision in Sturry/ Broad Oak.	
Herne Bay					1FE new provision in Herne Bay or 1FE expansion of Briary PS	
Canterbury Coastal Non-Selective					1.5FE expansion of Herne Bay High School	
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	Up to 15 temporary places	Up to 15 temporary places		Up to 15 temporary places	1FE expansion	
Special School				New 120 place Special School on the coast		
Specialist Resourced Provisions	Expansion by 9 places of current SRP for ASD through conversion to become a Primary Cullum Centre					



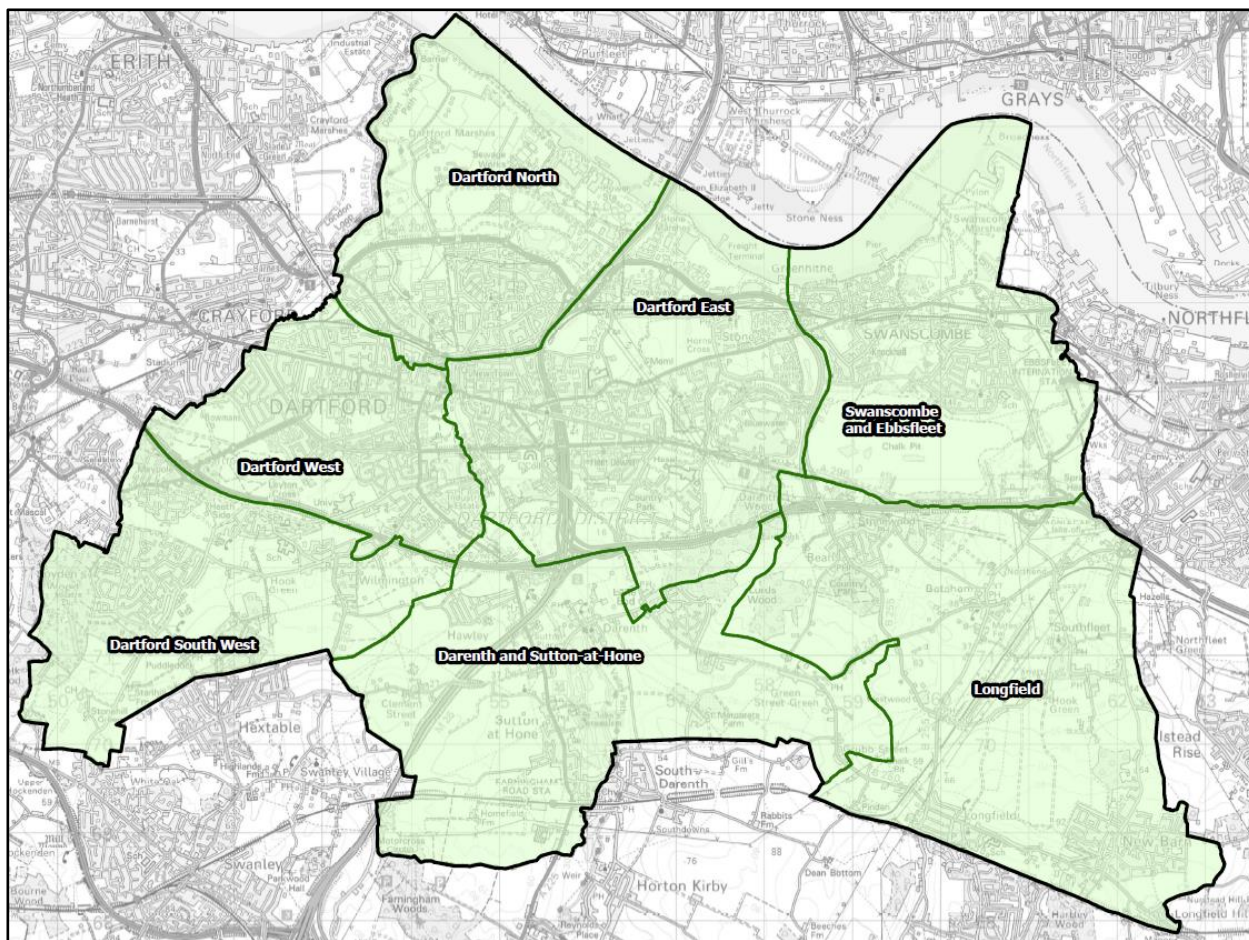
7.8 Dartford

Borough Summary

- The Dartford birth rate has reduced slightly in 2021, however, the number of births continues to rise and both the rate and the number of births remain significantly higher than the Kent and national averages.
- There is demand for Primary places, with forecasts indicating small surpluses in the first half of the Plan period. From 2027, the indication is that there will be an overall deficit of Year R places for the remainder of the Plan period.
- Forecasts indicate that there is a surplus of secondary places for the first two years of the Plan period in the Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective planning group. This becomes a deficit from September 2025. The Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective planning group moves into deficit for the whole of the Plan period.
- Selective demand in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group is under pressure throughout the whole Plan period.
- Dartford Borough Council and the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation estimated that between 2011 to 2026, approximately 17,300 new homes will be built. More recently, the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation has said that 15,000 new homes will be built in their area of responsibility alone. Dartford is also an area of high housing and population growth, with the Ebbsfleet Garden City forecast to provide 12,000 more new homes, in addition to the 3000 already built and occupied. Redevelopment in other parts of Dartford, under the auspices of Dartford Borough Council, will add more housing. A new Local Plan is being consulted on and it indicates a target of 790 new dwellings, per annum, for the duration of the plan period. This is a continuation of the existing Local Plan, which indicated a housing target of 17,900 new homes.
- Prior to the Covid pandemic, a significant factor to primary and secondary demand in Dartford Borough was the migration from urban centres in Greater London to locations such as Dartford Borough. Migration reduced significantly during the pandemic, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that post Covid, migration will pick up, possibly to pre-Covid levels.



Map of the Dartford Primary Planning Groups



Dartford Primary Schools by Planning Group

	School	Status
Dartford North	Dartford Bridge Community Primary School	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Dartford)	Voluntary Aided
	River Mill Primary School	Free
	St. Anselm's RC Primary School	Academy
	Temple Hill Primary Academy	Academy
Dartford West	Oakfield Primary Academy	Academy
	Our Lady's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Wentworth Primary School	Academy
	West Hill Primary Academy	Academy
	Westgate Primary School	Academy
Dartford East	Brent Primary School	Academy
	Dartford Primary Academy	Academy
	Fleetdown Primary School	Academy
	Gateway Primary Academy	Academy
	Stone St. Mary's CE Primary School	Academy
Dartford South West	Joyden's Wood Infant School	Academy
	Joyden's Wood Junior School	Academy
	Maypole Primary School	Community
	Wilmington Primary School	Academy
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	Greenlands Primary School	Academy
	Sutton-at-Hone CE Primary School	Academy



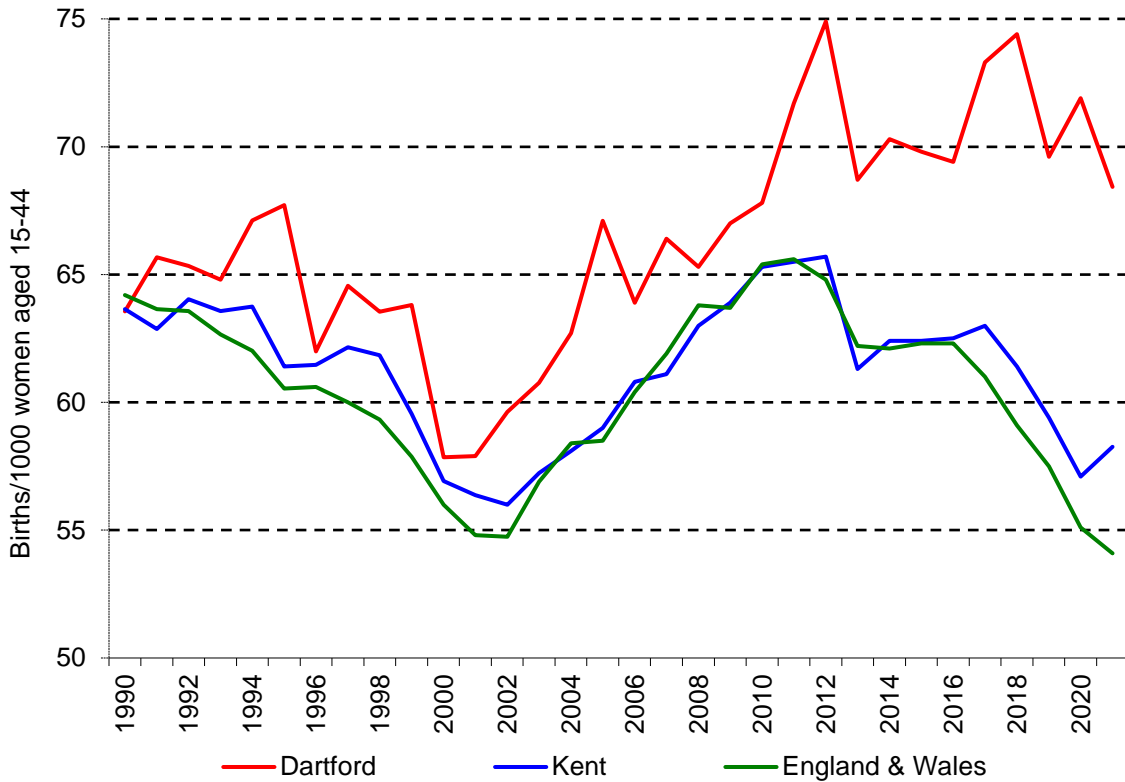
	School	Status
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	Cherry Orchard Academy	Academy
	Craylands School	Community
	Ebbsfleet Green Primary School	Free
	Knockhall Primary School	Academy
	Manor Community Primary School	Academy
Longfield	Bean Primary School	Community
	Langafel CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sedley's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided



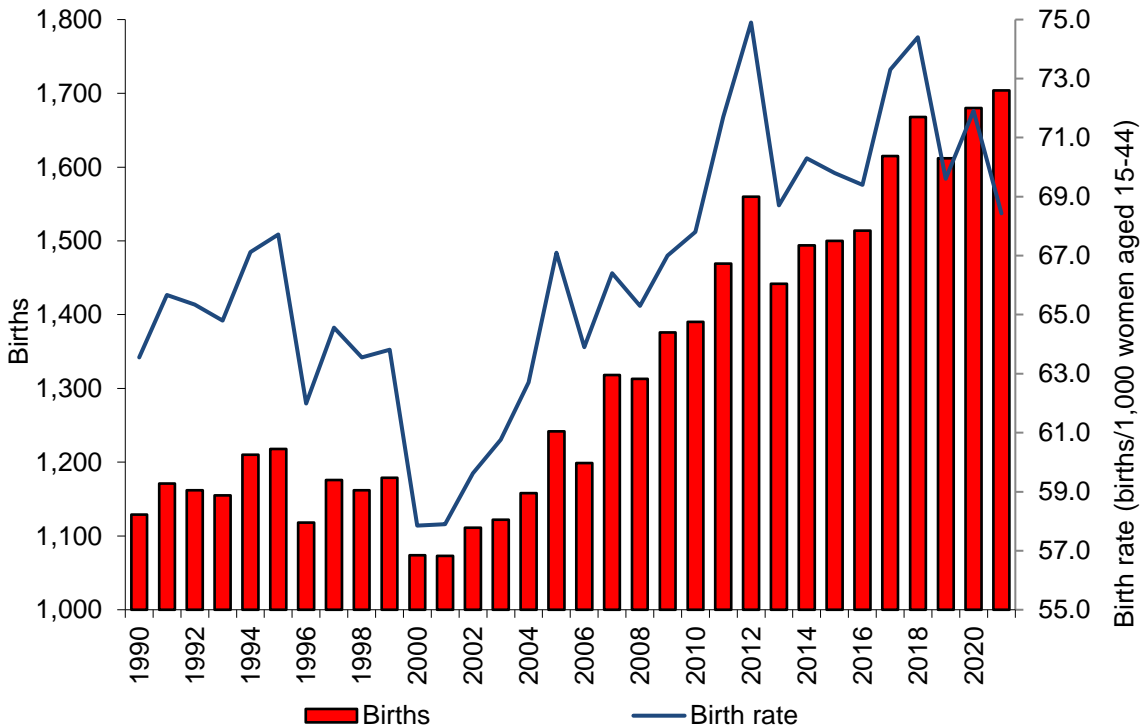
Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Dartford, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Dartford births and birth rate 1990-2021



Dartford Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Dartford North	330	6	2	-45	3	-25	-40	-53	-63	-75	-87	-99	330
Dartford West	312	-2	-12	18	13	27	27	29	32	33	35	36	315
Dartford East	390	1	-4	3	-12	6	4	3	5	5	4	4	390
Dartford South West	180	10	18	6	8	5	6	9	12	14	16	19	180
Darenth and Sutton-at-Hone	90	11	7	19	22	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	90
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet	330	37	50	45	28	-9	-16	-21	-23	-28	-32	-36	360
Longfield	90	3	2	13	9	8	9	11	14	15	17	19	90
Dartford	1,722	66	63	58	71	27	6	-5	-6	-16	-26	-34	1,755

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective	1,200	9	41	9	40	-6	-9	-45	-88	-103	-123	-87	1,260
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,324	-14	35	-110	-50	-93	-110	-123	-139	-110	-76	-62	1,340
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-28	-5	-61	-35	-54	-57	-61	-67	-59	-48	-46	420
North West Kent Selective	720	-4	-29	-40	-24	-42	-48	-63	-76	-84	-89	-72	720



Primary District commentary

Forecasts indicate a small surplus for the first part of the Planning period for year R, which moves into deficit after 2027. Most of the demand comes from the Dartford North planning group and to a lesser extent, the Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet planning group.

In addition to the forecast need identified above, plans for further housing across the district will increase the need for school places. Over and above the current planned housing numbers, Dartford Borough Council are currently consulting on their revised local plan which could include up to an additional 7000 units. Housing growth could be exacerbated further by the Abbey Wood to Ebbsfleet Crossrail service.

The surplus figures for Years R – 6 reflect similar trends. KCC consider that, with the exception of Dartford North, the deficits can be managed within the existing capacity, but will look to negotiate individual temporary capacity with schools if the need arises.

Dartford North Planning Group

Much of this demand is driven by the new housing on the Dartford Northern Gateway. A smaller part of this demand is being created as the Bridge Development nears its final building phases.

To support the need for new school places, the forecasted demand will require a 1FE expansion of an existing primary school from 2023-24. Feasibility studies indicate that the most suitable candidate school is the Dartford Bridge Primary Academy.

It is anticipated that the increased demand for places in the planning group towards the end of the Plan period will be met by using the surplus in adjacent planning groups but may require a further 1FE of new provision.

Dartford East Planning Group

Additional demand for Year R places in Dartford East is 0.5FE for the September 2024 intake, but this fades away to a small surplus every year for the remainder of the Plan period. The deficit can be managed locally by using surplus capacity in adjacent planning groups. However, this is an area of considerable housing development, so KCC will continue to monitor the situation to ensure provision can be increased should future forecasts indicate increased pressure in the planning group.

Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet Planning Group

This planning area is significantly impacted by the Ebbsfleet Garden City development area. A new primary school was established on the Ebbsfleet Green development in 2020-21 which opened with 1FE. The increased demand for year R places due to the pace of housebuilding has necessitated that it be expanded to its capacity of 2FE ahead of the projected timeline. As the development progresses, a further new 2FE primary provision will be provided at the Alkerden all-through school for September 2024.

In the longer term, should housing be delivered at current rates, two further new schools will be required (Ashmere and Ebbsfleet Central), in addition to the establishment of the primary provision at Alkerden. This will provide a total of 6FE of new primary provision across the forecast period.



Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and two selective planning groups that cover Dartford Borough or which cross the district boundary and two selective planning groups. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy.

Demand remains manageable without any intervention until 2027, when the demand will be at least 1.5FE. This demand increases to 3FE for subsequent years. The new secondary school, Stone Lodge School, which opened in September 2019 is now admitting the full 8FE in the lower year groups.

A new all-ability secondary school, within the Ebbsfleet Garden City development (on the Alkerden campus), is due to open in September 2024, initially offering 4FE of non-selective provision. This school is being commissioned to provide places for the increased student population, primarily from the new housing.

In the medium term, this school will expand to its maximum capacity of 8FE, the timing of which will be subject to the demand from new housing, but will likely be from 2026.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and Saint John's Catholic Comprehensive School. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the planning period, peaking in 2028, where it reaches nearly 5FE. The deficit fluctuates from 2023 where it will require 4FE of provision, then falls to 2FE for 2024. From 2025, the deficit increases every year until 2030.

For 2023-24 KCC will commission a further permanent 1FE at Thamesview School. An additional 2FE will be required for 2024, and feasibilities are underway.

Longer term, KCC may need to consider 2FE of new provision for 2027, but this remains under review depending on the results of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear.

North West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the North West Kent selective planning group: Wilmington Grammar School for Girls, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, Dartford Grammar School and Dartford Grammar School for Girls.

Forecasted demand for selective places in the North West Kent Selective Planning Group indicates that the planning group will now be in deficit for the duration of the Plan period.

For 2023, the deficit is forecast to be 1.5FE. It remains within 1FE to 1.5FE until 2027, after which the deficit increases to more than 2FE. The deficit continues to increase, peaking at 3FE in 2030. Deficits in selective provision in adjacent planning groups indicate that a total of 6FE (3FE girls, 3FE boys) new selective provision is required across the North Kent area.



KCC will seek to commission 6FE additional Grammar places in this planning group for 2026. This could be facilitated either through the creation of satellites, or by the establishment of satellite sixth form centres, so freeing up teaching space for additional 7-11 places on main school sites.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

Demand is forecast to be steady, but in deficit throughout the forecasting period. The deficit is about 2FE for the Plan period.

Following expansions to Mayfield Grammar School and the ongoing expansion of Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at their capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand, will need to be managed across Borough boundaries. No new grammar schools can be built according to current government legislation.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needs to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs in 2025. A site has been identified in Sevenoaks District and feasibility studies are underway.

Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision is being designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

The new all through school at Alkerden will provide 15 primary Specialist Resource Provision places and 25 secondary places.



Planned Commissioning - Dartford

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Dartford North	1FE expansion					
Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet		1 FE new provision at Alkerden			2FE provision at Ashmere 2FE provision at Ebbsfleet Central 1FE expansion at Alkerden	
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group		4FE new provision at Alkerden		4FE expansion at Alkerden		
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1FE permanent expansion Thamesview School	2FE new provision			2FE new provision	
North West Kent Selective				6FE selective provision		
Specialist Resourced Provisions		15 place primary SRP at Alkerden 25 place secondary SRP at Alkerden				
Special School			new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs			



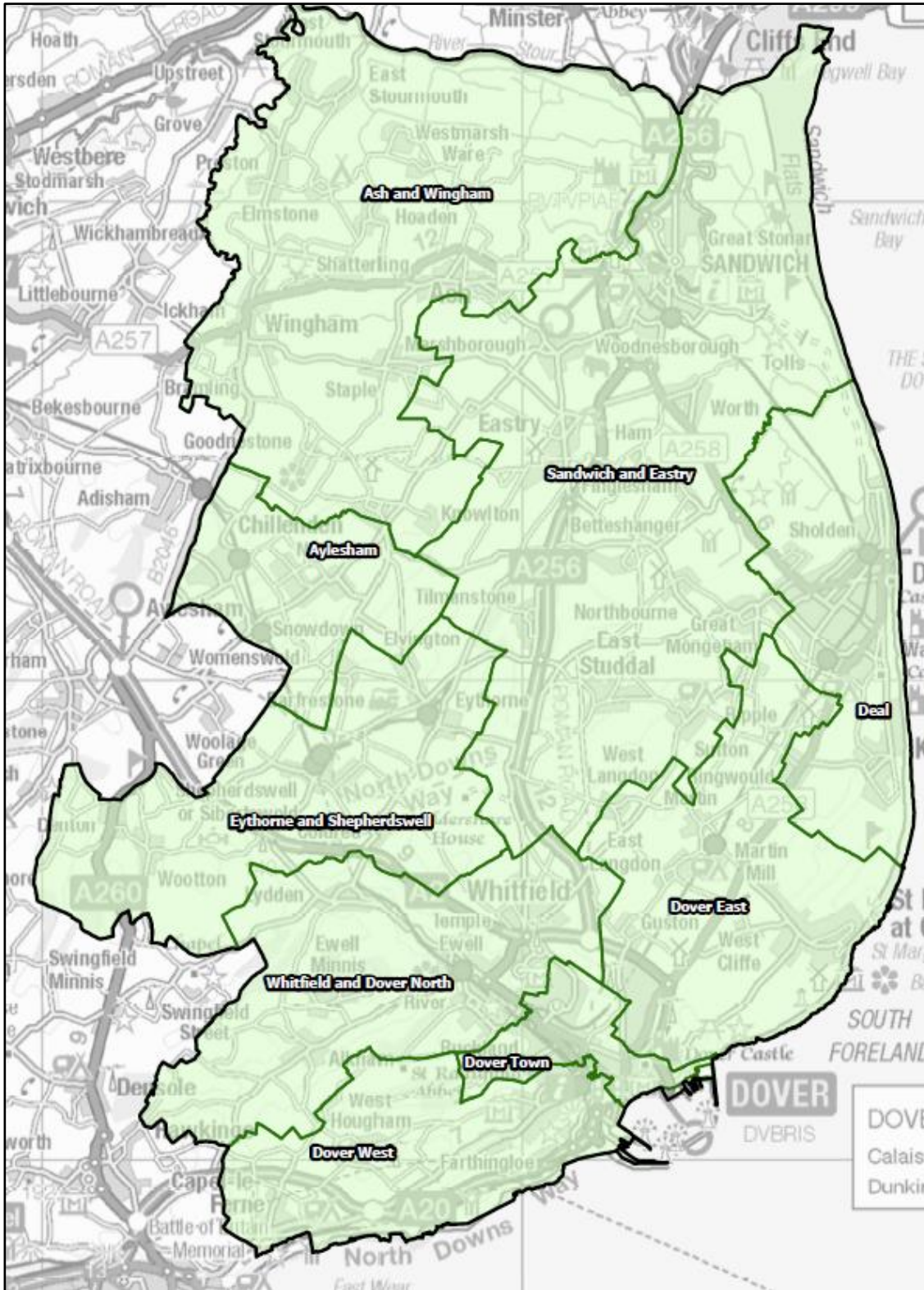
7.9 Dover

District commentary

- The birth rate in Dover District has fallen and is 3 points below the County average. The number of recorded births in the District has risen slightly since the previous but by only 6 births.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period, although there will be some localised pressures associated with house building which may need to be addressed.
- Within the secondary sector, we forecast sufficient places across the Dover non-selective schools and some small pressures in Deal and Sandwich non-selective schools and across the selective schools. Where this is the case, some additional temporary places may be required within existing provision.
- Dover District Council are in the process of producing a new Local Plan for the period 2020-2040. We are working with Dover District Council Officers to consider the impact on the need for additional school places particularly in the longer term.



Map of the Dover primary planning groups



Dover primary schools by planning group

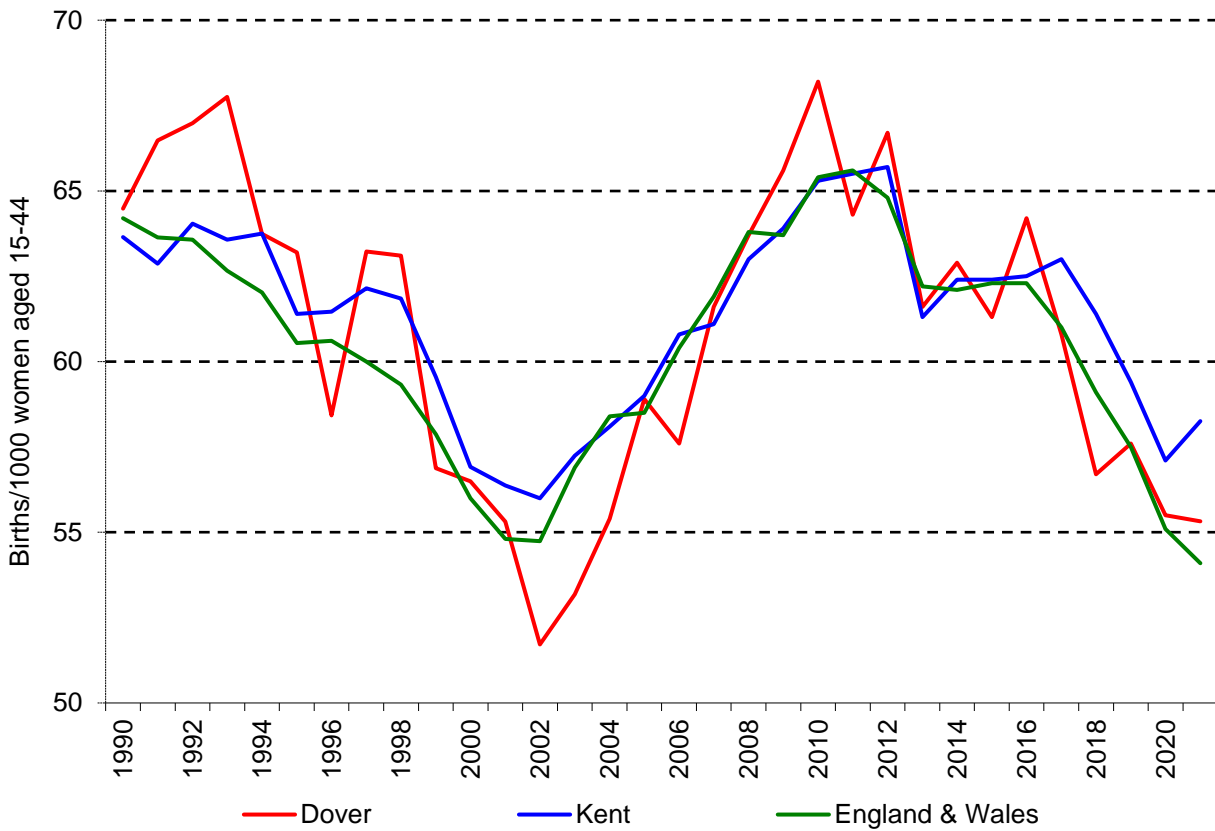
Planning Group	School	Status
Dover Town	Barton Junior School	Academy
	Charlton CE Primary School	Academy
	Green Park Community Primary School	Community
	Shatterlocks Infant School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Dover)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Richard's RC Primary School	Academy
	White Cliffs Primary College for the Arts	Academy
Whitfield and Dover North	Lydden Primary School	Community
	River Primary School	Community
	Temple Ewell CE Primary School	Academy
	Whitfield Aspen School	Community
Dover West	Aycliffe Community Primary School	Community
	Capel-le-Ferne Primary School	Community
	Priory Fields School	Academy
	St. Martin's School (Dover)	Academy
	Vale View Primary School	Academy
Dover East	Guston CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Langdon Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe Primary School	Community
Deal	Deal Parochial CE Primary School	Academy
	Downs CE Primary School	Academy
	Hornbeam Primary School	Academy
	Kingsdown and Ringwould CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandown School	Academy
	Sholden CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's RC Primary School (Deal)	Academy
	Warden House Primary School	Academy
Sandwich and Eastry	Eastry CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northbourne CE Primary School	Academy
	Sandwich Infant School	Academy
	Sandwich Junior School	Community
	Worth Primary School	Academy
Ash and Wingham	Ash Cartwright and Kelsey CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Goodnestone CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Preston Primary School	Community
	Wingham Primary School	Community
Aylesham	Aylesham Primary School	Community
	Nonington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Aylesham)	Academy
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Eythorne Elvington Community Primary School	Community
	Sibertswold CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



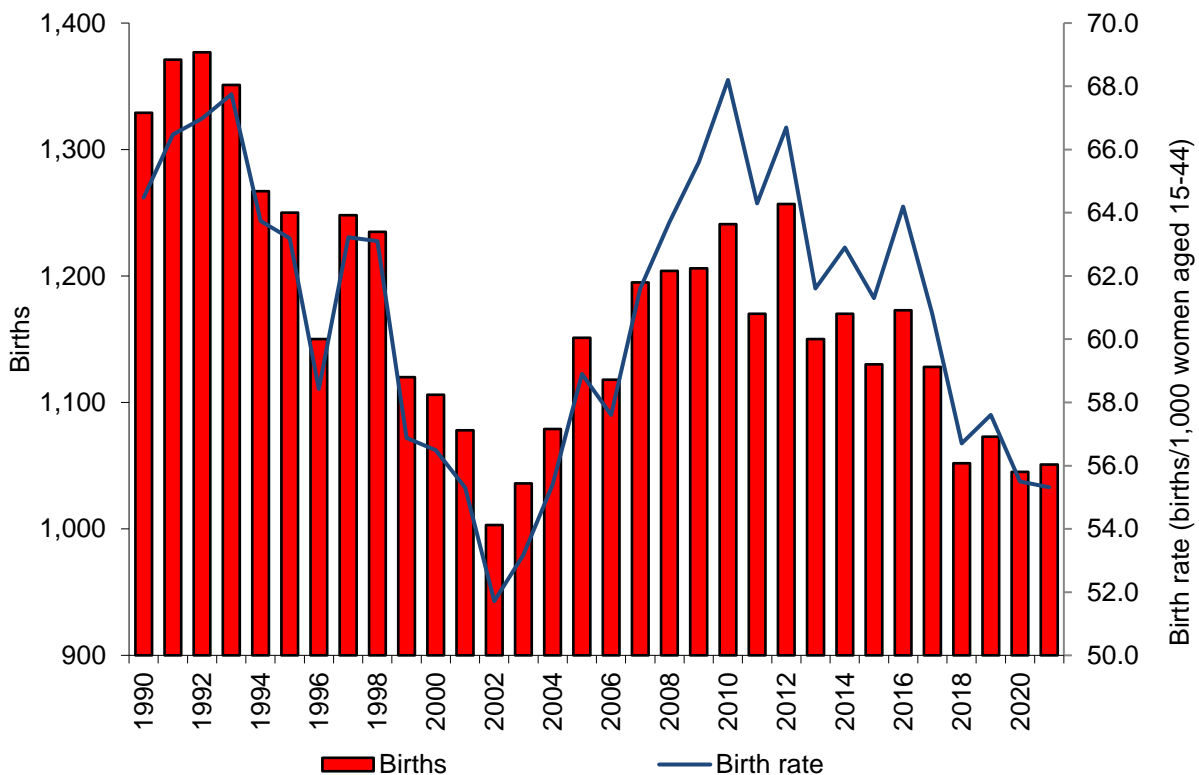
Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.

Dover, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Dover births and birth rate 1990-2021



Dover District Forecast

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Dover Town	270	56	71	70	73	67	69	69	69	70	71	72	270
Whitfield and Dover North	170	3	-1	-7	9	15	15	14	13	13	13	13	170
Dover West	170	20	29	37	31	41	42	41	41	40	40	40	170
Dover East	67	9	7	24	13	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	67
Deal	315	55	39	66	63	72	74	76	78	81	84	87	315
Sandwich and Easry	116	10	19	12	18	17	13	10	10	11	12	13	116
Ash and Wingham	90	28	21	18	6	9	8	7	6	5	4	4	90
Aylesham	90	13	-15	1	-21	-42	-51	-61	-70	-79	-87	-95	102
Eythorne and Shepherdswell	50	4	9	9	14	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	50
Dover	1,338	198	179	230	205	198	187	174	165	159	154	151	1,350

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Secondary - Year 7 surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Dover Non-Selective	480	58	48	20	48	64	27	43	59	70	84	86	480
Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective	435	31	20	-15	-18	10	3	8	15	-5	26	12	435
Dover District Selective	440	2	3	-6	-6	6	-6	-1	-5	4	27	31	440



Primary District Commentary

Across the District we forecast a significant surplus Year R throughout the Plan period. Two planning groups are showing a deficit of places: Whitfield and Dover North for 2 years and Aylesham throughout the forecast period.

Aylesham Planning Group

There has been a significant change in the forecasts from the previous version of the Commissioning Plan from a forecast surplus of places to the deficit we see above.

We are aware that the demand for primary school places can fluctuate swiftly in this planning group depending on new housing completions. However, the change in the forecasts compared to last year is due to an increase of young families moving into Aylesham, with 30 more children in each pre-school age group this year compared with the previous year.

In part, this change is due to this year's forecasts incorporating data relating to the pre-school aged population from NHS Digital which replaces pre-school aged population data previously obtained from Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT). In a small number of areas in Kent the effect of this is an increase in the forecast Year R demand compared to last year's forecasts.

When this growth rate is factored into the forecasts (and assuming it continues into the short to medium term) the result is an expected high demand for primary school places over the coming years. The reality may be a little different. For example, the suggested -15 place Year R deficit in the 2022-23 academic year is not being seen on the ground as there are around 30 Year R places surplus for the start of the academic year.

The change in dataset will only impact forecasts for one year, we will closely monitor the pre-school aged population and ensure appropriate commissioning plans are in place within these areas to ensure sufficiency and sustainability of places at all times.

St. Joseph's RC Primary Academy have increased their published admissions number from 20 to 30 (1FE) from September 2023. In the short term, this will support the need for any additional places required. Some developer contributions are secured to support this expansion and the expansion of other schools in the planning group as and when required. We will continue monitor pupil numbers closely and to work with the schools in the planning group to ensure that sufficient primary school provision is available as required.

Whitfield and Dover North Planning Group

Much of this planning group comprises the area designated as the Whitfield Urban Expansion (WUE). The WUE has outline planning consent for 5,750 new homes to be delivered over the next 20 years. To provide sufficient primary school places the equivalent of three 2FE primary schools are included within the Master Plan. The first, the expansion of Whitfield Aspen Primary School on to a satellite site, opened for pupils in September 2021 offering an additional 1FE of provision. Planning permission is secured to add an addition block of classrooms, expanding the school to the full 4FE across the two sites. As planning permission is secured, we can react quickly to add this additional provision when required.

We will continue to monitor pupil numbers closely and to work with the schools in the planning group to manage any pressure for places until the expansion of Whitfield Aspen is required.

Dover East Planning Group

Surplus places are forecast throughout the Plan period. However, in the longer term places may be required to support the planned development at Connaught Barracks. Ideally this will be via



the expansion of Guston Church of England Primary School. We are continuing to work with interested parties to secure the additional land that will be required to enable the expansion to happen.

Sandwich and Eastry Planning Group

Consented and proposed developments in Sandwich and the neighbouring villages of Eastry and Ash together account for possibly over 1,000 new homes. Should housing come forward as identified in the Local Plan, up to 1FE of provision in Sandwich may be required. The timing of this will be dependent on housing coming forward and is likely to be late in the decade at the earliest. Land will be required for either a new school or to allow the relocation and expansion of an existing school.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three secondary planning groups within Dover District (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Dover, Deal and Sandwich) and one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Dover Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three Schools in the Dover non-selective planning group: Astor College of the Arts, Dover Christ Church Academy and St. Edmunds RC School. The Whitfield Urban Expansion will, over time, increase the pressure on local secondary school places which will be met initially via expansion of Dover Christ Church Academy as the local school. A feasibility study is being undertaken so that KCC will be ready to expand the Academy as and when required.

Deal and Sandwich Non-Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the Deal and Sandwich non-selective planning group: Goodwin Academy and Sandwich Technology School. Forecasts suggest short term deficit of Year 7 places in the years 2022-23 and 2023-24. This is in part due to the well-established flow of families travelling into the planning group from Thanet to access school places. As indicated above (Sandwich and Eastry Planning Group) there could be up to 1,000 new homes in Sandwich and neighbouring villages. Should there be any localised pressures it will be managed within existing schools.

Dover Selective Planning Group

Selective provision is provided by three schools: Dover Boys Grammar, Dover Girls Grammar and Sir Roger Manwood's Grammar. A small deficit of Year 7 places in is forecast in several years which, if it comes forward, can be managed in existing schools. Developer contributions are being collected to support the expansion of selective provision should that be required to support additional housing.



Planned Commissioning - Dover

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 2027-2030	Post 2031
Whitfield and North Dover				Expansion of Whitfield Aspen Satellite by 1FE		New 2FE primary school in Whitfield
Dover East					0.3FE expansion of Guston CE Primary School	
Aylesham		Up to 1FE additional provision in Aylesham				
Sandwich and Eastry					1FE Sandwich planning group	
Dover Non-selective					2FE at Dover Christ Church academy	



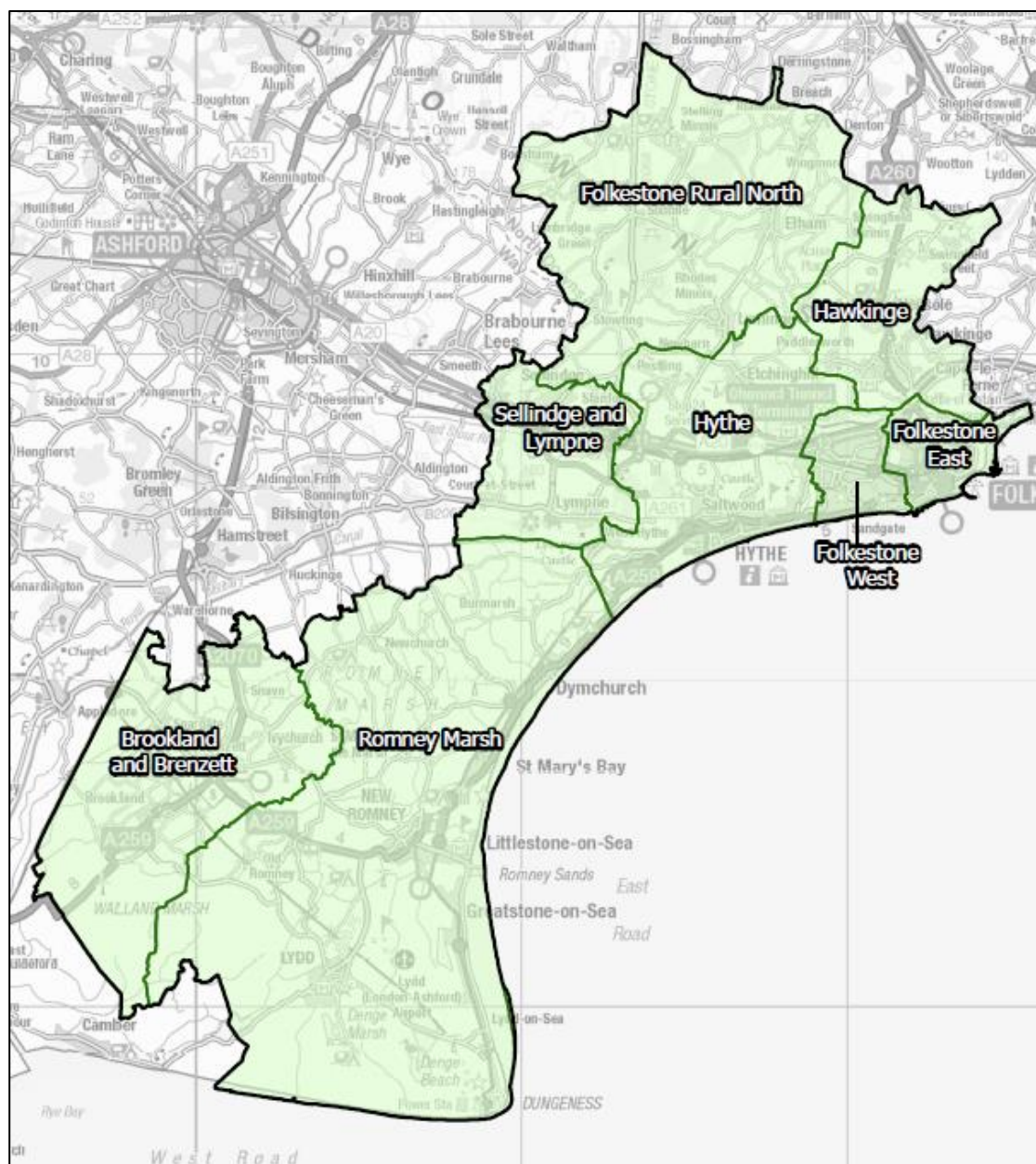
7.10 Folkestone and Hythe

District commentary

- The birth rate in Folkestone and Hythe has risen 2 points from the previous year, being almost in line with the County average. The number of recorded births in the followed the same trend rising by 40 from the previous year.
- We forecast a significant surplus of primary school places across the District throughout the Plan period. Within the secondary sector, we forecast a small deficit of non-selective secondary school places in both Folkestone and Hythe and Romney Marsh 3-4 years. Following 2025-26 the rolls start to fall and a surplus of non-selective places resumes across the District.
- The adopted Core Strategy (2022) sets out a long-term vision for the District from 2019/20 to 2036/37. The indicative housing trajectory from the Core Strategy suggest that 13,407 new dwellings could be delivered in the period 2019/20 to 2036/37. With Otterpool Park accounting for 5,593 of these dwellings. This would be an average of 745 per annum. During the period 2010/11 to 2019/20 an average of 323 homes were completed per annum (Kent Analytics Statistical Bulletin January 2022).
- Plans for the Garden Town at Otterpool Park continue to progress. The level of development would require significant educational infrastructure across not only primary and secondary phases but also early years and specialist provision. We continue to work with the District Council and the promoter of the site to identify how and when new provision will be required.



Map of the Folkestone and Hythe primary planning groups



Folkestone and Hythe primary schools by planning group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Folkestone East	Castle Hill Community Primary School	Community
	Christ Church CE Academy	Academy
	Folkestone Primary Academy	Academy
	Martello Primary School	Academy
	Mundella Primary School	Academy
	St. Eanswythe's CE Primary School	Academy
	St. Mary's CE Primary Academy (Folkestone)	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone West	Stella Maris RC Primary School	Academy
	All Souls' CE Primary School	Academy
	Cheriton Primary School	Foundation
	Harcourt Primary School	Foundation
	Morehall Primary School	Academy
	Sandgate Primary School	Community



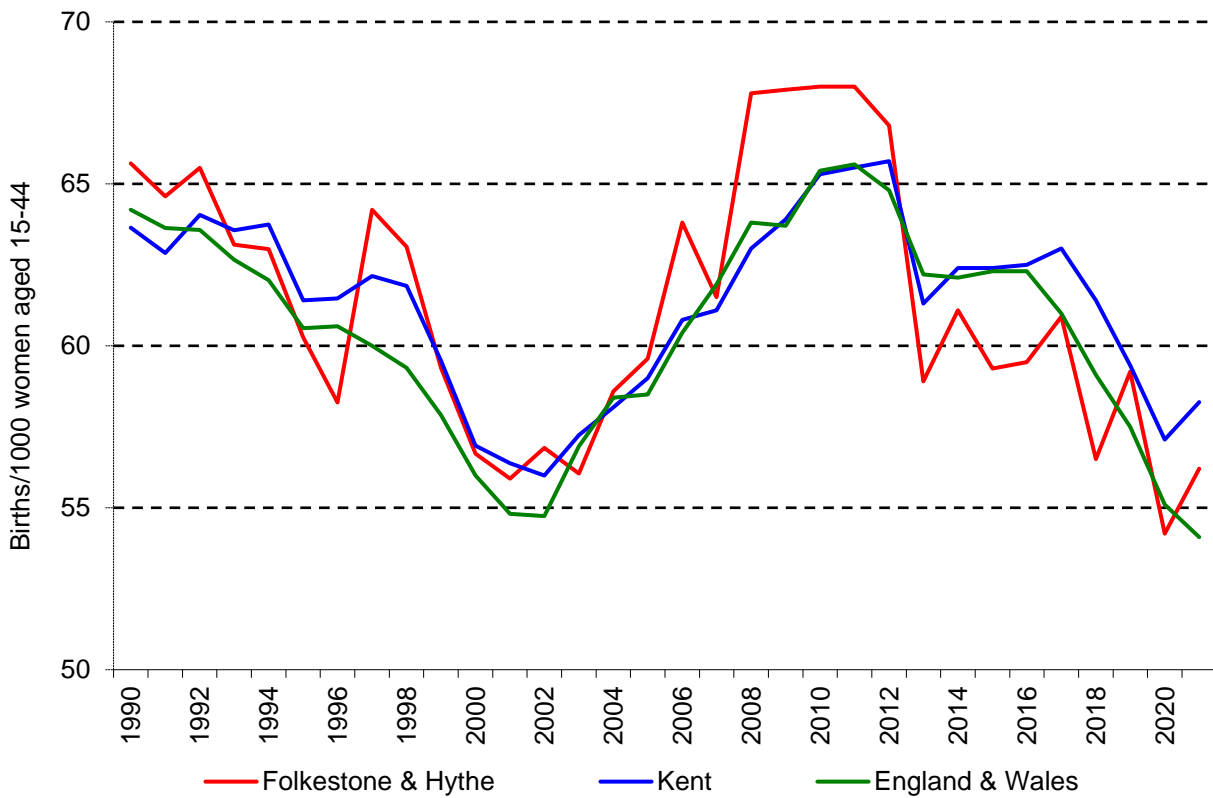
Planning Groups	School	Status
	St. Martin's CE Primary School (Folkestone)	Voluntary Controlled
Hawkinge	Churchill School (Hawkinge)	Foundation
	Hawkinge Primary School	Foundation
	Selsted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Folkestone Rural North	Bodsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Elham CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lyminge CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stelling Minnis CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Stowting CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hythe	Hythe Bay CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Palmarsh Primary School	Community
	Saltwood CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Seabrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Hythe)	Voluntary Aided
Sellindge and Lypne	Lypne CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sellindge Primary School	Community
Romney Marsh	Dymchurch Primary School	Academy
	Greatstone Primary School	Foundation
	Lydd Primary School	Academy
	St. Nicholas CE Primary Academy	Academy
Brookland and Brenzett	Brenzett CE Primary School	Academy
	Brookland CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



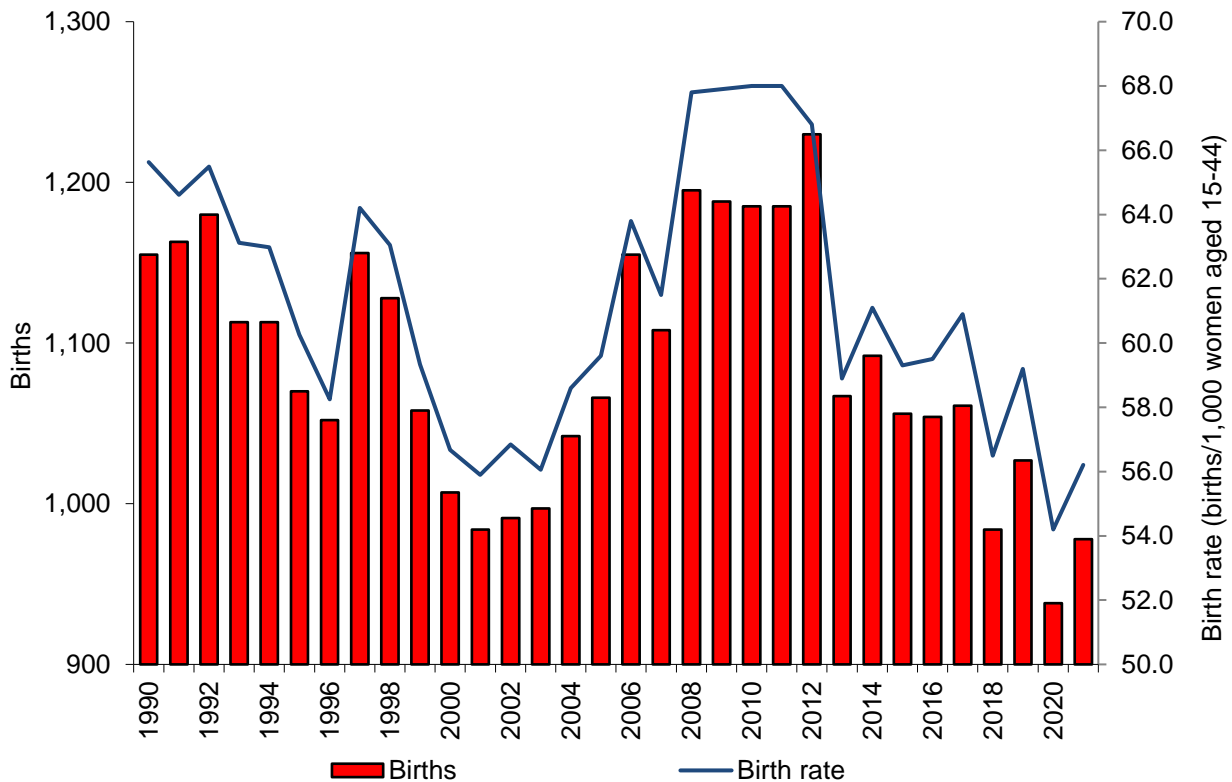
Birth rate and birth analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the District and the number of recorded births.

Folkestone & Hythe, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Folkestone & Hythe births and birth rate 1990-2021



Folkestone and Hythe Analysis

Primary - Year R surplus/deficit capacity if no further action is taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Folkestone East	373	38	62	51	75	64	68	70	72	74	75	77	373
Folkestone West	285	52	44	27	19	29	29	27	25	23	21	20	255
Hawkinge	135	20	33	39	43	32	32	33	33	33	32	32	135
Folkestone Rural North	93	16	11	24	23	21	22	22	23	23	24	24	93
Hythe	155	26	8	-4	23	12	13	9	9	8	8	8	140
Sellindge and Lymgne	60	10	0	-3	-5	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	-10	60
Romney Marsh	187	32	47	59	61	62	64	66	67	68	70	71	187
Brookland and Brenzett	35	16	13	12	11	12	12	12	12	13	13	13	35
Folkestone and Hythe	1,323	210	219	204	250	221	230	228	230	232	233	235	1,278

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
NS - Folkestone and Hythe	685	81	-28	-16	-15	2	22	18	20	23	24	55	625
NS - Romney Marsh	180	-21	-8	-14	-10	-12	8	11	-8	5	14	17	180
SG - Folkestone and Hythe District	330	-19	36	43	43	51	61	59	57	60	63	76	330



Primary District Commentary

We forecast a significant surplus of Year R places over the Plan period with 16% surplus in 2023-24 rising to 19.5% in 2024-25. Some planning groups forecast to see over one quarter of their Year R capacity vacant in the coming years.

As schools are primarily funded on the number of pupils on roll, low Year R numbers will impact on future budgets with some schools choosing to reduce their published admissions numbers. If required, we will work with schools both maintained by KCC and those led by academy trusts to reduce pupil admission numbers in areas of significant surplus places from 2023-24 onwards.

Folkestone West and Folkestone East Planning Groups

The Folkestone East and West planning groups cover the Town. Forecasts suggest that there will be significant surplus places across both planning groups throughout the Plan period. There is land and developer contributions for a new 2FE primary school at Shorncliffe Heights (Folkestone West). Given the forecast level of surplus places, it is unlikely this will come forward in this decade.

Sellindge and Lympe Planning Group

Current forecasts are showing a small deficit of Year R places from 2023-24 onwards. If required, Sellindge Primary School will increase their published admissions number to accommodate the additional pupils.

Romney Marsh Planning Group

Forecasts suggest a significant surplus of Year R places throughout the plan period. The District's Core Strategy provides for just under 600 new homes in the Romney Marsh planning group which in the longer-term will begin to reduce the surplus capacity. In the short to medium term, we will work with schools in the planning group to manage the high levels of surplus primary school places forecast.

Hythe Planning Group

We forecast fewer a small deficit of Year R places in 2023-24. This is due to Hythe Bay Church of England Primary School reducing their PAN by 15 places from September 2022. This was supported by KCC as there were significant surplus places in the planning group that was difficult for school to manage. This is only short term pressure , as from 2024-25 we forecast surplus places for the remainder of the plan period.

Secondary District Commentary

There are three planning groups within Folkestone and Hythe District (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Two planning groups are non-selective (Folkestone and Hythe, Romney Marsh), one selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Folkestone and Hythe Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Folkestone and Hythe non-selective planning group: Brockhill Park Performing Arts College, Folkestone Academy and The Turner Free School.

Forecasts suggest there will be a small deficit of Year 7 places in, 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024/25. The forecast deficit during that period is due to Folkestone Academy reducing their published admissions number by 60 places from the 2022-23 academic year. The Turner Schools Trust (sponsors of Folkestone Academy and The Turner Free School) will offer additional places should the need arise.



Romney Marsh Non-Selective Planning Group

There is one non-selective school in the planning group: The Marsh Academy.

Forecasts suggest there could be a small deficit of Year 7 places in some years across the Plan period. As the Academy prioritises the admission of pupils who reside in the district, we anticipate there will be sufficient places for local pupils to be admitted whilst those travelling from further afield will be eased back into more local schools. We will work with the Marsh Academy to manage this.

Folkestone and Hythe Selective Planning Group

There are two selective schools in the District: Folkestone Girls Grammar and Harvey Grammar. Forecasts suggest there will be sufficient Year 7 places available throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Folkestone and Hythe

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Folkestone West Primary						2FE new provision in Shorncliffe



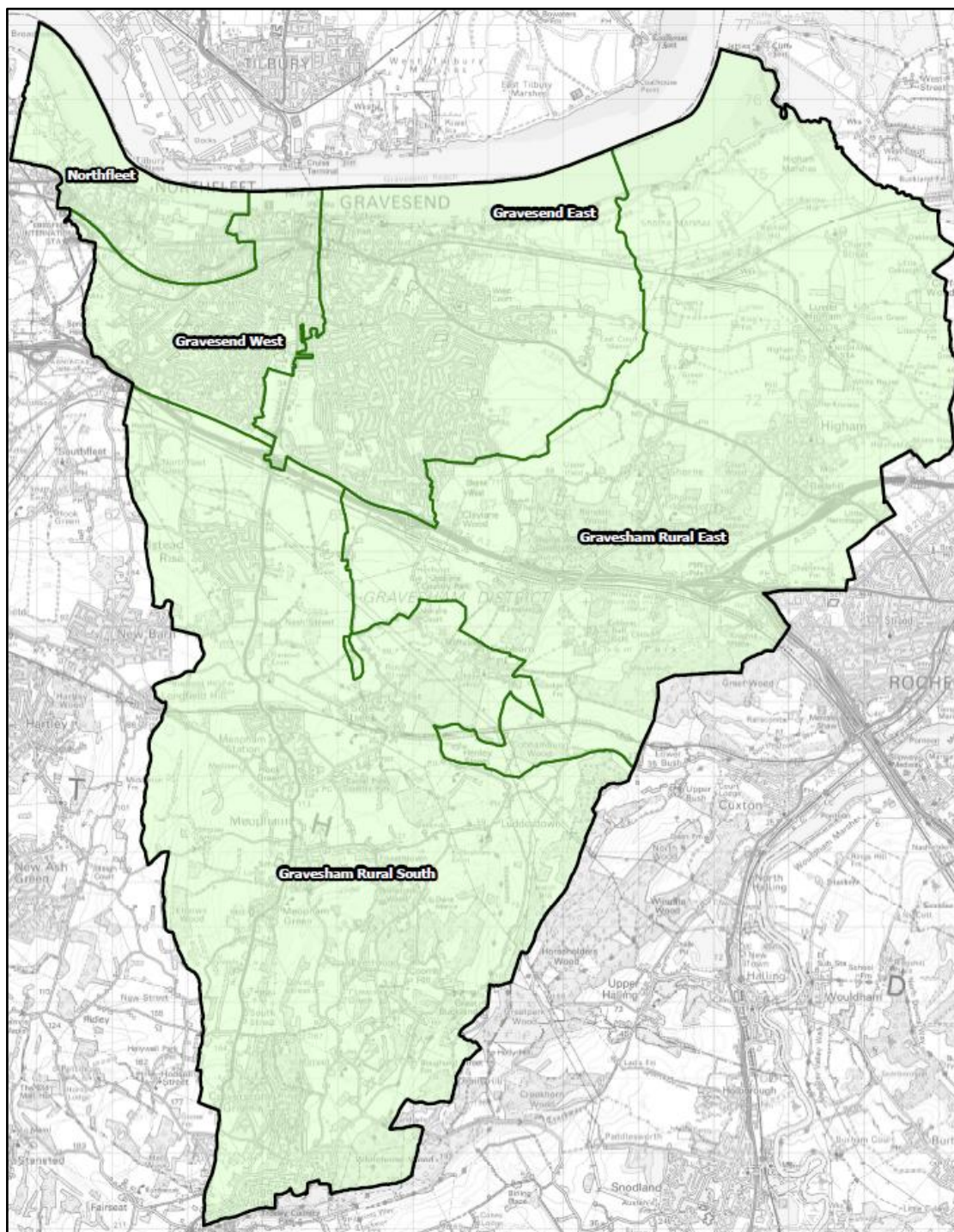
7.11 Gravesham

Borough Summary

- The Gravesham birth rate and number of births have fallen sharply since 2019, but are still above the county and national figures.
- Forecasts indicate that there are sufficient Year R places across the Primary planning groups.
- Demand for non-selective Secondary provision in Gravesham continues to increase, necessitating additional capacity. Selective secondary school rolls are also forecast to increase.
- The current Gravesham Borough Council Local Plan (adopted September 2014), states an intention to build 6,170 dwellings between 2011 to 2028. About 20% of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation area is sited in Gravesham. During the 5-year period 2013-18 a total of 1,023 houses were completed with an average of 205 per annum.
- Prior to the Covid pandemic, a significant factor to primary and secondary demand in Gravesham Borough, was the migration from urban centres in Greater London to locations such as Gravesham Borough. Migration reduced significantly during the pandemic, but it is not unreasonable to suggest that post Covid, migration will pick up, possibly to pre-Covid levels.



Gravesham Primary Schools by Planning Group



Planning Group	School	Status
Gravesend East	Chantry Community Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Kings Farm Primary School	Community
	Riverview Infant School	Academy
	Riverview Junior School	Academy
	Singlewell Primary School	Community
	St. John's RC Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Tymerwood Academy	Academy
	Westcourt Primary School	Academy
	Whitehill Primary School	Academy



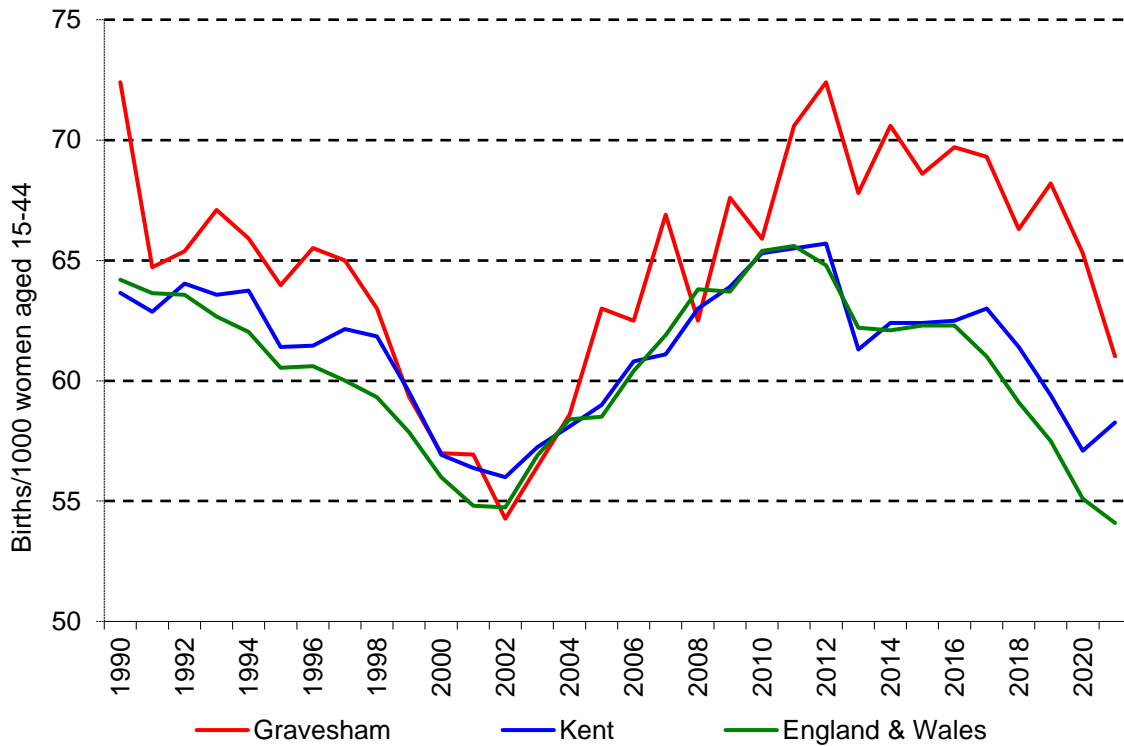
Planning Group	School	Status
Gravesend West	Cecil Road Primary School	Community
	Copperfield Academy	Academy
	Painters Ash Primary School	Community
	Saint George's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	Shears Green Infant School	Academy
	Shears Green Junior School	Community
	Springhead Park Primary School	Free
	Wrotham Road Primary School	Academy
Northfleet	Lawn Primary School	Community
	Rosherville CE Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Botolph's CE Primary School (Gravesend)	Academy
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Northfleet)	Academy
Gravesham Rural East	Higham Primary School	Community
	Shorne CE Primary School	Academy
Gravesham Rural South	Cobham Primary School	Community
	Culverstone Green Primary School	Academy
	Istead Rise Primary School	Academy
	Meopham Community Academy	Academy
	Vigo Village School	Community



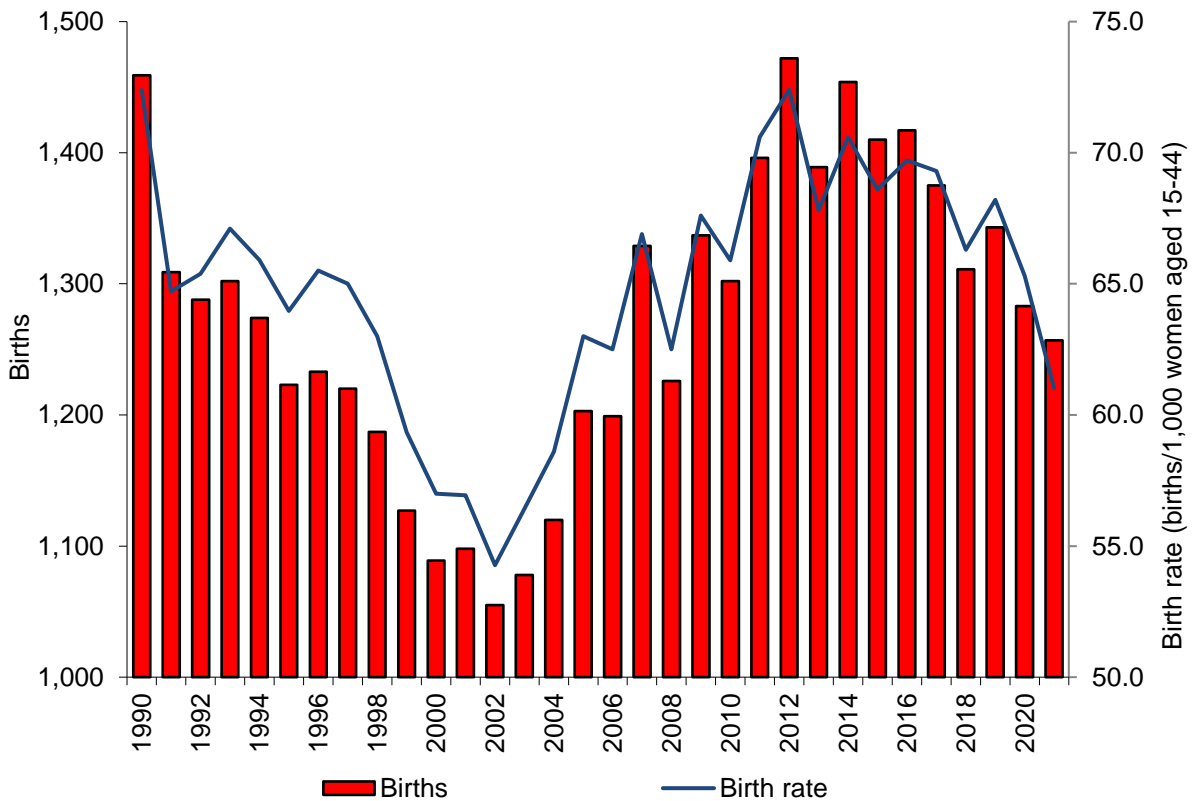
Birth Rate and Birth Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Gravesham, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Gravesham births and birth rate 1990-2021



Gravesham Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Gravesend East	682	61	119	85	106	116	119	125	129	132	134	136	682
Gravesend West	444	52	44	94	104	85	85	89	90	93	95	96	474
Northfleet	140	4	14	5	-2	0	-3	-3	-4	-3	-2	-2	140
Gravesham Rural East	60	0	0	-11	-2	-7	-7	-7	-8	-8	-8	-8	60
Gravesham Rural South	180	12	7	24	8	8	9	11	13	15	16	18	180
Gravesham	1,506	129	183	196	214	202	203	214	221	228	235	241	1,536

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1,324	-14	35	-110	-50	-93	-110	-123	-139	-110	-76	-62	1,340
Gravesham and Longfield Selective	420	-28	-5	-61	-35	-54	-57	-61	-67	-59	-48	-46	420

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Primary District commentary

Recent forecasts have indicated a stabilisation of demand that leaves a surplus of Year R capacity across the Borough. However locally, Gravesham Rural East and Northfleet planning groups indicate small deficits from September 2023.

The surplus figures for Years R – 6 reflect similar trends. Though some action is required for further growth in specific areas of the Borough. For other planning areas within the Borough, we acknowledge surpluses could possibly lead to individual schools facing viability issues, if their intakes are significantly reduced for a prolonged period. KCC is working with schools primarily in the planning groups of Gravesham East and West to monitor the situation and to take mitigating action where necessary.

Gravesham is expected to publish a new local plan within the next two years. In addition to that, new housing development on the Northfleet Embankment and Gravesend Canal Basin will see demand for Primary School places increase. To support the growth in the Northfleet Embankment area, KCC will be commissioning additional provision by relocating and enlarging Rosherville Church of England Academy onto a new site.

New housing in the Coldharbour area will generate additional need for Year R places. This will be accommodated within the second FE of primary provision at Saint George's CE School.

Northfleet Planning Group

The planning group indicates a small deficit every year. This will largely be managed by using capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend West.

In addition, new housing at the Harbour Village and Cable Wharf developments will require new provision. Rosherville Church of England Academy has a PAN of 20. This will be increased initially to 1FE and then to 2 FE as required, and a new school will be built a short distance away from the existing school, on the site of the old Rosherville Gardens.

Gravesham Rural East Planning Group

The planning group indicates a small deficit every year. Expansion of schools in the planning group is not considered viable, because it would create surpluses that could affect other schools' abilities to manage their budgets. The deficits will largely be managed by using capacity in adjacent planning groups that show a surplus, such as Gravesend East.

Secondary District Commentary

There is one selective and one non-selective planning groups that covers the Gravesham area. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Gravesham and Longfield non-selective planning group: Longfield Academy, Meopham School, Northfleet Technology College, Northfleet School for Girls, Thamesview School, Saint George's CE School and Saint John's Catholic Comprehensive School.

The planning group is in deficit for the whole of the planning period, peaking in 2028, where it reaches nearly 5FE. The deficit fluctuates from 2023 where it will require 4FE of provision, then falls to 2FE for 2024. From 2025, the deficit increases every year up to 2030.



For 2023-24 KCC will commission a further permanent 1FE at Thamesview School. An additional 2FE will be required for 2024, and feasibilities are underway.

Longer term, KCC may need to consider 2FE of new provision for 2027, but this remains under review depending on the results of the Gravesham Local Plan. KCC will monitor the forecasts as the new Gravesham Local Plan becomes clear.

Gravesham and Longfield Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Gravesham and Longfield selective planning group: Gravesend Grammar School and the Mayfield Grammar School.

Demand is forecast to be steady, but in deficit throughout the forecasting period. The deficit is about 2FE for the Plan period.

Following expansions to Mayfield Grammar School and the ongoing expansion of Gravesend Grammar School, both Gravesham Grammar Schools are at their capacity and cannot be expanded further. Therefore, this demand, will need to be managed across Borough boundaries. No new grammar schools can be built according to current government legislation.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needs to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs in 2025. A site has been identified in Sevenoaks District and feasibility studies are underway.

Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision is being designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

It is anticipated that Springhead Park Primary School will provide 15 primary SLCN places, for 2023-24 through the establishment of a Specialist Resource Provision.

Planned Commissioning – Gravesham

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Northfleet		0.3FE (10 additional permanent places) at Rosherville CE Academy		1FE at Rosherville CE Academy		
Gravesham and Longfield Non-Selective	1FE permanent expansion Thamesview School	2 FE permanent expansion Thamesview School			2FE new provision	
Gravesham West		1FE expansion at St George's Primary provision				



Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Specialist Resourced Provision	15 Place SLCN at Springhead Park Primary					



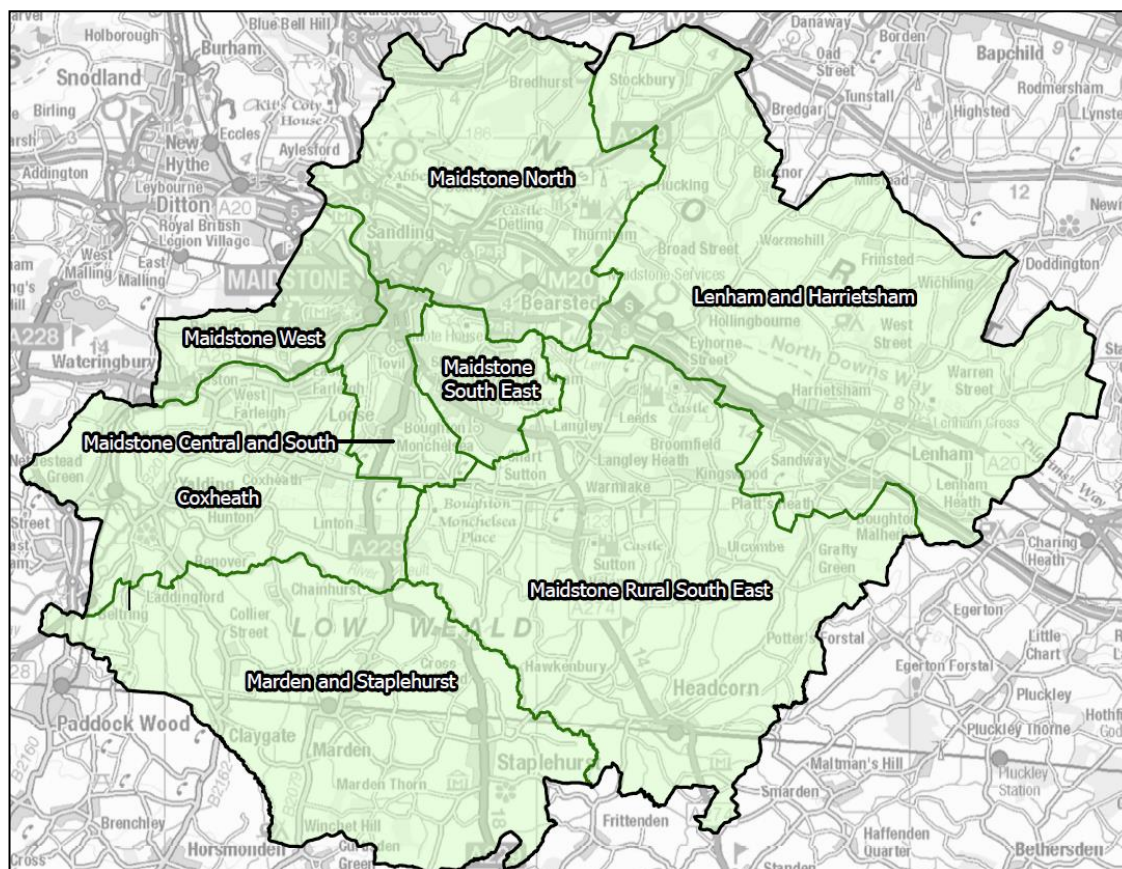
7.12 Maidstone

Borough commentary

- The birth rate in Maidstone dropped sharply in 2019 and 2020, in line with the County and National trend. However, the birth rates and the number of births increased significantly in 2021.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period. However, there is pressure for places forecast within some planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure for places in both the non-selective and selective sectors.
- Maidstone Borough Council Local Plan was formally adopted in October 2017, setting out the scale and location of proposed development up to 2031. The Borough is planning for around 17,500 dwellings or just under 900 per annum. During the 5 year period 2015-16 to 2019-20 a total of 6084 houses were completed which is an average of 1216.80 per year and is above the 900 average required. However, it is worth noting that the average housing delivery was significantly below the required level during the initial years of the Plan period. The Borough undertook a review of its Local Plan that was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination on Thursday 31 March 2022; the review identifies further locations for additional housing growth that is not included within the forecasts presented.



Map of the Maidstone Primary Planning Groups



Maidstone Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Maidstone Central and South	Archbishop Courtenay CE Primary School	Academy
	Boughton Monchelsea Primary School	Community
	Loose Primary School	Community
	South Borough Primary School	Academy
	Tiger Primary School	Free
Maidstone North	Bearsted Primary Academy	Free
	Bredhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Madginford Primary School	Community
	North Borough Junior School	Community
	Roseacre Junior School	Foundation
	Sandling Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Maidstone)	Academy
	St. Paul's Infant School	Community
	Thurnham CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
Valley Invicta Primary School at East Borough	Academy	
Maidstone West	Allington Primary School	Academy
	Barming Primary School	Academy
	Brunswick House Primary School	Community
	Jubilee Primary School	Free
	Palace Wood Primary School	Community
	St. Francis' RC School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Michael's CE Infant School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Michael's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled



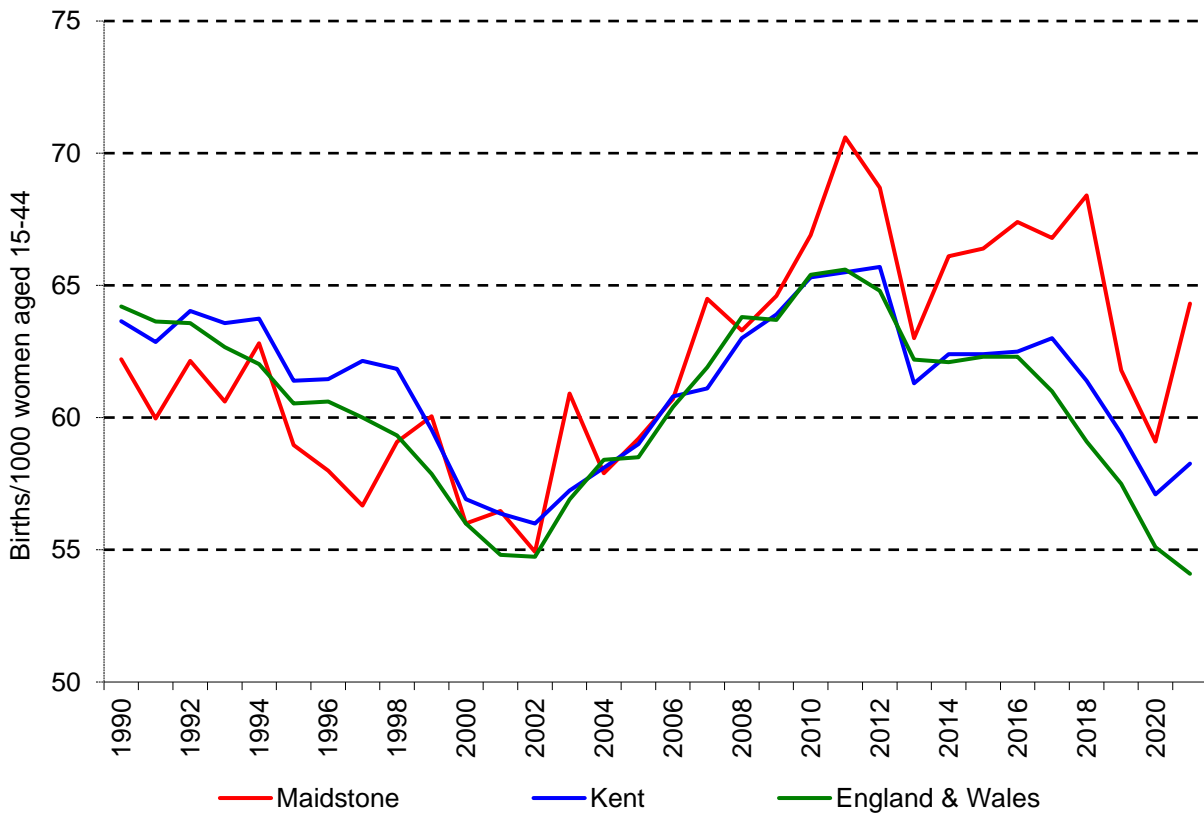
Planning Groups	School	Status
	West Borough Primary School	Community
Maidstone South East	Greenfields Community Primary School	Community
	Holy Family RC Primary School	Academy
	Langley Park Primary Academy	Academy
	Molehill Primary Academy	Academy
	Oaks Primary Academy	Academy
	Park Way Primary School	Community
	Senacre Wood Primary School	Community
	Tree Tops Primary Academy	Academy
Lenham and Harrietsham	Harrietsham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hollingbourne Primary School	Community
	Lenham Primary School	Community
	Platts Heath Primary School	Community
Coxheath	Coxheath Primary School	Community
	East Farleigh Primary School	Community
	Hunton CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Yalding St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Marden and Staplehurst	Laddingford St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Marden Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Margaret's Collier Street CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Staplehurst School	Community
Maidstone Rural South East	Headcorn Primary School	Community
	Kingswood Primary School	Community
	Leeds and Broomfield CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sutton Valence Primary School	Community
	Ulcombe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



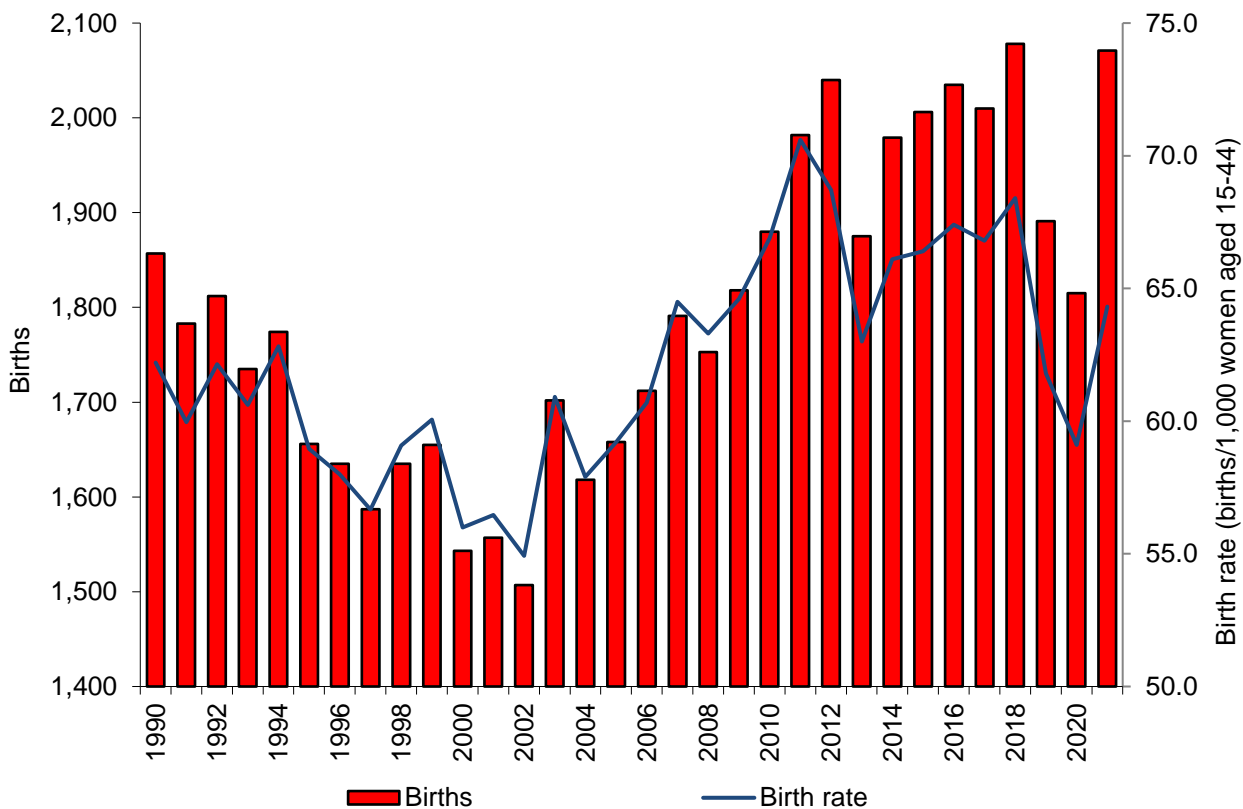
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Maidstone, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Maidstone births and birth rate 1990-2021



Maidstone Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Maidstone Central and South	285	13	-4	14	15	24	22	22	22	21	20	18	285
Maidstone North	525	15	48	68	59	92	95	100	106	110	114	118	525
Maidstone West	460	9	1	38	61	74	71	71	72	71	71	70	460
Maidstone South East	327	17	6	19	12	44	41	39	37	34	32	29	327
Lenham and Harrietsham	118	25	1	0	13	-13	-15	-17	-18	-19	-21	-22	118
Coxheath	129	0	-36	-31	-51	-65	-68	-70	-71	-74	-75	-76	129
Marden and Staplehurst	145	23	-12	1	-21	-63	-69	-74	-78	-83	-87	-90	145
Maidstone Rural South East	140	16	-10	4	-14	-13	-15	-17	-17	-19	-20	-20	140
Maidstone	2,129	118	-6	114	74	80	61	55	53	41	33	28	2,129

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Maidstone Non-Selective	1,560	119	-102	-180	-135	-177	-194	-248	-250	-351	-254	-276	1,530
Maidstone and Malling Selective	785	-1	-5	-33	-24	-29	-30	-56	-57	-99	-59	-69	785



Primary District commentary

Overall, forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient places for Year R across the Plan period for the Maidstone district. However, there is pressure for places within the rural planning groups.

We also anticipate additional pressure from permitted developments across the town centre area of Maidstone. There are numerous projects scheduled and on-going to convert retail and office spaces into new residential dwellings under permitted development. This will potentially increase the demand for primary places across the Maidstone town centre area in excess of that indicated in the forecasts.

Maidstone West Planning Group

Housing developments on the Maidstone side of Hermitage Lane will necessitate up to 2FE of additional provision. Land has been secured that would enable a 2FE primary school to be established on a site to the East of Hermitage Lane. Based on the current rate of housing growth it is currently not expected to be required within the Plan period, this will continue to be reviewed as houses are occupied. The location on the boundary between Maidstone and Tonbridge and Malling means that it is important to consider demand arising from housing growth local to the site in both Maidstone North and East Malling when anticipating the timing of the school's establishment.

Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group

The planning group is initially forecast to be in surplus before moving to deficit from 2025/26. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed, we anticipate that there will be sufficient places in neighbouring planning groups to meet the currently forecast demand. However, we will seek to commission a 1FE expansion of Lenham Primary School should permanent additional places be required post 2025/26.

Marden and Staplehurst Planning Group

The planning group forecast indicates a deficit of 21 places in 2024 that gradually increases to circa 3 FE by the end of the Plan period. We will seek to commission 20 additional places at Marden Primary Academy from September 2024 and up to 40 additional places across other schools within the planning group by September 2025.

Coxheath Planning Group

There is initially a deficit of around 1 FE which increases to over 2 FE for the remainder of Plan period. The number of completions of new houses within the Coxheath area has been high in recent years, with more school aged children moving into the new homes than in some other new housing developments; this has generated increased demand for school places. There is a potential that the pace of housebuilding may slow, or the profile of new occupants may change as the developments move to a new phase; we will however ensure that there is a place for every child, although this may be challenging to achieve. We will seek to expand schools within the area that currently have a PAN of less than 1FE, in addition we will seek a full 1FE expansion of an existing school alongside temporary provision to ensure sufficient places.

Maidstone Rural South East Planning Group

The planning group is initially forecast to have a small surplus before moving to deficit of around 0.5 FE from 2024/25. We will monitor the situation carefully to assess whether additional provision is needed, however, we anticipate that there will be sufficient places in neighbouring planning groups to meet the demand.



Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Maidstone Borough, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the Maidstone non-selective planning group: Cornwallis Academy, The Lenham School, Maplesden Noakes School, New Line Learning Academy, School of Science and Technology, St. Augustine Academy, St. Simon Stock Catholic School and Valley Park School.

The planning group is in deficit throughout the Plan period, with initial fluctuation between a 180 place deficit in 2023-24, that drops to 135 in 2024-35 before returning to circa 6 FE. The longer-term forecast suggests that the deficit will increase as the Plan period progresses.

In recent years, schools within this planning group have admitted over PAN, creating additional capacity. We anticipate this pattern to continue and will accommodate some of the forecast deficit. However, up to 90 places temporary places via bulges provision within the existing Secondary schools will be needed to meet the demand for places in during the initial years.

In the medium term, it will be necessary to commission up to 3 FE of permanent provision from 2025-26 in existing Secondary schools to meet the ongoing demand within planning group. In the longer term we anticipate the need for the establishment of a new secondary school from 2027 and will seek to work with partners, including the DfE, to identify an appropriate location within the Borough over the coming year.

Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Maidstone selective planning group: Invicta Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School, Maidstone Grammar School for Girls and Oakwood Park Grammar School.

The forecasts for the planning group indicate that there will be a deficit of Year 7 places from 2023-24 and through the Plan period. To meet the demand for Year 7 places we have commissioned a 1 FE expansion of Maidstone Grammar School for Girls school from September 2023-24. In the longer term it may be necessary to expand an existing school by 1 FE. This will be dependent on the pace and school of housing development.



Planned Commissioning – Maidstone

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Maidstone West					New 2FE School on East of Hermitage Lane	
Lenham and Harrietsham Planning Group				1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		
Marden and Staplehurst		20 Places at Marden Primary Academy	Up to 40 permanent Places			
Coxheath	6 places at Yalding CoE Primary School	Up to 50 temporary places	1 FE permanent expansion of existing school Up to 30 temporary places	1FE permanent expansion of existing school		
Maidstone Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Up to 90 temporary Year 7 places in existing schools	Up to 3 FE expansion within existing schools		Establishment of new 6FE secondary school	
Maidstone and Malling Selective Planning Group				1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		



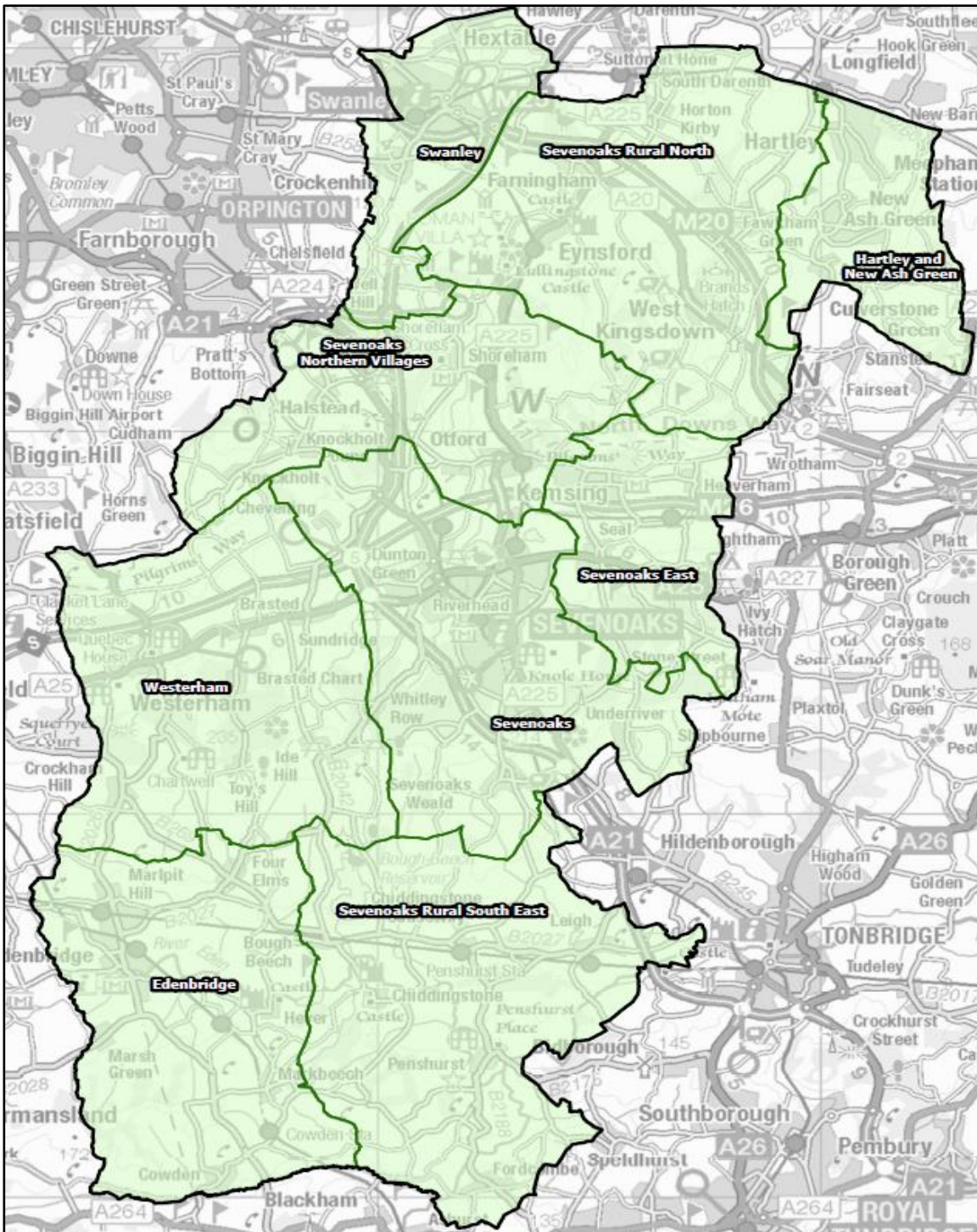
7.13 Sevenoaks

District Summary

- The birth rate in Sevenoaks declined from 2018 to 2020, albeit the rate was above the County and National averages. In 2021 the rate rose considerably and returned near to the 2018 rate. The number of births has followed a similar pattern with a drop from 2018, before a recovery in 2021.
- There are surplus Year R places in the district across the Plan period. KCC will seek to establish local admission arrangements to enable schools to manage numbers, where surpluses may appear excessive.
- Sevenoaks District Council is expected to publish a new local plan over the next 18 months that will indicate building a significant number of new dwellings in the years up to 2035. Prior to the publication of the new plan, new housing development sites are being identified with one legacy site (Fort Halstead) being progressed before the new plan is published. Another site has also been identified in Sevenoaks Quarry. Both Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry sites have the potential for a new Primary School if the demand for new provision indicates a need.
- The Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group is forecast to have a deficit of Year 7 secondary places throughout much of the Plan period, although the deficit tails off towards the end of the period.
- The Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective group is forecast to have sufficient Year 7 places until September 2025 when a small deficit (fewer than 10 places) is identified for two years. In 2027, the demand accelerates and persists for every subsequent year.
- The West Kent Selective group is forecast to move from a deficit up to 2FE throughout much of the Plan period to small surpluses from 2030 onwards.



Map of the Sevenoaks Primary Planning Groups



Sevenoaks Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning group	School	Status
Swanley	Crockenhill Primary School	Community
	Downsview Community Primary School	Community
	Hextable Primary School	Community
	High Firs Primary School	Community
	Horizon Primary Academy	Academy
	St. Bartholomew's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mary's CE Primary School (Swanley)	Voluntary Aided
	St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled

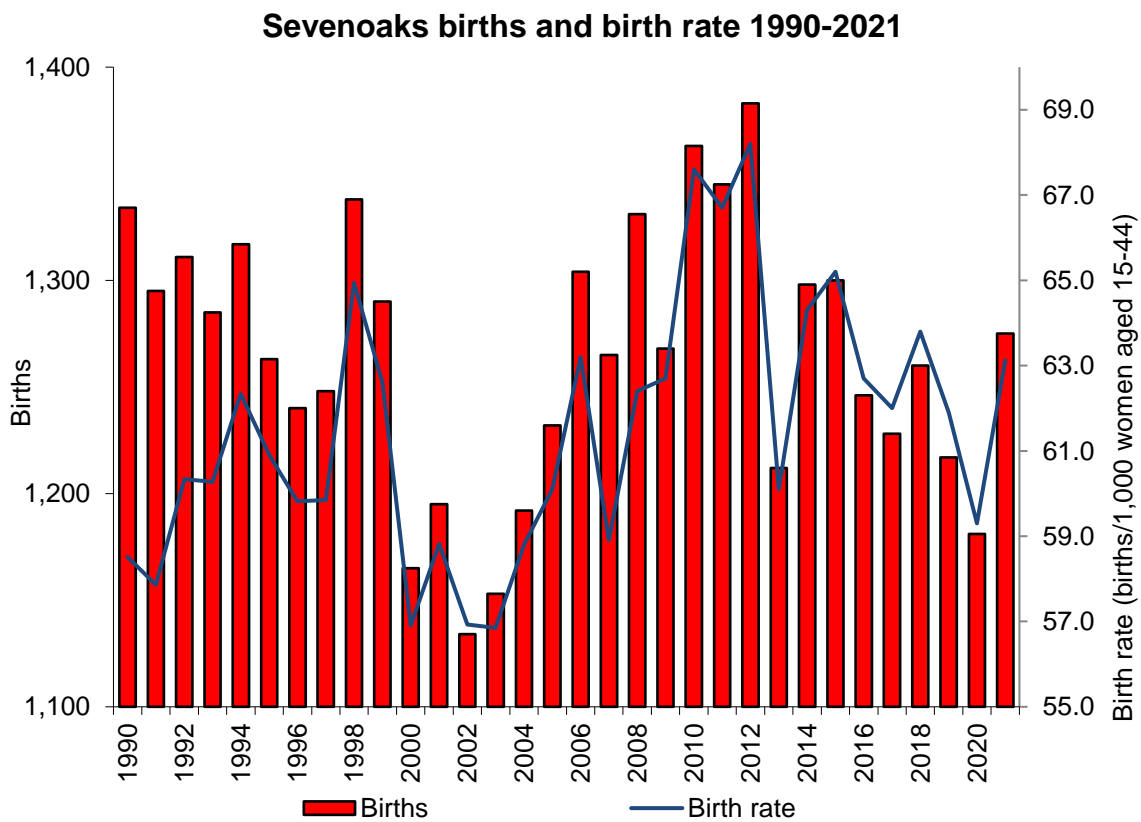
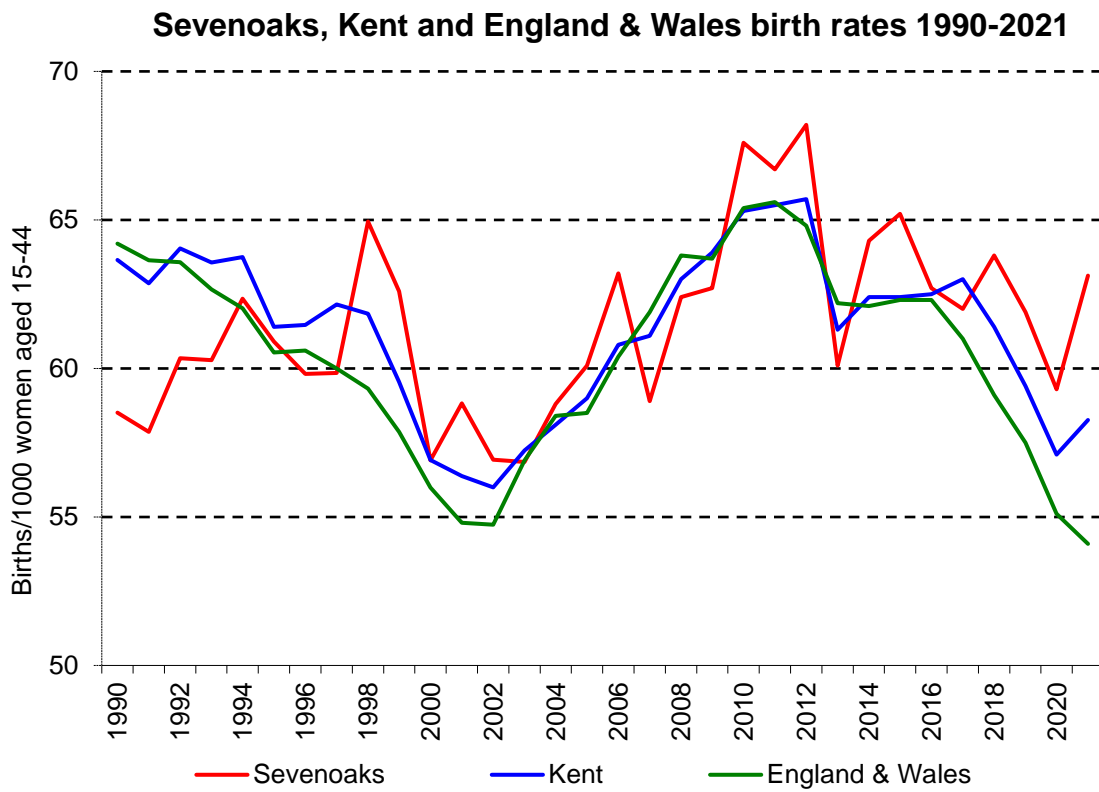


Planning group	School	Status
Sevenoaks Rural North	Anthony Roper Primary School	Foundation
	Fawkham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Horton Kirby CE Primary School	Academy
	West Kingsdown CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Hartley and New Ash Green	Hartley Primary Academy	Academy
	New Ash Green Primary School	Community
	Our Lady of Hartley RC Primary School	Academy
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	Halstead Community Primary School	Academy
	Otford Primary School	Community
	Shoreham Village School	Community
	St. Katharine's Knockholt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks East	Kemsing Primary School	Community
	Seal CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Lawrence CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sevenoaks	Amherst School	Academy
	Chevening St. Botolph's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Dunton Green Primary School	Community
	Lady Boswell's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Riverhead Infant School	Community
	Sevenoaks Primary School	Community
	St. John's CE Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Thomas' RC Primary School (Sevenoaks)	Academy
Weald Community Primary School	Community	
Westerham	Churchill CE Primary School (Westerham)	Voluntary Controlled
	Crockham Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Ide Hill CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Sundridge and Brasted CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Edenbridge	Edenbridge Primary School	Academy
	Four Elms Primary School	Community
	Hever CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Sevenoaks Rural South East	Chiddingstone CE School	Academy
	Fordcombe CE Primary School	Academy
	Leigh Primary School	Community
	Penshurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided



Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.



Sevenoaks Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 cap acit	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 cap acit
Swanley	305	19	23	5	45	22	20	19	16	15	15	15	305
Sevenoaks Rural North	135	25	17	20	21	-3	-2	0	2	5	7	10	120
Hartley and New Ash Green	150	1	-3	21	28	0	3	7	11	15	20	24	150
Sevenoaks Northern Villages	130	36	35	38	40	36	35	35	34	35	37	38	130
Sevenoaks East	102	20	10	18	24	7	7	6	6	6	6	7	102
Sevenoaks	390	56	32	53	100	86	81	77	72	68	64	60	390
Westerham	117	42	28	29	31	34	33	33	33	32	32	31	117
Edenbridge	135	49	-7	-6	16	-4	-4	-5	-5	-6	-7	-7	105
Sevenoaks Rural South East	83	14	24	13	11	19	19	19	19	20	20	20	83
Sevenoaks	1,547	262	160	191	317	197	194	192	190	191	195	198	1,502

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 cap acit	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 cap acit
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective	1,200	9	41	9	40	-6	-9	-45	-88	-103	-123	-87	1,260
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	585	-50	-31	-1	-27	13	-22	2	7	-26	9	40	610
West Kent Selective	1,265	-19	-63	-39	-15	0	-53	-28	-2	-48	13	59	1,235



Primary District commentary

The Year R forecast indicates that no additional new Primary capacity is needed. If the levels of surplus forecast persist it could lead to individual schools facing viability issues, if their intakes are significantly reduced for a prolonged period. KCC is working with schools across the district to monitor the situation and to take mitigating action where necessary.

However, forecasts do not take into account the housing development that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) has approved, prior to the publication of its new Local Plan, and that the new Sevenoaks District Local Plan is due. Two sites in Fort Halstead and Sevenoaks Quarry will create demand for Primary places. KCC is in discussion with Sevenoaks District Council on how best to accommodate this.

Where there is the potential for demand to overtop capacity, for example, in Edenbridge, such demand currently looks as if it can be accommodated in adjacent planning groups. This situation will be monitored and may be re-assessed following publication of the Local Plan.

Sevenoaks Rural North

There is currently a surplus for September 2023 and 2024, but this becomes a small deficit for years 2025 and 2027. Locally, the primary schools in the planning group would have the capacity to take additional numbers through bulge or temporary expansion, if required.

Edenbridge Planning Group

There will be a small deficit in Year R places over the next three years in the Edenbridge planning group. The capacity of the primary schools in the planning group have recently been reduced and so capacity could be rapidly increased should this become necessary.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two non-selective and one selective Secondary planning groups that are fully or partially within Sevenoaks District. Planning groups are determined by a variety of factors, including established pupil to school travel patterns and means that in many cases it is appropriate for planning group to cross district or borough boundaries to reflect travel to school patterns in those areas. See appendix 13.2 for the secondary planning group maps.

Sevenoaks has a traditional had a shortfall in capacity for both selective and non-selective with a number of students who are resident in Sevenoaks, with students travelling out of the district to attend selective or faith education. However, in 2021 the completion of the new satellite of Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys provided both boys and girls (via the existing Weald of Kent Grammar School satellite) grammar places on the Wildernesse Site in Sevenoaks.

Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group

There are seven schools in the Dartford and Swanley non-selective planning group: Dartford Science and Technology College, Ebbsfleet Academy, Inspiration Academy, Leigh Academy, Orchards Academy, Stone Lodge School and Wilmington Academy.

Demand remains manageable without any intervention until 2027, when the demand will be at least 1.5FE. This demand increases to 3FE for subsequent years. The new secondary school, Stone Lodge School, which opened in September 2019 is now admitting the full 8FE in the lower year groups.

A new all-ability secondary school, within the Ebbsfleet Garden City development (on the Alkerden campus), is due to open in September 2024, initially offering 4FE of non-selective provision. This school is being commissioned to provide places for the increased student population, primarily from the new housing. In the medium term, this school will expand to its



maximum capacity of 8FE, the timing of which will be subject to the demand from new housing, but will likely be from 2026.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knowle Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

Forecasts indicate fluctuating demand for Year 7 places throughout the Plan period, with deficits of just under 1 FE forecast in 2024-25, 2026-27 and 2029-30, but small surpluses in the remaining years. We have commissioned the permanent expansion of Wrotham School to 210 PAN. We will also work with existing schools to offer bulge provision of up to 30 places to meet the deficits indicated.

There is pressure on Year 7 places until 2027. This fluctuates between 0 and 1FE for the duration of the forecast period. The reason for this demand is twofold. Firstly, it is a consequence of the rising primary school rolls from previous years in Sevenoaks district. Secondly, the amount of capacity available outside Sevenoaks district (Surrey and East Sussex) has been reducing over the last few years.

There are three issues in this planning group that need to be carefully managed. The first is the issue of the Local Plan, which has been explained above. The second is that KCC has concerns about whether sufficient funding will be made available to build or expand secondary provision. This is because Sevenoaks District Council is a CIL charging authority. New school funding via Section 106 funding and CIL does not provide sufficient funding to meet the costs of a new school. The third issue is linked to the second, in that suitable sites for a new secondary school are challenging to identify; or if available, are not in the best place to manage existing or new demand.

However, should the Sevenoaks Local Plan be agreed in the near future, additional housing will see this need increase. Feasibility studies are being undertaken to ensure the Council can react if this happens. No decision can be made until the Local Plan is published, but it is possible that the solution lies in Edenbridge where there is a site that could be available for a new secondary school.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits across all barring the final 2 years of the forecast period. It is anticipated that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Special Educational Needs

Demand for special school places, for all categories remains high. KCC needs to commission a new 250 place special school for Profound Severe and Complex Needs in 2025. A site has been identified in Sevenoaks District and feasibility studies are underway.

Given the nature of Special Schools and the distances that students travel to receive an appropriate education, the provision is being designed to cater for students in the whole North Kent area.

It is acknowledged that there are no Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRP) in Sevenoaks District. KCC is currently conducting a review of SRP provision across Kent. Should needs be



identified, KCC will ensure new provision is commissioned, where possible, throughout the Plan period.



Planned Commissioning – Sevenoaks

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Dartford and Swanley Non-Selective Planning Group		4FE new provision at Alkerden		4FE new provision at Alkerden		
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 2FE expansion	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places		Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places	
West Kent Selective				Up to 60 temporary places		
Special Schools			New 250 place PSCN school			



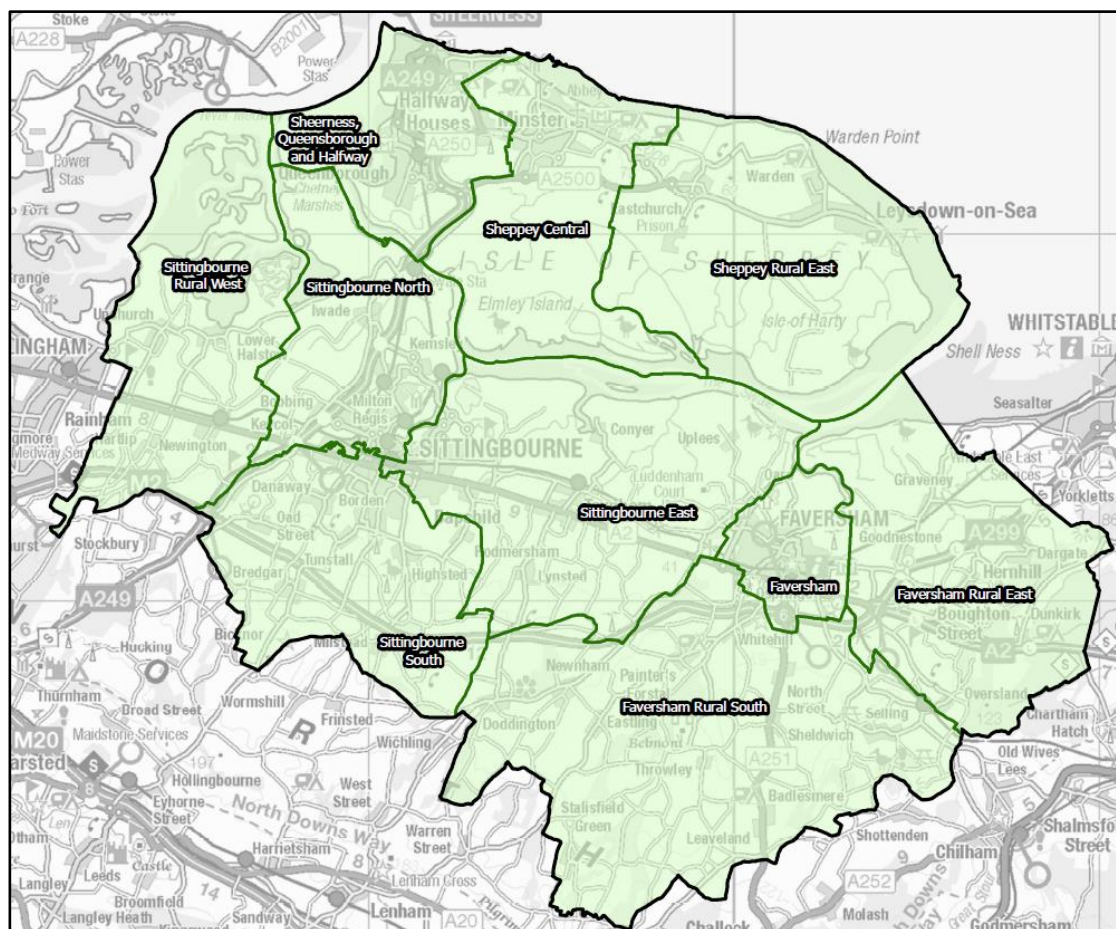
7.14 Swale

District commentary

- The birth rate for Swale remains slightly above the County average and follows a similar pattern with a sharply declining rate from 2016 to 2020, before a recovering moderately in 2021. The number of births recorded follows a similar pattern.
- We forecast surplus primary places across the District throughout the Plan period with up to 16.8% surplus Year R capacity in 2026/27, however there are variances across the planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we forecast a pressure in the Sittingbourne non selective planning group of up to -124 places (-16.2%).
- Swale Borough Council's Local Plan, adopted in July 2017, proposes a total of 13,192 new homes over the Plan period to 2031 with approximately 776 dwellings per year. During the 2010/11 to 2019/20 a total of 5,462 houses were completed (NET) with an average of 546 dwellings per year.
- Swale Borough Council is in the process of reviewing the current Swale Local Plan. The Local Plan Review will set out the planning framework for the borough for the period to 2038.



Map of the Swale Primary Planning Groups



Swale Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning groups	School	Status
Faversham	Bysing Wood Primary School	Academy
	Davington Primary School	Community
	Ethelbert Road Primary School	Community
	Luddenham School	Academy
	Ospringe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mary of Charity CE Primary School	Academy
Faversham Rural East	Boughton-under-Blean and Dunkirk Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Graveney Primary School	Academy
	Hernhill CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Faversham Rural South	Eastling Primary School	Community
	Selling CE Primary School	Academy
	Sheldwich Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne East	Bapchild and Tonge CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Canterbury Road Primary School	Community
	Lansdowne Primary School	Academy
	Lynsted and Norton Primary School	Academy
	South Avenue Primary School	Academy
	Sunny Bank Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne South	Teynham Parochial CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Borden CE Primary School	Academy
	Bredgar CE Primary School	Academy
	Milstead and Frinsted CE Primary School	Academy



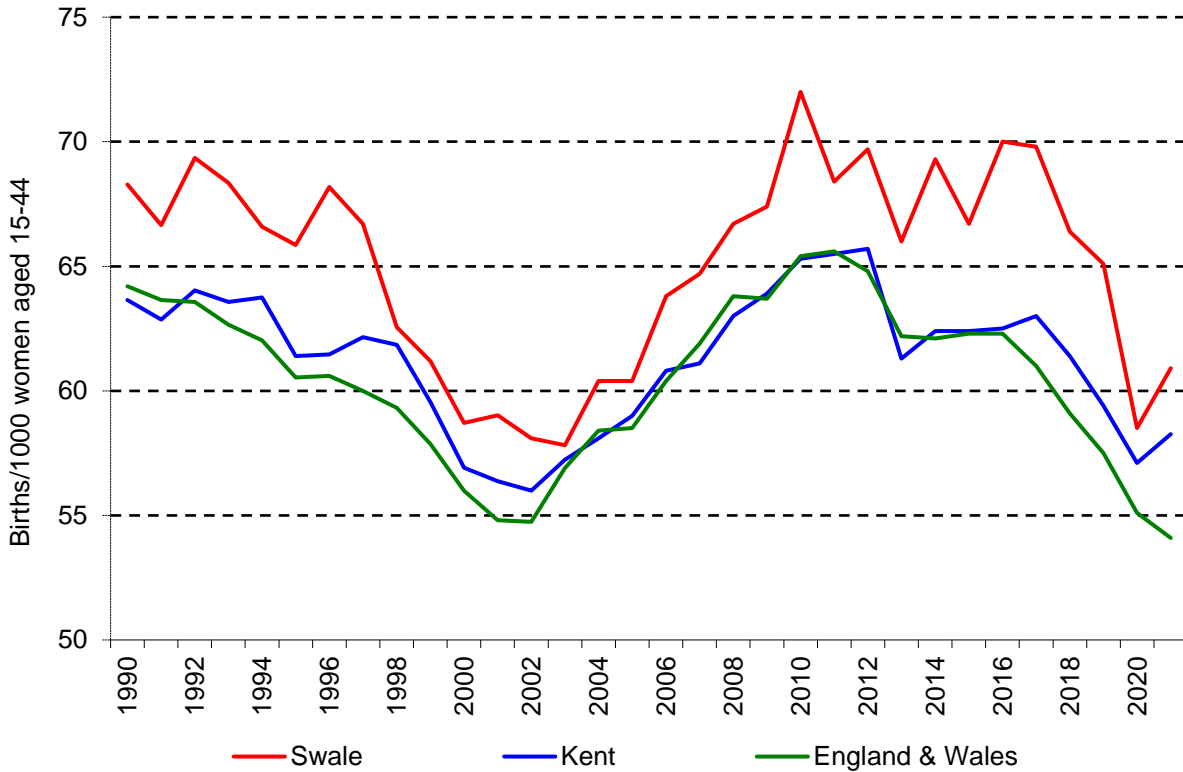
Planning groups	School	Status
	Minterne Community Junior School	Academy
	Oaks Community Infant School	Academy
	Rodmersham Primary School	Community
	St. Peter's RC Primary School (Sittingbourne)	Academy
	Tunstall CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Westlands Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne North	Bobbing Village School	Academy
	Grove Park Primary School	Academy
	Iwade School	Academy
	Kemsley Primary Academy	Academy
	Milton Court Primary Academy	Academy
	Regis Manor Primary School	Academy
Sittingbourne Rural West	Hartlip Endowed CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Holywell Primary School	Academy
	Lower Halstow Primary School	Community
	Newington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	Halfway Houses Primary School	Academy
	Queenborough School	Academy
	Richmond Academy	Academy
	Rose Street Primary School	Community
	St. Edward's RC Primary School	Academy
	West Minster Primary School	Community
Sheppey central	Minster in Sheppey Primary School	Academy
	St. George's CE Primary School (Minster)	Academy
	Thistle Hill Academy	Academy
Sheppey Rural East	Eastchurch CE Primary School	Academy



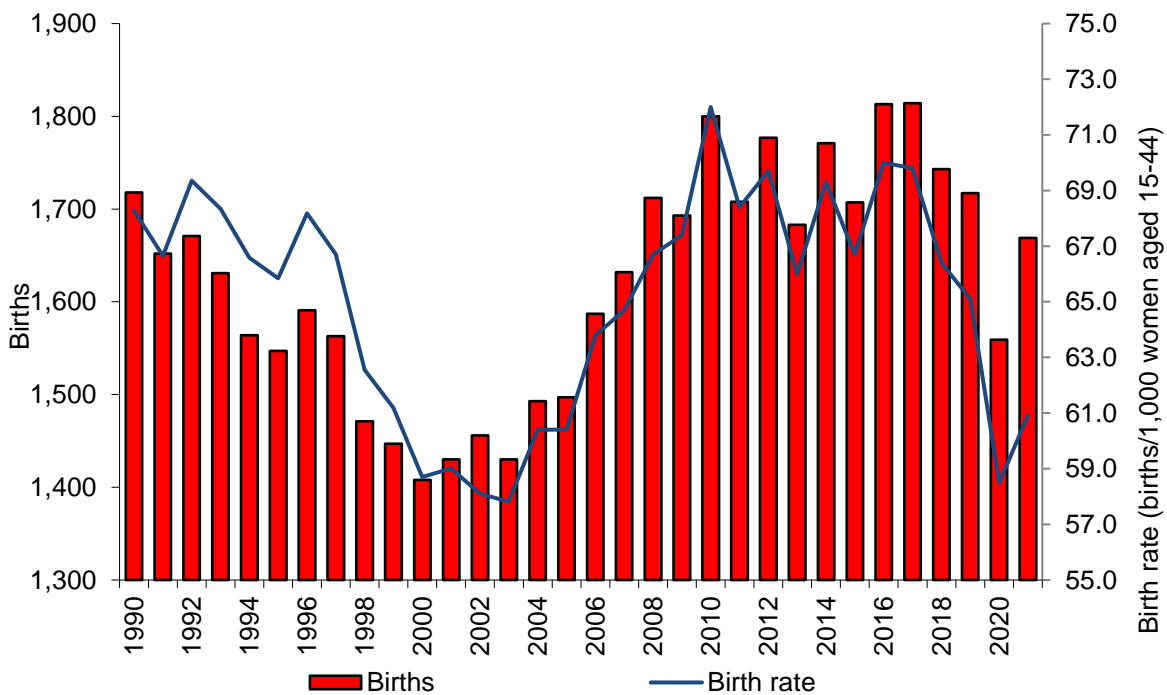
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Swale, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Swale births and birth rate 1990-2021



Swale Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Faversham	240	47	57	19	46	35	37	40	42	43	45	46	240
Faversham Rural East	75	3	-5	3	5	12	12	13	13	14	14	15	75
Faversham Rural South	75	24	12	14	14	17	17	18	19	19	20	20	75
Sittingbourne East	275	39	65	5	58	46	45	45	44	43	41	40	270
Sittingbourne South	300	2	-5	-12	32	23	24	24	23	22	20	19	300
Sittingbourne North	330	20	34	23	57	47	46	44	40	36	32	28	330
Sittingbourne Rural West	105	6	-20	-21	-31	-42	-43	-44	-45	-46	-46	-46	105
Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway	390	58	71	58	79	124	125	127	127	127	127	127	390
Sheppey Central	210	52	31	35	64	67	67	68	68	68	68	69	210
Sheppey Rural East	60	7	9	11	13	14	14	14	14	13	13	12	60
Swale	2,060	258	248	134	337	342	346	348	344	339	334	332	2,055

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Faversham Non-Selective	210	-14	0	-5	-7	1	11	-32	-10	-2	-33	-7	210
Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective	390	57	104	77	66	99	107	101	103	105	99	125	390
Sittingbourne Non-Selective	840	-2	-47	-103	-74	-80	-42	-124	-70	-74	-125	-21	765
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	615	-4	-55	-20	-12	-3	-19	-45	-14	-49	-36	-10	645
Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective	300	11	23	5	10	13	24	1	19	10	-1	34	300



Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that across Swale district there will be surplus capacity for Year R. Year R surplus capacity peaks at 348 places 16.8% (11.6FE) in 2027-28 for the district, however there are differences across the primary planning groups with place pressures in Sittingbourne Rural West and surplus capacity in Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway of 4FE from 2025.

Faversham Planning Groups

Across the 3 Faversham planning groups a surplus of places is forecast. Forecasts indicate up to 2FE of surplus capacity in Year R from 2024/25 and gradually increasing across the forecast period dependent on build out and occupation of local strategic developments. Once these developments start to occupy, it is likely that there will be a need for additional capacity to the east of Faversham as current spare capacity is to the west of the town. Feasibilities have been undertaken for the future expansion of St Mary's of Charity by 1FE to meet this need when required.

Sittingbourne East Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a slight pressure for Year R places in Sittingbourne East Planning Group in 2023/24. It then shows a surplus of place of up to 1.5FE across the Plan period. It is anticipated that new housing developments in the planning area will increase the pressure on places and it is proposed to expand Sunny Bank Primary School by 0.5FE to meet this need when it arises. A 1FE expansion of Teynham Primary School will be required when the proposed housing in the locality is built out and occupied.

Sittingbourne South Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a slight pressure for Year R places in Sittingbourne South Planning Group in 2023/24. It then shows a surplus of place of 1FE in 2024/25 and gradually reducing to 0.6FE. It is anticipated that new housing developments in the planning area and a 2FE new primary school will be needed later in the Plan period to serve the need from the Wises Lane development.

Sittingbourne North Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a surplus of between 0.8FE and 1.5FE across the Plan period. A new 2 FE primary provision as part of an all-through school is to be established later in the Plan period on the Quinton Road development to provide primary places for this development of 1,400 new homes.

Sittingbourne Rural West Planning Group

Forecasts show a deficit of places across the forecast period of up to of between 0.7FE and 1.5FE places, It is anticipated that surplus capacity in adjacent primary planning areas will provide sufficient places across the plan period.

Sheerness, Queenborough and Halfway, Sheppey Central and Sheppey Rural East Planning Groups

Forecasts indicate a surplus of places of between 3.5FE and 6.9FE across these three planning groups. Discussions will take place with the schools on managing this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable.

Secondary District Commentary

There are five planning groups within Swale district, or which cross the district boundary (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are non-selective (Faversham, Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne) and two selective (Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and Canterbury and Faversham). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.



Faversham Non-Selective Planning Group

The Abbey School is the only non-selective school in Faversham.

Forecasts indicate a pressure on places across the Plan period of up to 1FE place deficit for 2027. All the housing developments for Faversham identified in the current Local Plan are being built-out and a 1FE permanent expansion of The Abbey School will be required with a further 1FE of capacity potentially required to meet the need later in the forecast period as housing occupations increase.

Isle of Sheppey Non-Selective Planning Group

The Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy is the only non-selective school in the Isle of Sheppey planning group. It is a large wide-ability school operating on two sites.

Forecasts for Year 7 show a continuing surplus of places over the Plan period of between 2.5FE to 3.5FE. This surplus will help to address the deficit in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning area. The forecast surplus places are a direct result of the increasing number of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their education into Sittingbourne schools. This results in additional pressure on places in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group schools. We will continue to work with Oasis Academy Trust, DfE, Regional Direction, Swale Borough Council and local parties to address this issue.

Sittingbourne Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sittingbourne non-selective planning group: Fulston Manor School, The Westlands School and The Sittingbourne School.

Forecasts indicate that for Year 7 there is a fluctuating deficit of places over the Plan period. In 2023 forecasts shows a deficit of 103 (3.4FE) places decreasing to 42 (1.4FE) in 2026 but arising again to 124 in 2027.

The pressure showing in Sittingbourne is exacerbated by large numbers of pupils travelling off the Isle of Sheppey for their secondary education. Surplus capacity in Oasis Isle of Sheppey Academy will help to offset some of the deficit in Sittingbourne but will not meet all the need in 2024 and 2025 and options to provide temporary capacity are being discussed with local secondary schools.

Discussion on the transfer of the North Sittingbourne Quinton Road site for a new 6FE secondary School are continuing. It is likely any transfer will not take place until 2026 at the earliest.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Selective Planning Group

There are two Schools in the planning group, Borden Grammar School (Boys) and Highsted Grammar School (Girls).

Forecasts indicate small deficits in 2023, 2024 and 2027 with slight surpluses in 2022, 2025 and 2026. Both schools have an expansion project to increase their PANs by 1FE which is now reflected in the forecast and will provide sufficient capacity to meet local demand.

Canterbury and Faversham Selective Planning Group

There are four schools in the Canterbury and Faversham selective planning group: Barton Court Grammar School, Simon Langton Girl's Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys and Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School.



Forecasts indicate a pressure of between -0.1FE and 1.5FE for Year 7 places across the Plan period. Options will have to be considered to address the additional forecast need with either temporary expansion or a permanent expansion with local schools.

Planned Commissioning – Swale

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Faversham			1FE expansion of St Mary's of Charity			
Sittingbourne East			1FE expansion of Teynham PS	0.5FE expansion of Sunny Bank PS		
Sittingbourne South					2FE new Primary School at Wises Lane	
Sittingbourne North					2FE new provision on Quinton Road	
Faversham Non-Selective		1FE expansion of Abbey School.			2 nd 1FE expansion of Abbey School.	
Sittingbourne Non-selective	Up to 75 Year 7 places	Up to 30 Year 7 places	Up to 30 Year 7 places		6FE new provision on Quinton Road	
Canterbury and Faversham Selective	Up to 30 temporary places	Up to 30 temporary places		Up to 30 temporary places	1FE expansion	
Special Schools		120 place Special Secondary School for SEMH with ASD	40 place expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite.	140 place Special School PMLD/ASD		
Satellites		20 place secondary satellite of Meadowfield				



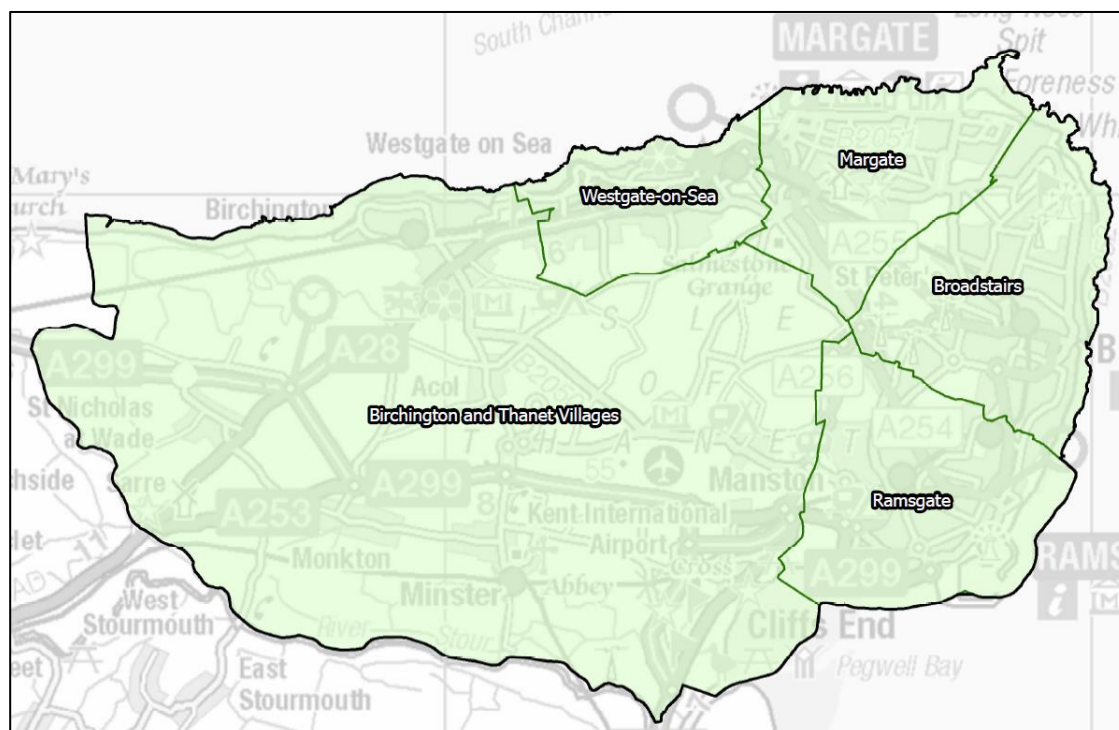
7.15 Thanet

District commentary

- The birth rate in Thanet has fallen steadily since 2017. It continued to decrease in 2021 and the rate dipped below the County average, although it was still greater than the national average (57.1% versus 54.1%). The number of births fell in 2021 and had similar pattern of decreased since 2017.
- We forecast surplus Primary school places across the district throughout the Plan period. Within the Secondary sector, Thanet Non-Selective planning group shows surplus capacity across the plan period whilst there is a small deficit of selective places throughout the Plan period for the Thanet Selective group.
- Thanet District Council's Local Plan to 2031, adopted on the 9 July 2020, includes the provision of 17,140 additional dwellings in the period up to 2031. During the period 2010/11-2018/19 a total of 3,793 houses were completed with an average of 379 per annum. The Council is carrying out a partial update of the Thanet Local Plan, including the topics recommended by the previous Local Plan Inspectors. The council plan to publish a draft Plan in 2022 which will set out the detailed policies and proposals for the area up to 2040.



Map of the Thanet Primary Planning Groups



Thanet Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Group	School	Status
Margate	Cliftonville Primary School	Academy
	Drapers Mills Primary Academy	Academy
	Holy Trinity and St. John's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Northdown Primary School	Academy
	Palm Bay Primary School	Academy
	Salmestone Primary School	Academy
	St. Gregory's RC Primary School	Academy
Westgate-on-Sea	Garlinge Primary School	Community
	St. Crispin's Community Infant School	Community
	St. Saviour's CE Junior School	Voluntary Controlled
Ramsgate	Chilton Primary School	Academy
	Christ Church CE Junior School	Academy
	Dame Janet Primary Academy	Academy
	Ellington Infant School	Community
	Newington Community Primary School (Ramsgate)	Community
	Newlands Primary School	Academy
	Priory Infant School	Community
	Ramsgate Arts Primary School	Free
	Ramsgate Holy Trinity CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Ethelbert's RC Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Laurence-in-Thanet CE Junior Academy	Academy
Broadstairs	Bromstone Primary School	Foundation
	Callis Grange Infant School	Community
	St. George's CE Primary School (Broadstairs)	Foundation
	St. Joseph's RC Primary School (Broadstairs)	Academy
	St. Mildred's Infant School	Community



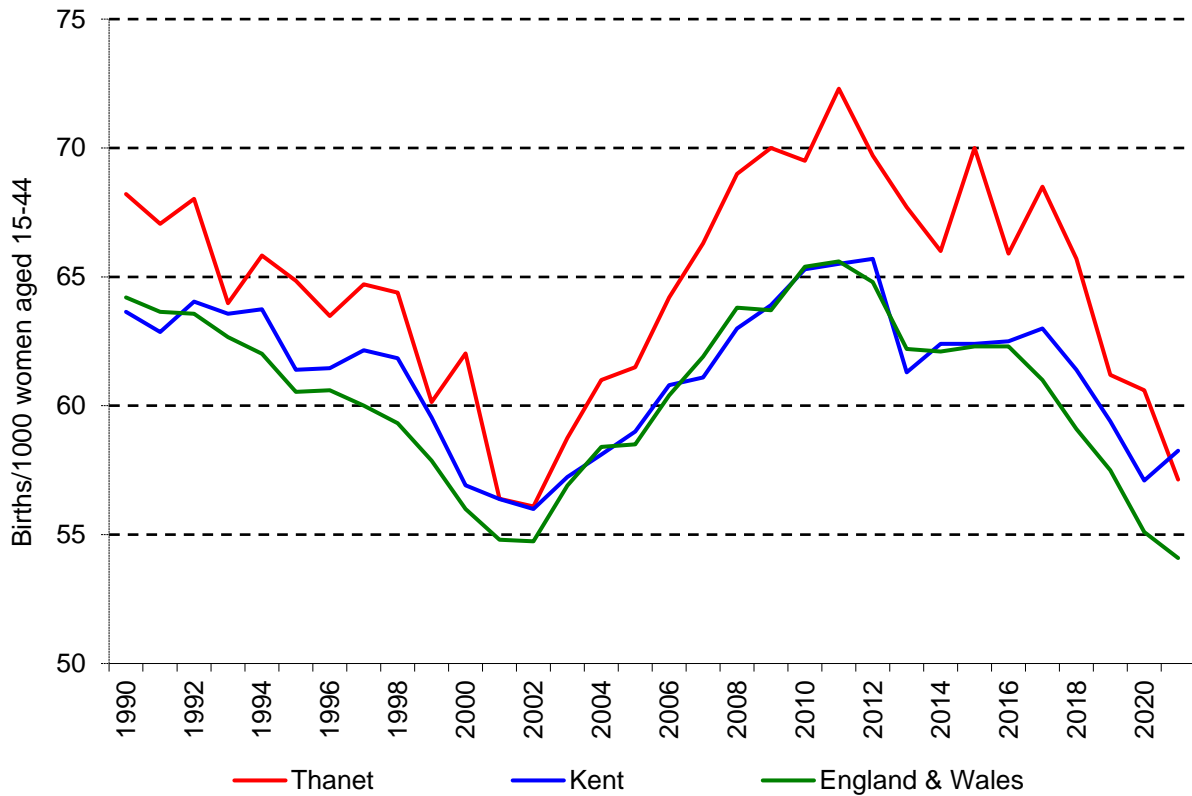
Planning Group	School	Status
	St. Peter-in-Thamet CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Upton Junior School	Academy
Birchington and Thanet Villages	Birchington CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Minster CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Monkton CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Nicholas at Wade CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



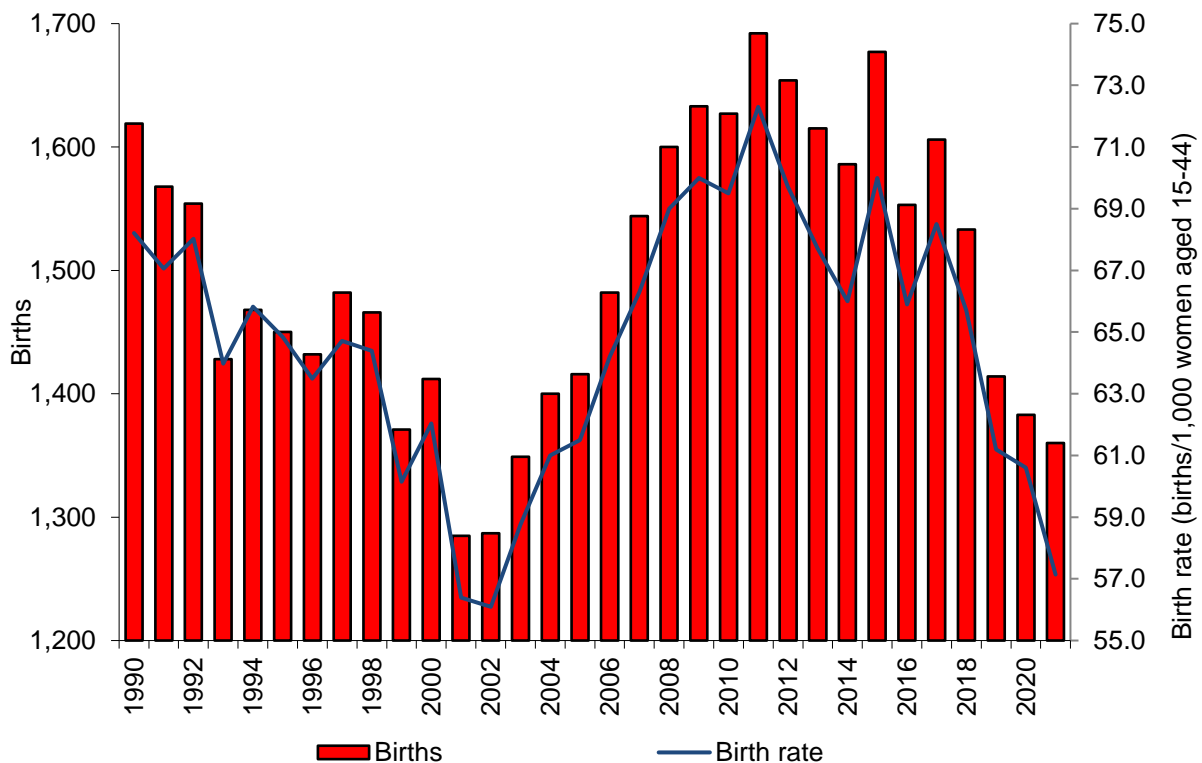
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the district and the number of recorded births.

Thanet, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Thanet births and birth rate 1990-2021



Thanet Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Margate	435	17	43	86	94	101	104	105	107	108	108	108	435
Westgate-on-Sea	210	37	37	52	46	47	49	49	51	52	52	53	210
Ramsgate	540	124	74	68	44	134	141	147	154	157	160	163	495
Broadstairs	330	25	5	27	23	29	31	32	34	34	33	33	330
Birchington and Thanet Villages	165	6	-1	3	-2	-16	-16	-17	-17	-17	-18	-18	165
Thanet	1,680	209	158	236	205	296	308	315	330	333	336	340	1,635

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Thanet Non Selective	1,129	40	17	3	14	33	11	31	53	28	124	108	1,129
Thanet Selective	345	-6	-17	-19	-15	-10	-19	-12	0	-13	13	12	345



Primary District Commentary

Forecasts indicate that Thanet district has surplus capacity for Year R places across the Plan period. Surplus capacity ranges between 6.8FE to a peak of 11FE in the forecast period.

There are significant differences within the individual planning groups, with Margate, Ramsgate showing high levels of surplus capacity and Westgate-on-sea and Broadstairs showing spare capacity whilst Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group has a deficit of places.

Margate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period with between 2.8FE and 3.5FE. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable. This could be through further reduction in Published Admission Numbers.

Ramsgate Planning Group

Forecasts indicate surplus Year R places across the Plan period with between 1.5FE and 5FE. Discussions will take place with the schools on options to manage this surplus to ensure all schools remain viable. This could be through reduction in Published Admission Numbers.

Planned developments within Birchington and Thanet Villages planning group will help to reduce the current deficit as a number of the villages border the Ramsgate planning group. A new 2FE primary school to serve the Manston Green Development will be required long term 2028-2031 if all housing proceeds as set out in the Local Plan.

Birchington and Thanet Planning Group

Forecasts indicate a pressure on Year R places in this planning group from 2023. From 2025 it is predicted to have a sustained deficit of 0.5FE. A surplus of places in the adjacent planning groups will support this short-term pressure. Any future pupil pressures arising from the developments closer to the borders of the Margate and Ramsgate planning groups could initially be accommodated in Margate and Ramsgate schools due to the surplus capacity available. New primary school provision to serve any new housing developments may be required later in the Plan period in Birchington and/or Westgate-on-Sea if all housing comes forward as set out in the Local Plan.

Secondary District Commentary

There are two planning groups which are within Thanet district, one non-selective and one selective (See appendix 13.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Thanet Non-Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the Thanet non-selective planning group: Charles Dickens School, Hartsdown Academy, King Ethelbert School, Royal Harbour Academy, St George's CE Foundation School and Ursuline College.

Forecasts indicate a rising surplus of places across the plan period from 3 places in 2023 to 1FE (30 places) in 2025 until 2027.

Thanet Selective Planning Group

There are two schools in the Thanet selective planning group: Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School and Dane Court Grammar School.

Forecasts indicate a slight fluctuation of deficit places of around 0.5FE from 2023 until 2027.



The two grammar schools in Thanet are both situated on sites where expansion is unlikely to be achievable due to site, planning and highway constraints. Discussions will take place with Thanet schools to identify options for meeting this slight pressure.

Planned Commissioning – Thanet

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Ramsgate					2FE new primary at Manston Green	
Birchington and Thanet Villages					2FE new primary in Birchington	
Thanet Selective	Up to 15 Year 7 places	Up to 15 Year 7 places	Up to 15 Year 7 places	Up to 15 Year 7 places		



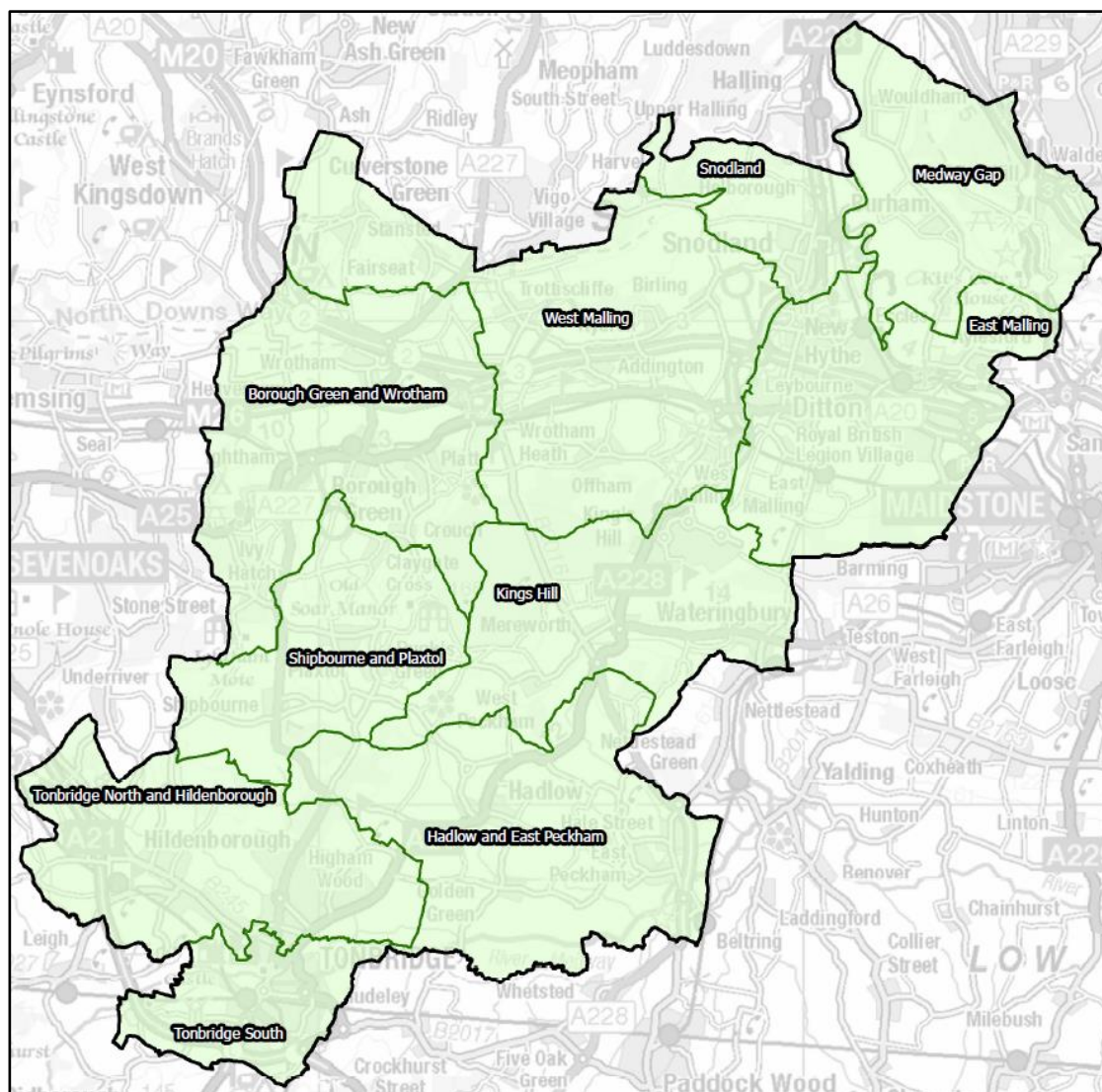
7.16 Tonbridge and Malling

Borough commentary

- The birth rate for Tonbridge and Malling is slightly above the County average but has followed a similar pattern, dropping significantly from 2018 to 2020, before increasing slightly in 2021. The number of births also increased in 2021.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there is local place pressures within some planning groups which will need to be addressed. Within the secondary sector, we anticipate sufficient places during the Plan period for the Malling Non-Selective planning group and the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective but a deficit of places in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective selective group and the West Kent Selective planning group. Additional places will be required in these planning groups.
- On 13 July 2021, Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council withdrew their proposed Local Plan from public examination. The forecasts within this Plan incorporate consented housing proposals and remaining sites to be built out from the current Core Strategy. Any housing proposals from emerging Local Plans are not incorporated within the forecasts.



Map of the Tonbridge and Malling Primary Planning Groups



Tonbridge and Malling Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Tonbridge South	Bishop Chavasse CE Primary School	Free
	Royal Rise Primary School	Academy
	Slade Primary School	Community
	Sussex Road Community Primary School	Community
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	Cage Green Primary School	Academy
	Hildenborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Long Mead Community Primary School	Community
	St. Margaret Clitherow RC Primary School	Academy
	Stocks Green Primary School	Community
Hadlow and East Peckham	East Peckham Primary School	Community
	Hadlow Primary School	Community
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Plaxtol Primary School	Community
	Shipbourne School	Community
Kings Hill	Discovery School	Community
	Kings Hill School	Community
	Mereworth Community Primary School	Community
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Kings Hill	Academy



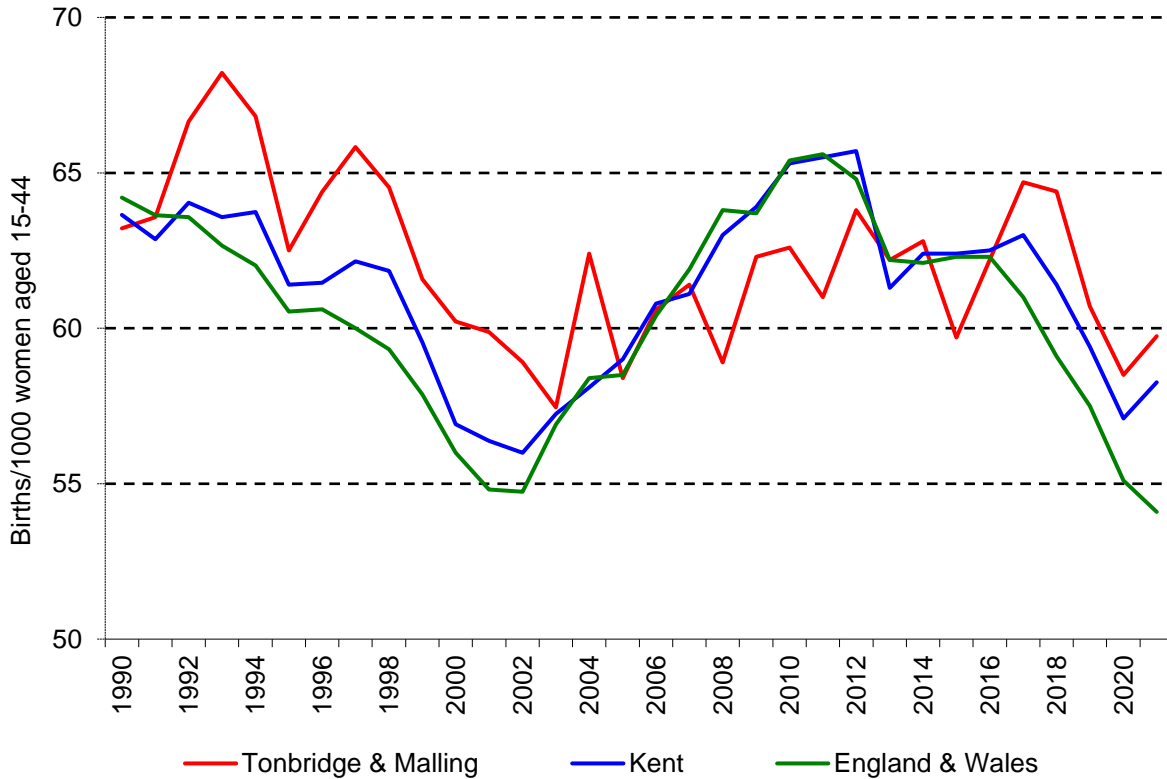
Planning Groups	School	Status
	Wateringbury CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Borough Green and Wrotham	Borough Green Primary School	Foundation
	Ightham Primary School	Community
	Platt CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. George's CE Primary School (Wrotham)	Voluntary Controlled
West Malling	More Park RC Primary School	Academy
	Offham Primary School	Community
	Ryarsh Primary School	Community
	Trottscliffe CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Leybourne Chase	Academy
	West Malling CE Primary School	Academy
East Malling	Brookfield Infant School	Community
	Brookfield Junior School	Community
	Ditton CE Junior School	Voluntary Aided
	Ditton Infant School	Foundation
	Leybourne St. Peter and St. Paul CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Lunsford Primary School	Community
	St. James the Great Academy	Academy
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Aylesford)	Voluntary Controlled
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Aylesford	Academy
Snodland	Snodland CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Katherine's School (Snodland)	Academy
	Valley Invicta Primary School at Holborough Lakes	Academy
Medway Gap	Burham CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Eccles)	Academy
	Tunbury Primary School	Community
	Wouldham All Saint's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



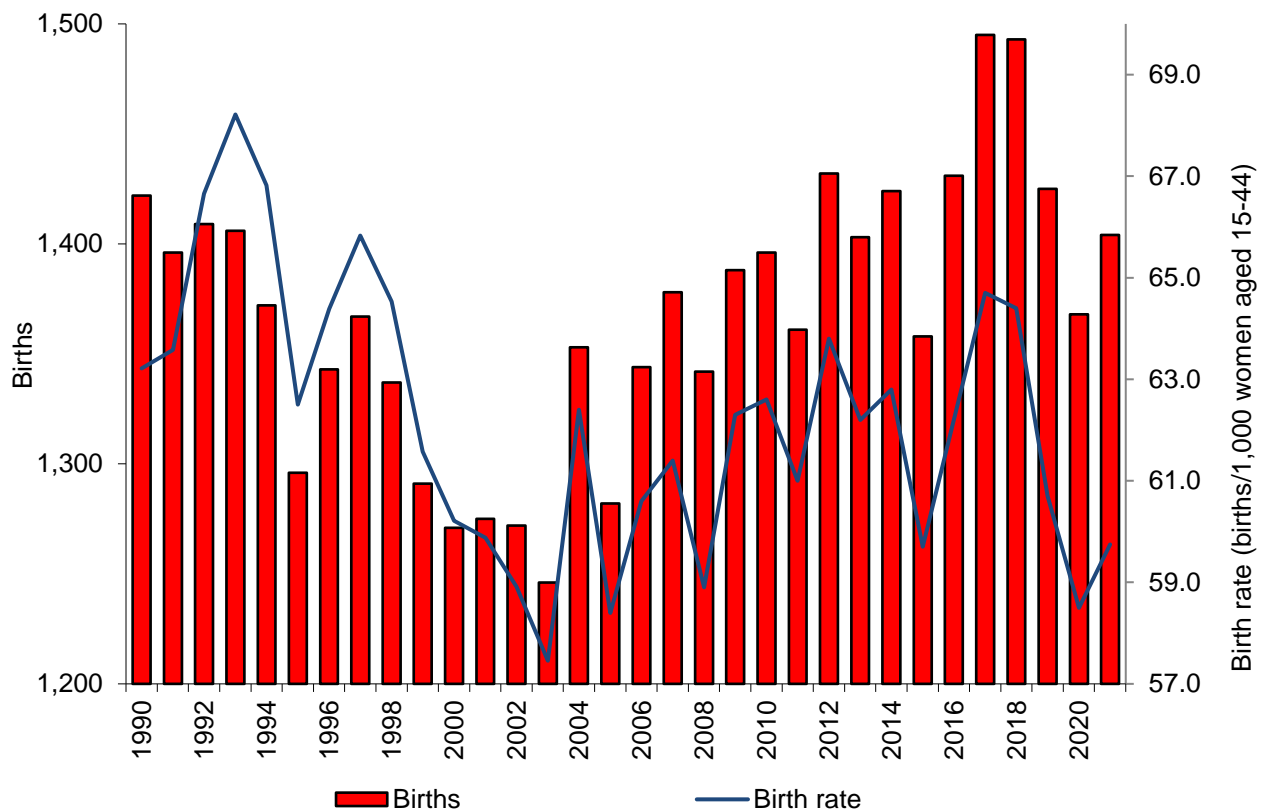
Birth Rate and Births Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tonbridge & Malling, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Tonbridge & Malling births and birth rate 1990-2021



Tonbridge and Malling Analysis – Primary

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Tonbridge South	210	9	-4	22	31	28	26	27	28	28	29	30	210
Tonbridge North and Hildenborough	300	70	25	47	61	69	69	70	72	72	73	75	270
Hadlow and East Peckham	60	18	6	14	20	15	15	15	15	16	16	17	60
Shipbourne and Plaxtol	23	-2	-4	-1	6	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-1	-1	23
Kings Hill	240	21	38	42	38	34	34	35	36	35	35	35	240
Borough Green and Wrotham	131	16	10	18	26	1	-2	-3	-5	-6	-7	-8	135
West Malling	162	7	-15	-11	-12	-15	-22	-27	-32	-37	-43	-48	162
East Malling	294	5	0	30	15	33	31	31	32	31	31	32	294
Snodland	180	30	31	28	29	41	40	39	39	38	38	37	180
Medway Gap	198	37	5	-12	-31	-30	-35	-39	-41	-45	-47	-49	198
Tonbridge and Malling	1,798	211	94	176	182	175	152	146	142	131	124	120	1,772

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Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Malling Non-Selective	540	108	101	81	79	93	109	64	87	67	80	62	543
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective	585	-50	-31	-1	-27	13	-22	2	7	-26	9	40	610
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,529	105	48	42	95	86	25	60	65	-8	75	91	1,584
West Kent Selective	1,265	-19	-63	-39	-15	0	-53	-28	-2	-48	13	59	1,235



Primary District Commentary

For primary education, the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period. However, there are local place pressures within some of the individual planning groups.

Shipbourne and Plaxtol Planning Group

There is forecast to be a very small deficit throughout the Plan period apart from in 2024-25 when there will be a small surplus. We will monitor the situation but would anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN.

Borough Green and Wrotham Planning Group

The planning group has surpluses forecast through to the 2025-26, but from 2026-27 onwards into the long term it is forecast to have a small deficit. We will monitor the situation and act appropriately nearer the time.

West Malling Planning Group

Forecasts for West Malling shows deficits throughout the Plan period for Year R and all years. The deficits are on average around 15 places through to 2027-28, before moving to around 1 FE deficit in the longer term. These deficits to 2027-28 be accommodated in the adjacent Kings Hill planning group.

Medway Gap Planning Group

The planning group is forecast to have a deficit through the Plan period, starting with a 12 place deficit in 2023-24 that moves to around 1 FE before increasing to around 1.5 FE for the longer term forecast. We will work with local schools to establish bulge provision before seeking a more permanent solution via the expansion of an existing school. The demand for school places within this group can be impacted by children resident in Medway, we will work with Medway Council when determining the most appropriate commissioning strategy for ensuring all children have a school place.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tonbridge and Malling Borough or which cross the Borough boundary (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). Three of which are non-selective. The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Malling Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the planning group: Aylesford School, Holmesdale School and Malling School. Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 across the Plan period.

Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group

There are three schools in the Sevenoaks and Borough Green non-selective planning group: Knowle Academy, Wrotham School and Trinity School.

Forecasts indicate fluctuating demand for Year 7 places throughout the Plan period, with deficits of just under 1 FE forecast in 2024-25, 2026-27 and 2029-30, but small surpluses in the remaining years. We have commissioned the permanent expansion of Wrotham School to 210 PAN. We will also work with existing schools to offer bulge provision of up to 30 places to meet the deficits indicated.



Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits across all baring the final 2 years of the forecast period. It is anticipated that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Planned Commissioning – Tonbridge and Malling

Planning Group	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	By 2026-27	Between 27-30	Post 2031
Sevenoaks and Borough Green Non-Selective Planning Group	Up to 2FE expansion	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places		Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places	Up to 30 temporary Year 7 places	
West Kent Selective				Up to 60 temporary Year 7 places		
Special School		50 place secondary PSCN special school satellite.				



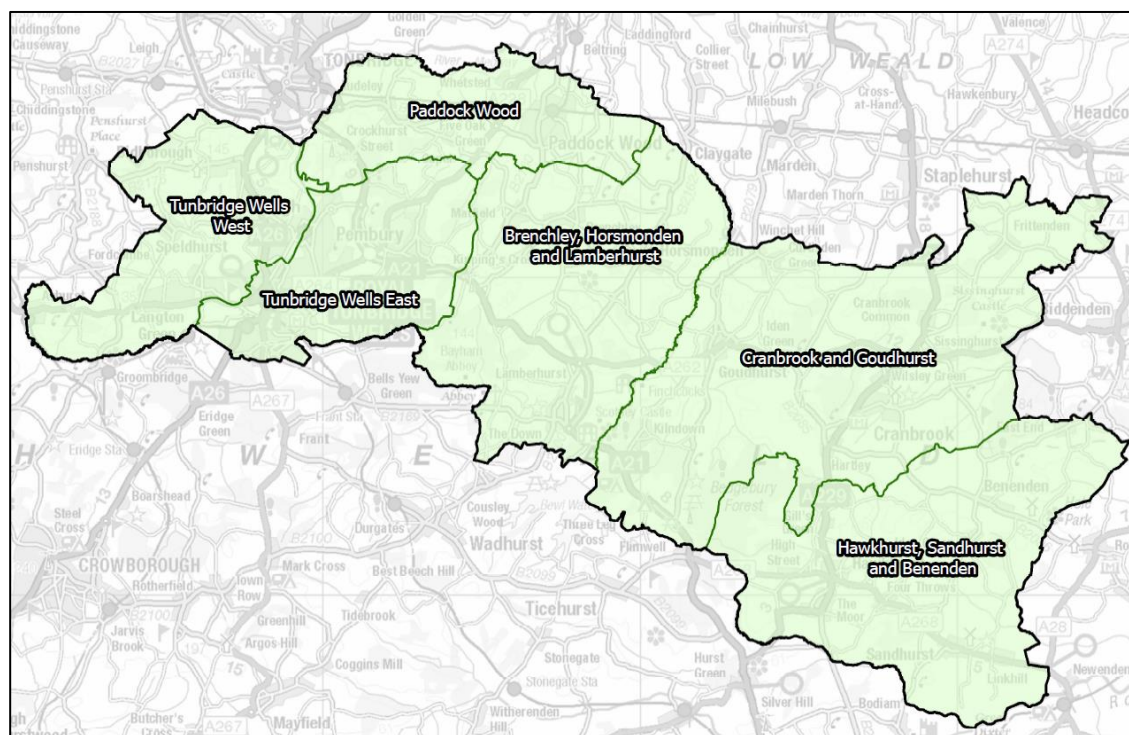
7.17 Tunbridge Wells

Borough Commentary

- The birth rate for Tunbridge Wells has declined in recent years but increased significantly in 2021 and was on par with the County average in that year. The number of recorded births had fallen incrementally for the previous 4 years, but similarly increased in 2021.
- We forecast sufficient primary school places across the Borough throughout the Plan period albeit there is local place pressure within the Cranbrook and Goudhurst and the Paddock Wood planning groups. Within the secondary sector, we anticipate there will be sufficient places during the Plan period within the Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective and the Cranbrook Selective groups. The forecast indicates a deficit of places for the Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective and the West Kent Selective planning groups.
- Consultation took place on Issues and Options for the new Local Plan in 2017 and on a Draft Local Plan in autumn 2019, a final proposed Local Plan is now undergoing independent examination and is expected to be adopted in early 2023. The assessed housing need for the Borough is 678 dwellings per annum, equivalent to some 12,200 additional homes over the plan period to 2038. We will continue working with the Borough Council to ensure sufficient education provision is provided for future housing growth. During the 5 year period 2015-16 to 2019-20 a total of 2473 houses were completed with an average of 494.6 per year, which is below the required average.



Map of the Tunbridge Wells Primary Planning Groups



Tunbridge Wells Primary Schools by Planning Group

Planning Groups	School	Status
Tunbridge Wells East	Broadwater Down Primary School	Community
	Claremont Primary School	Community
	Pembury School	Community
	Skinner's Kent Primary School	Academy
	St. Barnabas CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. James' CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Mark's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Peter's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	Temple Grove Academy	Academy
	Wells Free School	Free
Tunbridge Wells West	Bidborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Bishops Down Primary School	Community
	Langton Green Primary School	Community
	Rusthall St. Paul's CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Southborough CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Speldhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	St. Augustine's RC Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Academy
	St. John's CE Primary School (Tunbridge Wells)	Voluntary Controlled
	St. Matthew's High Brooms CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Paddock Wood	Capel Primary School	Community
	Paddock Wood Primary School	Academy
Branchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	Branchley and Matfield CE Primary School	Academy
	Horsmonden Primary School	Academy
	Lamberhurst St. Mary's CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	Colliers Green CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
	Cranbrook CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled



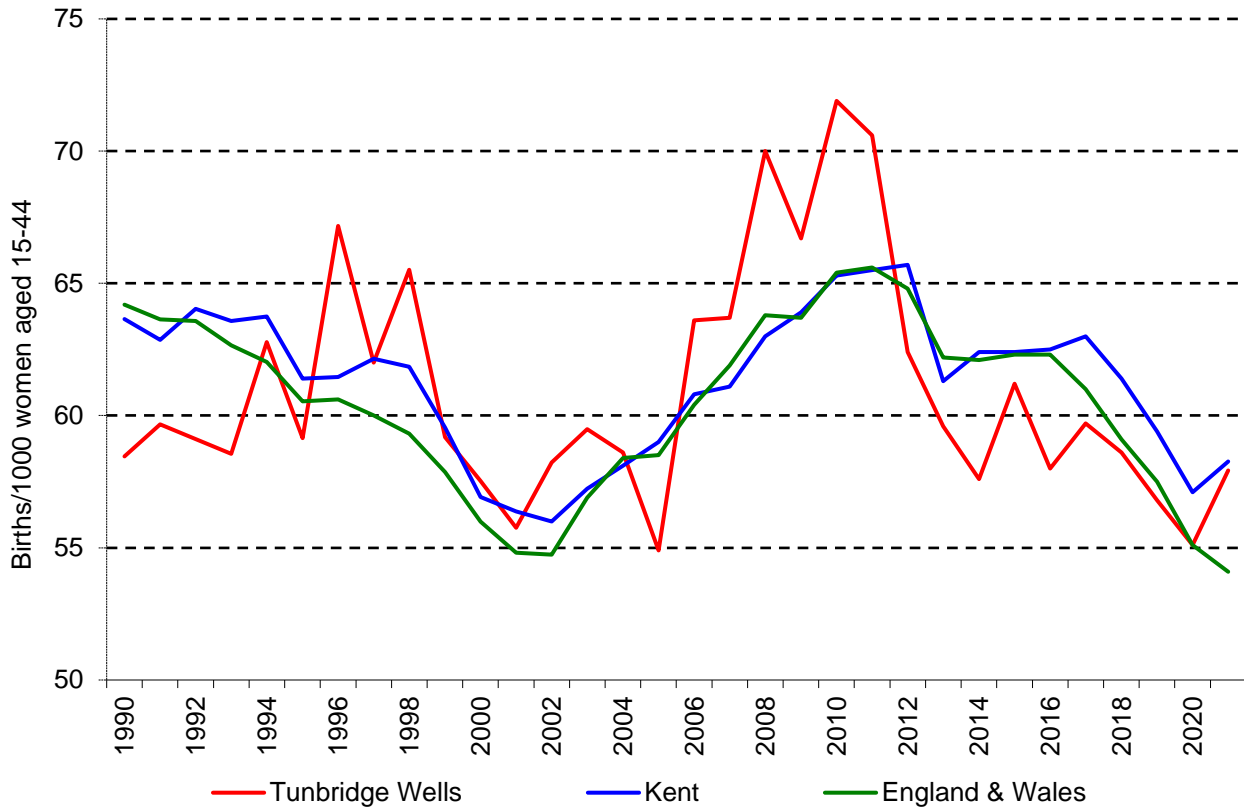
Planning Groups	School	Status
	Frittenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Goudhurst and Kildown CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sissinghurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Aided
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	Benenden CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Hawkhurst CE Primary School	Voluntary Controlled
	Sandhurst Primary School	Community



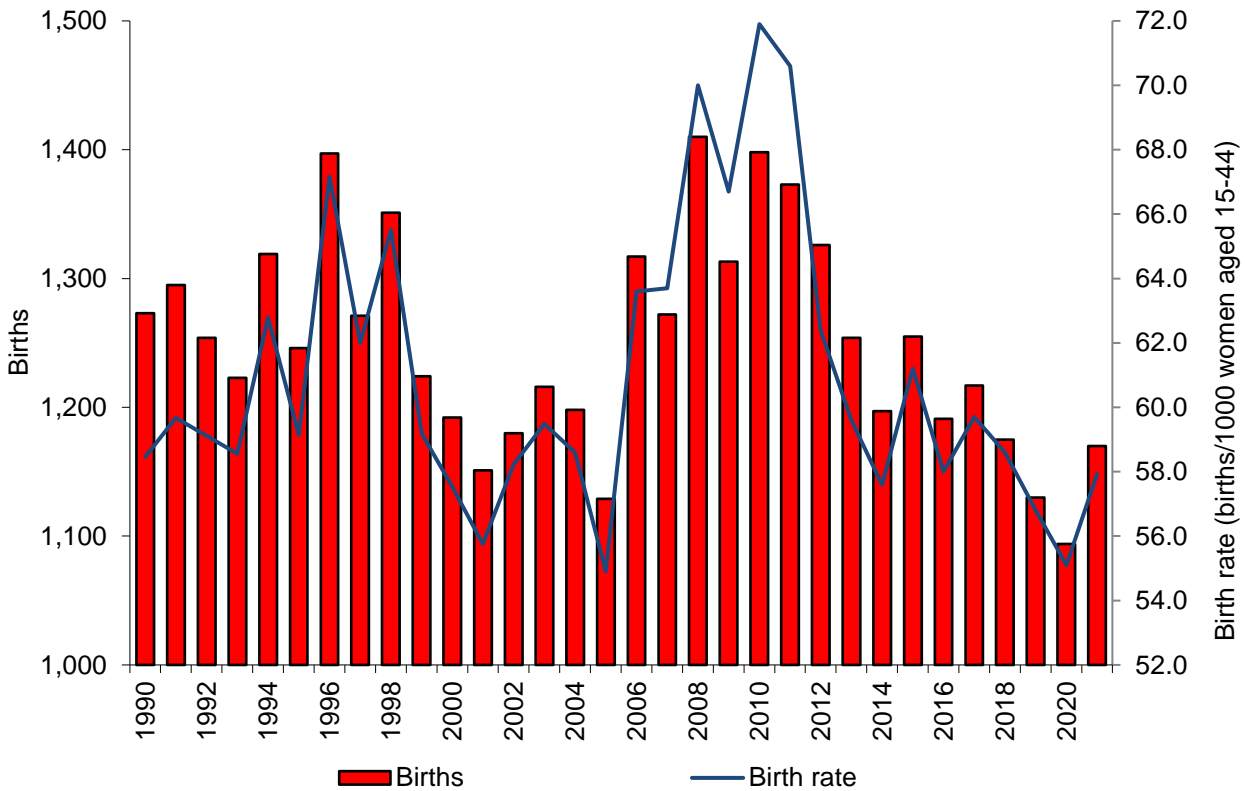
Birth Rate Analysis

The charts below set out the birth rates for the Borough and the number of recorded births.

Tunbridge Wells, Kent and England & Wales birth rates 1990-2021



Tunbridge Wells births and birth rate 1990-2021



Tunbridge Wells Forecasts

Primary - Year R Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Tunbridge Wells East	450	36	35	63	69	71	72	74	75	75	75	75	450
Tunbridge Wells West	465	51	28	28	25	63	66	68	70	71	72	73	435
Paddock Wood	120	24	3	5	-11	-2	-3	-3	-3	-4	-4	-5	120
Brenchley, Horsmonden and Lamberhurst	90	8	7	10	12	5	5	6	6	7	8	8	90
Cranbrook and Goudhurst	111	-1	-24	-16	-14	-30	-31	-31	-31	-31	-31	-30	111
Hawkhurst, Sandhurst and Benenden	90	19	18	11	9	7	8	8	10	11	12	13	90

Secondary - Year 7 Surplus/Deficit Capacity if No Further Action is Taken

Planning Group name	2021-22 capacity	2021-22 (A)	2022-23 (F)	2023-24 (F)	2024-25 (F)	2025-26 (F)	2026-27 (F)	2027-28 (F)	2028-29 (F)	2029-30 (F)	2030-31 (F)	2031-32 (F)	2031-32 capacity
Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective	540	151	-7	-56	-17	-39	-59	-66	-63	-90	-67	-90	360
Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective	1,529	105	48	42	95	86	25	60	65	-8	75	91	1,584
West Kent Selective	1,265	-19	-63	-39	-15	0	-53	-28	-2	-48	13	59	1,235
Cranbrook Selective	60	-3	-5	19	24	31	26	17	19	11	12	12	90



Primary District Commentary

For primary education the overall forecasts indicate sufficient places to meet demand across the Plan period for Year R and all primary years. There is local place pressure within the Paddock Wood and Cranbrook and Goudhurst planning groups

The Year R surplus in Tunbridge Wells town (Tunbridge Wells East and West planning groups) is forecast to be circa 15%; depending on the distribution of this surplus between schools it may necessitate adjustment to the PANs of individual schools in order to ensure class sizes remain financially viable.

Paddock Wood Planning Group

There is forecast to be small deficits throughout the Plan period apart within the planning group. We will monitor the situation but would anticipate that the deficits will be accommodated in the neighbouring planning groups or within one of the small schools within the planning group offering over PAN.

Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group

The forecast indicates that there will be deficits of around 15 places in the early years of the Plan period and then a 1 FE deficit for the remainder of the plan period. We will seek to provide sufficient capacity within the planning group through additional temporary provision in those schools with a PAN of less than 1FE from 2022-24 and will seek to permanently expand one school within the group by 1FE from September 2025.

Secondary District Commentary

There are four planning groups which are within Tunbridge Wells Borough or which cross the Borough boundary, two non-selective and two selective (See appendix 12.2 for the non-selective and selective planning group maps). The commentary below outlines the forecast position for each of the planning groups.

Tenterden and Cranbrook Non-Selective Planning Group

Following a substantive decision by the Secretary of State for Education to close High Weald Academy on 31 August 2022, this is a single school planning group containing Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre.

The Closure of High Weald Academy and the decision by the Tenterden Schools Trust to reduce the published admissions number of Homewood School from 390 to 360 places has led to forecast deficits across the forecast period. The level of deficit is expected to fluctuate, with a low of -17 in 2024-25, before moving up to around -2 FE in the medium term forecast.

We anticipate that the additional places added at existing Ashford Schools for September 2023, the opening of Chilmington Green Secondary School off-site and additional places in Tunbridge Wells will provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the pupils. It should also be noted that following High Weald Academy's closure, travel to school patterns in the area may change and will be monitored through future iterations of the Plan.

Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells Non-Selective Planning Group

There are eight schools in the planning group: Hadlow Rural Community School, Hayesbrook School, Hillview School for Girls, Hugh Christie Technology College, Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Mascalls Academy, Skinners' Kent Academy and St. Gregory's Catholic School.

Forecasts indicate that there will be sufficient Year 7 places across the Plan period. It should be noted that these forecasts do not incorporate the impact of housing growth associated with



unconsented or unallocated development outside of an adopted Local Plan, therefore future strategic housing growth may have a significant impact over and above the forecast need.

West Kent Selective Planning Group

There are six schools in the planning group: Judd School, Tonbridge Grammar School, Weald of Kent Grammar School, Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School and Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys.

The forecast indicates that there will be fluctuating deficits across all baring the final 2 years of the forecast period. It is anticipated that these forecast deficits will be met through commissioned bulge provision in existing schools where necessary or own admission authorities offering over their PAN. We will keep the need for additional permanent capacity under review.

Cranbrook Selective Planning Group

There is only one school in the Cranbrook selective planning group: Cranbrook School. We forecast sufficient Year 7 and Years 7-11 places throughout the Plan period.

Planned Commissioning – Tunbridge Wells

Planning Group	By 2022-23	By 2023-24	By 2024-25	By 2025-26	Between 26-29	Post 2030
Cranbrook and Goudhurst Planning Group				1 FE permanent expansion of existing school		
West Kent Selective					Up to 60 temporary places	
Special Schools		50 place secondary PSCN special school satellite.				



8. Commissioning Special Educational Needs

8.1 Duties to Provide for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the responsibility to improve services, life chances and choices for vulnerable children and to support families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Act extends the SEND system from birth to 25, where appropriate, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

The Equality Act 2010 and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 interact in several important ways. They share a common focus on removing barriers to learning. In the Children and Families Act 2014 duties for planning, commissioning, and reviewing provision, the Local Offer and the duties requiring different agencies to work together apply to all children and young people with SEN or disabilities.

The DfE (with DHSC) published (29 March 2022) the review of special educational needs and disabilities provision, and alternative provision, in England. The SEND review: right support, right place, right time started in 2019 and follows on from the reform of the SEND system under the Children and Families Act 2014. It proposes a single national SEND system and amongst other proposals is seeking feedback on the creation of new local SEND partnerships bringing together education, health and care partners with local government to produce local inclusion plans that set out how each area will meet the national standards. This would include geographically based local “families” of schools run by strong academy trusts and would include special schools and alternative provision.

8.2 Kent Overview

Kent’s ambitions for children and young people with Special Education Needs (SEN) is articulated through its SEND strategy 2021-2024 which has been jointly developed by KCC and the NHS in conjunction with children, young people, parents and carers, Kent PACT (Kent Parents and Carers Together) and other key stakeholders.

https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf

Greater detail on how these ambitions are supported is held within a number of supporting documents, with The County-Wide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) being a principle source:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/countywide-approach-to-inclusive-education>

and also the KCC mainstream schools core standards: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-strategies-and-policies/send-mainstream-core-standards>

Special Schools play an important role in the continuum of education provision in Kent. However, we also need to focus on developing the role of mainstream schools in the SEND education continuum and the role of Specialist Resource Provisions (SRPs) in enabling mainstream schools to successfully support more complex children and young people with SEND.

Nationally there has been a large increase in demand for EHCPs and greater numbers of children and young people being supported in Local Authority (LA) maintained special and independent special schools. In Kent this trend has grown even faster, and we are now an outlier nationally with a rate of growth in EHCPs well above national averages per 10,000 children. Kent has proportionately:

- fewer children identified as requiring SEN support in mainstream schools when compared



to the national average.

- fewer children with EHCPs educated in our mainstream schools compared to national and statistical neighbour averages.
- far more children placed in either maintained special or independent special schools or Specialist Resource Provisions than national and statistical neighbour averages.

Kent is now part of the DfE Safety Valve programme. The programme aims to support Local Authorities to reform their High Needs systems and SEND services for children and young people while ensuring services are sustainable.

As part of the work to reform our SEND system, we have commissioned a review of our continuum of provision for children and young people with SEND. The review will look at the role of SRPs; identify any gaps or over-provision; assess whether the reintroduction of Units in specific areas and for certain need types would help with sufficiency and stability of provision for some children with SEN; and will also involve looking at how our special schools can best serve the needs of their local communities of children with SEND. This review will inform plans that will be consulted on early in 2023 with a view to implementing any changes, taking a phased approach, from September 2023 onwards. This means that the commissioning set out in this plan will be limited in scope until the review has completed.

Over the next year (2022/2023), informed by the review of the continuum of provision and the targets agreed with the DfE as part of Kent's Safety Valve programme, we will be developing a detailed SEN Sufficiency Plan that will inform local education SEN placement sufficiency during the Plan period. It is intended that this will also reduce unsustainable costs driven by increasing numbers of children having to be placed in high-cost independent and non-maintained sector schools and provision. The Plan will provide an evidence base that will support the implementation of a graduated approach for supporting the education of children and young people with SEND. From the perspective of place planning for meeting additional needs, bringing Kent in line with other LAs regarding inclusion of children and young people with EHCPs within mainstream schools is a crucial component of this plan. This direction of travel is being supported through a detailed programme of work, including investment in whole school nurture, an Inclusion Leadership development programme and the development of locality-based resources and hubs.

8.3 Education Health and Care Plans

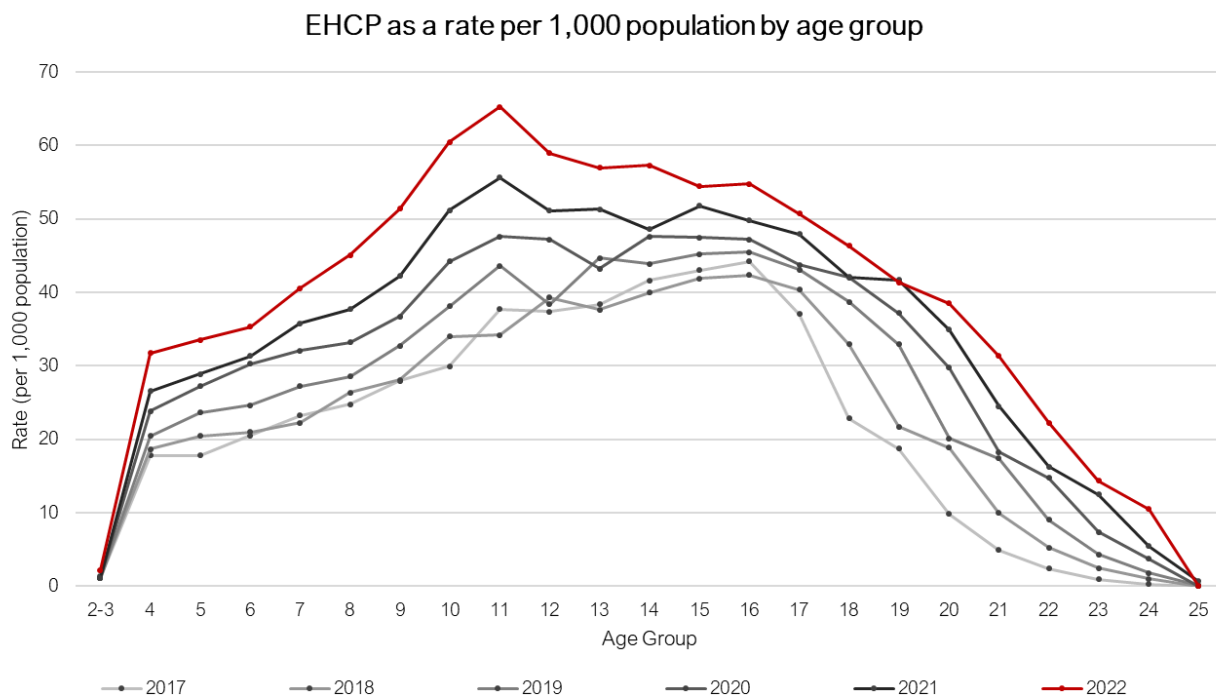
The LA is responsible for issuing and maintaining Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) for children and young people between the ages of 0-25 years. As of January 2022, this totalled 17,733 children and young people with an EHCP. This is an increase of 2,452 since January 2021, an increase of 16% compared to 9.9% in England.

8.4 Age Groups

Figure 8.1 shows the rate of children and young people with an EHCP per 1,000 population for the past 6 years. It shows that the proportion of the population aged 4 to 25 years with an EHCP continues to increase year on year.

Figure 8.1: Children and Young People with EHCPs rate with per 1,000 population 2017-2022

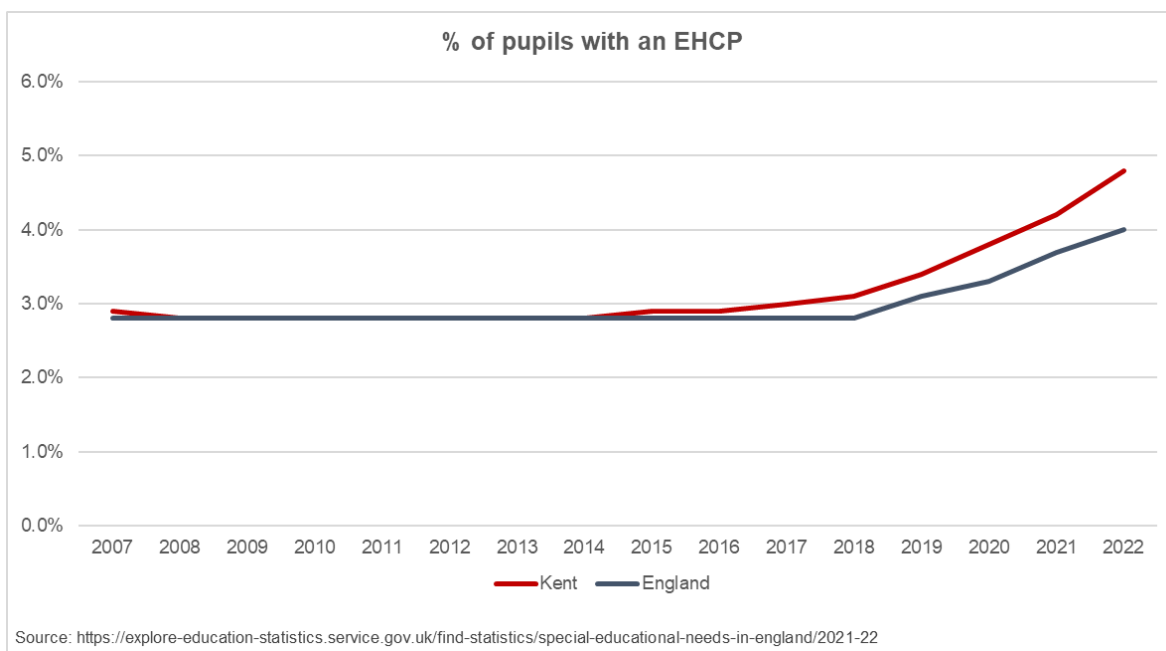




School Aged Pupils

Figure 8.3 shows the percentage of pupils in schools in Kent and England that have an EHCP. Kent has 4.8% of pupils compared to 4% for England. Whilst the rate of growth has increased nationally, Kent's increase started much earlier (2015) and has continued to increase at a greater rate.

Figure 8.3: Percentage of pupils with an EHCP Kent vs. England 2007-2022



Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/special-educational-needs-in-england/2021-22>

8.5 SEN Need Types

Figure 8.4 shows that Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) remains the most common primary need type with 42.4% of children and young people with an EHCP (0-25 years) having ASD identified as their primary need. This is a decrease from 42.7% in January 2021. The second highest in Kent is Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) at 20.2% an increase from 19% in January 2021.



Figure 8.4: EHCPs by age group and need type January 2022

SEN Need Type	Under 5	Aged 5-10	Aged 11-15	Aged 16-19	Aged 20-25	Total	%
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	241	2429	2630	1438	773	7511	42.4%
Hearing Impairment	9	66	62	47	29	213	1.2%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	26	314	365	233	163	1101	6.2%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	4	5	7	3	1	20	0.1%
Physical Disability	39	201	196	153	74	663	3.7%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	22	162	112	62	31	389	2.2%
Severe Learning Difficulty	29	232	318	182	162	923	5.2%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	13	725	1520	950	374	3582	20.2%
Specific Learning Difficulty	1	46	155	83	38	323	1.8%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	267	1219	772	399	248	2905	16.4%
Visual Impairment	10	30	27	18	18	103	0.6%
Kent Total	661	5429	6164	3568	1911	17733	

Source: SEN2 Return January 2022

8.6 Provision

Figure 8.5 shows the number of EHCPs by establishment type (0-25 year olds); In Kent 33.5% (31.1% in 2021) are educated in mainstream (including SRPs), whilst the England figure is 40.5%. In Kent 39.7% of children and young people with EHCPs are educated in a special school compared to 34.8% nationally.

To ensure the LA is able to provide sustainable high quality provision, the system needs to be realigned and the proportion of children and young people catered for within each provision type brought in line with national figures, so that specialist places are for only those children and young people with the most complex needs. A significant change programme is ongoing to improve mainstream school SEND inclusion capacity so staff are skilled, confident and able to educate and support more children with EHCPs. This realignment will be supported by the inclusive practices within Kent’s Countywide Approach to Education and will ensure a greater proportion of Kent’s children and young people will be supported and achieve their full potential in mainstream schools close to their homes.

To meet the need for specialist places across Kent, including meeting the needs in areas of population growth, a mixture of new special schools, expansions of existing schools and the establishment of satellites and SRPs will be commissioned across Kent. This plan will only reflect a proportion of our commissioning intentions at this stage as the full plan will need to be informed by the review of our continuum of SEND provision, reporting in the first half of 2023.

Figure 8.5: EHCPs by establishment type January 2022 (0-25 year olds)

Type of Establishment	2022		
	Number	Kent %	England %
Mainstream school including SRPs	5947	33.5	40.5
Special school inc. independent.	7041	39.7	34.8
Non-maintained early years	61	0.3	0.5
Further education	3311	18.7	16.6
NEET	285	1.6	2.6
Educated elsewhere	1082	6.1	3.8
Alternative provision/Pupil referral unit	1	0	0.8
Other	5	0	0.8
Total	17733		

Source: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/education-health-and-care-plans>



8.7 Specialist Educational Provision in Kent – Specialist Resource Provisions

SRPs are mainstream based provision, reserved for children with EHCPs. An SRP serves children that require higher levels of support than cannot be provided with a mainstream school's normally available resource, but whose needs are not so complex that special school placements are appropriate. The current total designated number of SRP places in Kent primary and secondary schools is 1,375. A total of 1,364 SRP places have been commissioned for September 2022, an increase of 90 places from September 2021. The designated number can differ from the commissioned number of places in any given year. The commissioned number reflects the need for places in that particular year and can be lower or higher than the designated number. A further 1110 places have been commissioned at Further Education colleges, which is an increase of 75.

8.8 Kent Special Schools and Satellite Provisions

Kent has a total of 21 LA maintained special schools, 1 special academy and 2 Free Schools. For the academic year 2022/23 Kent has commissioned 5,495 places in Kent special schools, an increase of 259 places. Of the 5,495 places, 680 are post-16. The current total designated number across Kent special schools as of September 2022 was 5,480.

Several Special schools have satellites which are classes hosted in mainstream schools and are run by staff from the special school. These offer an opportunity for pupils to learn alongside mainstream peers, with support from specialist teaching staff as appropriate. Pupils remain on the roll of the special school and are included in the designated number of the special school.

We have recently undertaken capacity assessments of all our special schools to identify future capacity requirements and also to inform potential for future expansion. This information will form part of the review of our continuum of provision and inform future capital investment.

8.9 Independent Non-maintained Provision

Where we are unable to provide a specialist school placement in a Kent maintained special school or SRP, placements are commissioned in the independent and non-maintained sector. As of January 2022, 1,681 Kent, resident pupils had places funded in an independent non-maintained school, an increase of 285 places (20.4%) from January 2021 and representing 9.5% of all EHCPs; 650 of these independent placements were for a primary diagnosis of ASD and 556 for SEMH.

8.10 Post 16 SEN provision

Most young people with SEND will complete their education alongside their peers by 18. However, some young people will require longer to complete and consolidate their education and training and the length of time will vary for each young person.

The Children and Families Act 2014 extended the special educational needs system to young people up to the age of 25. Consequently, since 2015 KCC has seen a large growth in the number of EHCPs for young people up to the age of 25. Figure 8.10 shows the growth by age from 2018 to 2022. In 2022 there were 2,578 young people with an EHCP who were aged 19 or over.



Figure 8.10: Growth in EHCP numbers by age 2018-2022

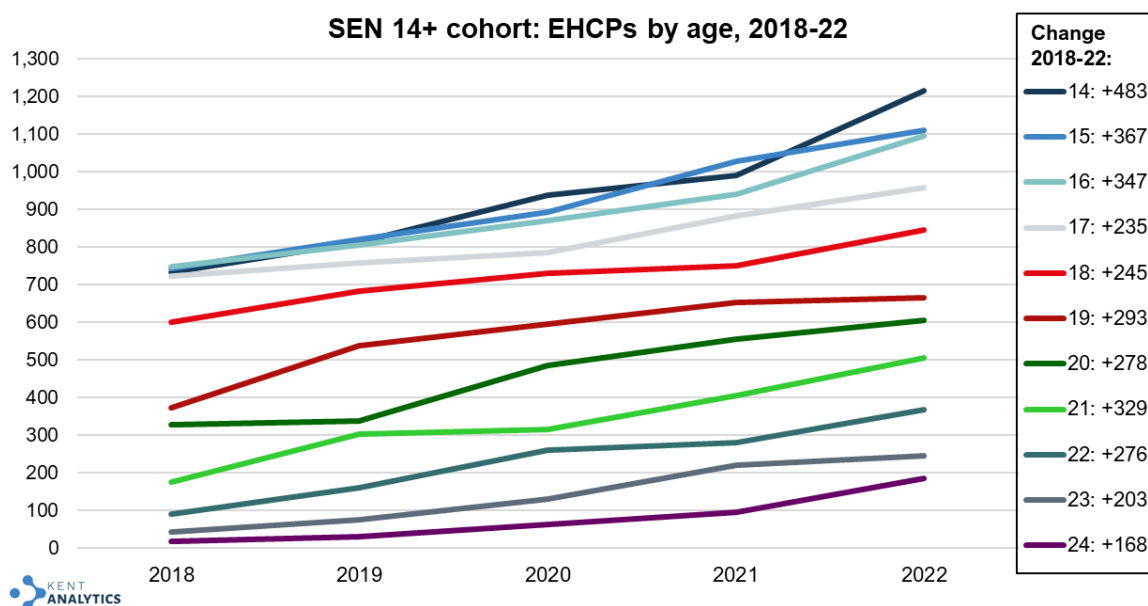


Figure 8.11 shows the growth in EHCPs by Category of SEND. There has been an overall growth in EHCPs of 112% or 1.807 young people between 2018 and 2022, with SEMH remaining the SEND category with the largest growth at 260%. This is followed by Specific Learning Difficulties, which has increased by 179%, Speech, Language and Communication Needs, up 125%, and ASD and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty both up 113%.

Figure 8.11: Growth in ECHPs for 18-25 year olds by need type, 2018-22

Category of SEND	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% change 2018-22
Autistic Spectrum Disorder	637	842	1,022	1,157	1,354	113%
Hearing Impairment	31	36	34	44	49	58%
Moderate Learning Difficulty	187	217	232	264	275	47%
Multi-Sensory Impairment	-	-	1	1	2	N/A
Physical Disability	98	120	118	134	145	48%
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	30	43	51	53	64	113%
Severe Learning Difficulty	185	209	245	251	244	32%
Social, Emotional and Mental Health	212	350	491	607	763	260%
Specific Learning Difficulty	28	37	45	65	78	179%
Speech, Language and Communication Needs	189	260	318	375	425	125%
Visual Impairment	20	23	27	25	25	25%
Total	1,617	2,137	2,584	2,976	3,424	112%

*After 2017 the SEND CODE 'Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development' (BESD) has not been used and the replacement term is 'Social, Emotional and Mental Health'. Therefore the two categories have been merged to calculate the % change.

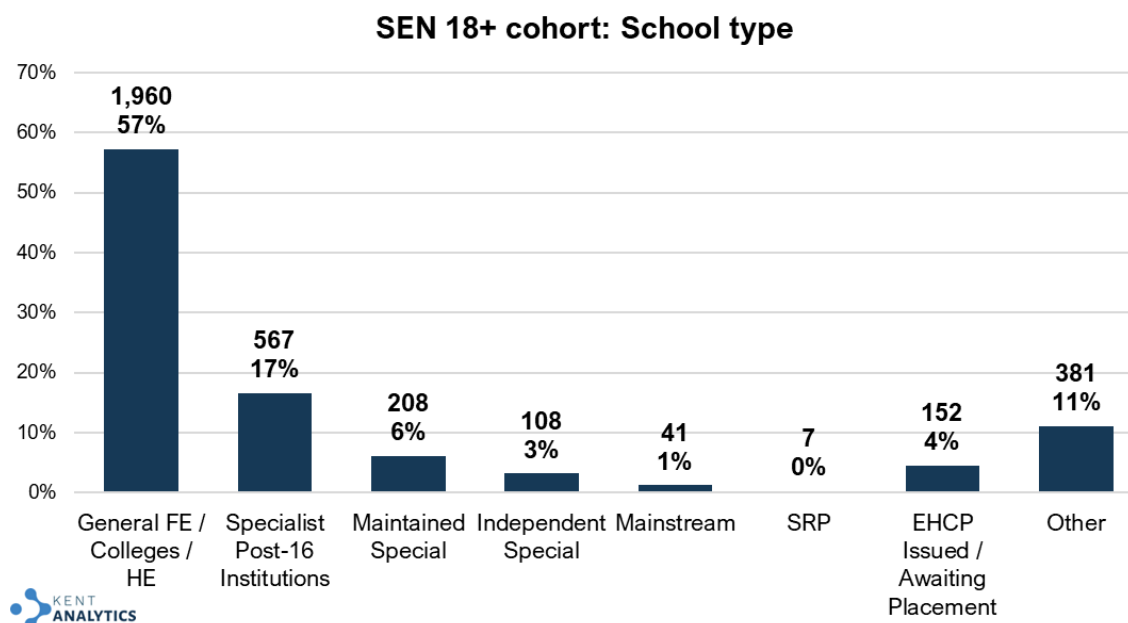
We know the number of young people wanting to remain in education is growing. However, planning post 16 SEND provision is complex. KCC continues its work to establish a robust evidence base to resolve any gaps in provision. Remaining at their secondary school for 6th Form is one of the choices that young people with SEND can make; 16 of Kent's maintained special schools have 6th form provisions. In 2022/2023 the number of young people with SEND joining 6th Form provision decreased from the previous year from 699 to 670.

Figure 8.12 shows where 18 to 25 years olds with an EHCP continued their education in the 2021-22 academic year. The largest proportion by far attended General Further Education (FE), college or Higher Education (HE), with smaller proportions at Specialist Post-16 Institutions (SPI),



Maintained Special Schools/Academies or a Non-maintained/Independent Special School (NMISS).

Figure 8.12: Where 18-25 year olds with an EHCP were educated in the 2021/22



FE, college or HE remains the most common type of provision attended across all the age groups. The proportion of young people attending these ranged from 41% among 18 year olds to 67% among those aged 22 years old. FE colleges provide a range of courses for post 16 to 19 SEND learners and are the most popular form of education for this group. However, due to a range of issues, FE colleges are not suitable in the first instance for many SEND learners and a proportion of learners drop out of college in the first semester.

SPIs provide an alternative to FE colleges offering more bespoke learning environments often for learners with additional or more complex needs. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of 18-25 year olds attending an SPI, rising from 409 (14% of the total cohort) in 2021 to 567 (17% of the total cohort) in 2022. Of the SPIs in 2022, the majority have a contractual relationship with KCC. Growth in SPI provision to this point continues to be largely organic and provider-led. To ensure we have full County coverage, we wish to work in partnership with prospective providers as there is the need for more targeted SPI provision in the County.

We continue to work with FE Colleges to ensure that we have good geographical coverage of the right courses at the right levels and that there are clear pathways and partnerships with alternate types of providers such as SPIs to meet the needs of learners with more complex needs or requiring a more bespoke package.

We expect that the number of EHCPs for young people over the age of 18 will continue to grow as the population bulge continues to work its way through secondary school and into Post 16 and Post 19, and without careful planning, demand could outstrip supply. In order to ensure sufficient quality Post 16 SEND provision, we will continue to build on our present work to develop a Post 16 to 19 SEND Strategy. We want to explore new ways of working, including potential collaborations between partner agencies and organisations, which are service intelligence and data-driven; so, we get the right provision in the right area to meet need.

8.11 Forecasts and Future Demands

The number of new EHCPs forecasted is population driven. It is produced by calculating the rates of new 0–25 year-olds with and EHCP by key population age groups, based on the 2021



EHCP figures. These rates are applied to the Kent population forecast figures to estimate the number of new EHCP for the next eight years Figure 8.13 shows the forecast for EHCPs (0-25 years)

Figure 8.13 EHCPs Forecast (0-25 year olds)

Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Early Years	52	78	38	39	39	39	40	40	40	41
Years R-6	5124	6022	6143	6160	6147	6108	6075	5997	5878	5874
Years 7-11	5314	6167	6955	7625	8244	8723	8984	9132	9282	9272
Years 12-13	1827	2053	2258	2489	2740	2985	3343	3686	3863	3941
Years 14+	2964	3413	3786	4265	4690	5169	5625	6175	6788	7445
Total	15281	17733	19179	20579	21860	23024	24068	25029	25852	26574
% Change		16%	8.2%	7.3%	6.2%	5.3%	4.5%	4.0%	3.3%	2.8%

The need groups of the forecasted new EHCPs are the proportion within each group based on the new EHCPs recorded between 2020 and 2022. Figure 8.14 shows the EHCP forecast for each need group.

Figure 8.14 EHCP forecast by need type.

Age Group	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
ASD	6519	7511	8044	8563	9026	9447	9817	10165	10449	10684
SEMH	2897	3580	4002	4400	4756	5071	5351	5595	5782	5936
SLCN	2390	2904	3277	3630	3978	4300	4610	4911	5189	5454
MLD/SPLD	1231	1424	1548	1675	1791	1905	2008	2092	2173	2250
SLD/PMLD	1313	1312	1279	1257	1227	1202	1163	1139	1117	1093
Other	931	1002	1029	1054	1081	1099	1120	1128	1141	1156
Total	15281	17733	19179	20579	21860	23024	24068	25029	25852	26574

8.12 Future Commissioning of Provision

Future commissioning intentions will be informed by the review of Kent’s continuum of SEND provision and a need type and gap analysis that will be reflected in a detailed Sufficiency Plan developed in the first half of 2023. This will inform changes and additional provision required from September 2023 and throughout the rest of the Plan period. Commissioning intentions for this Plan will be limited to new SEN schools and satellites where there is already a case based on population growth and current patterns of travel to special schools outside of the areas where children live.

Additional SPRs that have been committed to or form part of a new academy’s funding agreement will also be included, as will the establishment of Kent’s first (and first nationally) Primary Cullum Centre, established in partnership with the National Autistic Society, the Cullum Foundation and Canterbury Academy as this will form part of developing Kent’s future approach to supporting children and young people with autism in mainstream education.

A total of 910 new special school places are forecast to be commissioned and 55 SRP places that are already within the commissioning process. Additional SRP places may be commissioned following the completion of the review which will identify need type and geographical gaps. Figure 8.15 and 8.16 identifies the number, need type and district of these places.



Figure 8.15: Agreed and planned additional specialist provision across Kent Specialist Schools

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year			
					2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Special School (all through) - Whitstable	2026	PSCN/ ASD/ SEMH	Canterbury	120	0	0	0	48
Special School (All through) - Swanley	2025	PSCN	Sevenoaks	250	0	0	114	66
Isle of Sheppey (Secondary)	2024	SEMH with ASD	Swale	120	0	40	40	40
Expansion of Special school for SEMH with ASD to include Primary provision or a primary satellite.	2025	SEMH with ASD	Swale	40	0	0	0	10
1 x secondary Satellite of PSCN School	2025	PSCN	Swale	20	0	10	10	0
Special School (all through) – Isle of Sheppey	2026	PSCN/ ASD	Swale	140	0	0	0	54
Satellite of a PSCN School	2024	PSCN	Tonbridge and Malling	50	0	50	0	0
Satellite of a PSCN School	2024	PSCN	Tunbridge Wells	50	50	0	0	0
Total Special School places				790	50	100	164	218

Figure 8.16: Agreed and planned additional Specialist Resource Provisions

Provision	Proposed opening date	Need Type	District	Potential Number of places	Total Planned Places added by year			
					2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Cullum Centre	2023	ASD	Canterbury	9	3	3	3	0
Alkerden (Primary)	2025	ASD	Dartford	15	4	4	4	3
Alkerden (Secondary)	2025	ASD	Dartford	25	5	5	5	5
Springhead Park Primary	2023	SLCN	Gravesham	15	4	4	4	3
Total Special School places				64	16	16	16	11



9. Commissioning Early Years Education and Childcare

9.1 Legislative Context and Free Entitlements

Early Education and Childcare is legislatively governed by the Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016. These place a duty on all local authorities to improve outcomes for young children, to cut inequalities between them, to secure sufficient childcare to allow parents to work and specifically to ensure sufficient and flexible:

- 15 hours of early education for eligible two-year olds (the Two Year Old Entitlement, in Kent known as Free for Two)
- The Universal Entitlement of 15 hours for and all three and four-year olds
- 30 Hours of Free Childcare (the Extended Entitlement) for the three and four-year olds of eligible parents.

All free entitlement places can either be provided by Ofsted registered provision, schools where registration with Ofsted is not required or by schools registered with the DfE and inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate. In each case, the full Early Years Foundation Stage must be delivered. Places can be delivered over 38 weeks a year or, in line with provider ability and choice, stretched over up to 52 weeks.

9.2 Early Education and Childcare Provision in Kent

Early Education and Childcare in Kent is available through a large, diverse and constantly shifting market of maintained, private, voluntary, independent and school-run providers, childminders and academies, all of which operate as individual businesses and are therefore subject to market forces.

Early Years Childcare provision for children aged 0–4 years for at least four hours a day is provided by the aforementioned range of providers. Embedded within this childcare provision will always be at least one of the three free entitlements (without exception the Universal Entitlement). Levels of provision fluctuate regularly but the summative picture as of September 2022 based on Ofsted data is as follows:

- Private providers, **417** offering **31,355** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Voluntary providers, **187** offering **8,294** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Independent schools, **43** offering **1,942** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- School run providers, **5** offering a total of **236** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Childminders, **943** offering **4,710** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Maintained provision, **27** maintained nursery classes and one maintained nursery school offering a total of **1,443** childcare places for
- 0-4 year olds
- Academies, **59** academies offering a total of **2,678** childcare places for
- 0-4 year olds
- FE colleges, **4** providers offering a total of **696** childcare places for 0-4 year olds
- Standalone Out of School Care: In total there are **131** stand-alone providers. Of those **51** offer breakfast clubs, **91** offer after school clubs and **71** run holiday playschemes.

It is acknowledged both nationally and in Kent that assessing the childcare market and ensuring sufficiency and long-term viability of provision is complex and presents a significant challenge for LAs. In Kent, when assessing supply, the criteria set out in the DfE's 2018 Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities is used. This states that childcare places should be high quality, accessible, inclusive, affordable and sustainable, thereby able to meet the needs of all children and families. The LA (in Kent as commissioned through The Education People) is required to work with



providers in making available a sufficient range of flexible provision, in the right geographical areas, at the right times and offering the right sessions to fit with both standard and atypical working patterns.

9.3 Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) enables officers to identify the supply of, and demand for, early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service works with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.

The CSA for the 2022/2023 academic year is based on the supply and demand for childcare in the Summer Term 2022 when demand for the take up and supply of childcare is greatest.

9.4 Sufficiency of Childcare Places for Children Aged 0-4 Years Old

In the context of the CSA 2022/2023 as described in paragraph 9.3, the assessment of sufficiency is calculated by comparing the total available childcare supply of places with the forecast number of eligible children in each age group living within in each planning group and district.

Analysis of historic patterns of take up show that the majority of families access childcare within the same district in which they live. The proportion of children accessing childcare within the district in which they live is used to interpret the extent of any indicative surplus or deficit in each district. Therefore, any stated deficit of places may not apply in real terms. The responsibilities of the Children and Families Information Service includes the fulfilment of KCC's statutory duty to provide a brokerage service for families who are unable to find childcare to meet their needs.

In this broad context, figure 9.1 provides an assessment of the population-based requirements and corresponding supply of places for 0-4 year olds incorporating all free entitlements and childcare funded by parents/carers or otherwise. This indicates that across the whole county, there are sufficient childcare places for 0-4 year olds.

It is notable that for the first time since the requirement of LAs to report on childcare sufficiency was introduced in 2006, there is a surplus of places in Gravesham (at this point last year there was a deficit of 229). We consider this to be attributable to ongoing and persistent work over the years to encourage primary schools to lower their age range to lowering the age range to admit nursery aged pupils including two year olds.

However, in Dover for the first time, the modelled demand was greater than the supply of places for the summer term in the 2021/2022 academic year. There is estimated to be a small deficit of 89 places in this district. A careful watch will be kept on this. All other districts have a surplus of places, with Tunbridge Wells and Dartford reporting a particularly significant surplus. Local intelligence is used alongside the data to assess if the indicative deficits of places are experienced 'on the ground.' For example, the large surplus of places in Dartford must be viewed in the context of the significant ongoing growth in the housing market and that children outside of Kent's geographical borders access childcare in this district.

The proportion of children accessing childcare within the district in which they live can be used to interpret the extent of the deficit in each district e.g. in Tonbridge and Malling only 86.3% of funded 3 and 4 year olds accessed childcare within the district of their home address, therefore the surplus of places may be greater than the 312 that are modelled.

Figure 9.1: 0-4 Year Old Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (Summer Term 2021/2022 Academic Year)



District	0-4 Year Old Population (Edge Analytics Forecast)	0-4 Year Olds Requiring Childcare (Modelled)	0-4 Year Old Childcare Places (Modelled)	Indicative Surplus/ Deficit of 0-4 Year Old Places	% of Funded 3 and 4 Year Olds Accessing a Childcare in their Home District as
Ashford	6,939	3,920	4,176	256	93.9%
Canterbury	6,222	3,528	4,104	576	94.0%
Dartford	7,759	3,939	4,971	1,032	91.5%
Dover	5,187	2,879	2,790	-89	92.3%
Folkestone and Hythe	4,674	2,572	3,452	880	95.0%
Gravesham	6,161	3,190	3,671	481	93.3%
Maidstone	9,657	5,574	5,823	249	90.7%
Sevenoaks	6,133	3,304	4,025	721	89.3%
Swale	8,013	4,519	5,359	840	97.6%
Thanet	6,554	3,581	4,332	751	97.2%
Tonbridge and Malling	6,913	3,958	4,270	312	86.3%
Tunbridge Wells	5,605	3,297	4,371	1,074	95.7%
Total	79,817	44,261	51,344	7,083	90.9%

9.5 Sufficiency Estimates by Planning Area

Sufficiency rates have also been calculated using primary planning areas, with this information being available in the CSA. Where some primary planning areas indicate a deficit of 0-4 childcare places, it must be considered that often neighbouring areas have a surfeit of places. For example, in primary planning areas where there is a low level of provision or a deficit of provision, children may be travelling to access settings in adjacent areas based on parental preference or travel to work patterns. At the other end of the scale, where primary planning areas have more provision than children, the children will be drawn from other areas to access places in these settings.

Within these extremes, the rates can be used to indicate where childcare provision may be lacking locally. The percentage of funded 3 and 4 year olds accessing a setting within the planning area in which they live can be used to interpret the extent of the deficit in each planning area. However, local qualitative analysis is required to understand whether the variation in local take up rates is driven by a preference for particular providers, commuting patterns or a lack of places in the local area. Primary planning areas with the highest indicative deficit of 0-4 year old childcare places are: Dartford North, Maidstone South East, Swanscombe and Ebbsfleet made Marden and Staplehurst. However, it should be noted that wherever a deficit exists in a primary planning area there is an overall surplus of places in the relevant district.

Primary planning areas with the largest indicative surplus of 0-4 year old childcare places are: Dartford West, Ashford North and Maidstone Central and South (previously Maidstone West).

9.6 Future Planning

Supporting the sufficiency, sustainability and quality of early years and childcare provision remains crucial in aiming to ensure a long term, sufficient supply of places. To do this to best effect, The Education People's Early Years and Childcare Service has Threads of Success, which is its accessible framework of services and products providing a comprehensive training, support and advice offer, differentiated for early years, school and out of school providers. The Service will continue to work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision should this be required, whether this is for Free Entitlements and/or parent/carer funded places.



The supply of Free Entitlement places for two, three and four year olds will be kept under review as planned new housing developments are built and potentially increase the demand for places. Where housing developments are proposed in school planning areas where there is an indicative deficit of places or where the size of a development means that it will require new provision; KCC will engage in discussions with developers to either seek funding to provide nursery provision which may include securing community rental or leasehold accommodation availability for private, voluntary or independent sector providers of 0-4 year old childcare.

When a new school is delivered according to the ESFA Baseline Design, a nursery space is now included in the design. As new schools are planned, KCC will work with the sponsor to identify early years provision and the most appropriate way to deliver this.



10. Post-16 Education and Training in Kent

10.1 Duties to Provide for Post-16 Students

LAs have responsibilities to support young people into education or training, which are set out in the following duties to:

- Secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for young people aged 16-19 years (and those aged 20-24 years with an Education, Health and Care Plan).
- Ensure support is available to all young people from the age of 13 years that will encourage, enable or assist them to participate in education or training (tracking young people's participation successfully is a key element of this duty).
- Have processes in place to deliver the 'September Guarantee' of an education or training place for all 16 and 17 year olds.

10.2 16-19 Review

KCC has now completed the 16-19 review and the report, Pathways for all, was launched on 28th April 2022. It is available at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/kent-16-to-19-review#:~:text=The%20overall%20aim%20of%20the,both%20young%20people%20and%20providers>

The overall aim of the review was to improve the options and life chances of Kent's young people by enhancing the education, skills, and training opportunities available to them. To achieve this, it sought to develop a deeper and shared understanding of the issues facing both young people and providers.

The review was therefore delivered in collaboration with providers from across the sector, and with the involvement of young people, their parents, and key stakeholders.

The key recommendations are:

- Make a concerted effort to improve outcomes from 16+ provision
- In parallel, raise young people's aspirations through more effective CEIAG. Once raised, these aspirations need to be actively supported, including by those with an influence over what young people decide to do post-16. By proxy this means ensuring those who influence young people are themselves properly informed
- Develop an 'area offer' to support the current network of sixth forms, many of them very small by national standards. This should cover all providers (specifically including GFECs, other organisations providing vocational learning and alternative 16-19 providers) and will require collaboration between all concerned.
- Improve the provision available below Level 2
- Take further steps to support young people's mental health
- Improve and enable access to provision
- Take the opportunity to learn lessons from the Covid-19 lockdowns, and not simply assume everything should or will return to 'normal'
- Create a 16+ Strategic Leadership Board to ensure all involved parties collaborate to deliver these recommendations, and to oversee the sector's future strategic development.

Now that the Strategic Leadership Board has been established, the next stage will be to establish district based groups to ensure that all young people have access to the full range of educational opportunities.



10.3 Kent's Key Priorities for the Next Four Years

Even now, the Covid-19 pandemic will continue to have a major impact on young people leaving education. A briefing by The Resolution Foundation (Class of 2020: Education leavers in the current crisis, Henehan, May 2020) suggests that their employment and earning prospects could be seriously impaired for up to 6 years with negative effects on social mobility for their entire working lives. Young people with low levels of attainment are particularly likely to be affected.

As well as facilitating increased levels of participation, the post-16 offer should prepare young people for the post Covid-19 world, particularly supporting their progression into employment, to mitigate the predicted negative impact on their prospects. This will also be important to hold down numbers of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) that are likely to be higher due to the disruption of education and support for young people. In September 2021, the Careers and Enterprise Company began rolling out the Careers Hub Model, offering support to all education providers to develop their delivery in this area. The aim was for all schools who want to be in the hub to be included by September 2022. This is also part of the Economic Wellbeing strand of Reconnect, KCC's Covid-19 response for young people. This is therefore a key priority.

KCC recognises increasing participation can only be achieved through strategic partnerships between 14-19 providers to maximise opportunities and outcomes, increase capacity, and develop appropriate high-quality learning pathways. This is a key recommendation of the 16-19 review and work has begun to set up a strategic board to facilitate this. Vulnerable learners, particularly those who do not have Mathematics and/or English GCSEs should have opportunities to engage in personalised pathways which lead to sustained employment. The low level and flexible learning offer have contracted dramatically across the whole County and a proactive approach is necessary to meet this need.

There has been an increase in the amount of provision available this year due to a final round of European Social Fund becoming available after lobbying of the DfE. However, this ends in March 2023 after which we will have to find another solution.

The Shared Prosperity Fund, the government's replacement of ESF has been devolved to district rather than county level and skills will not be prioritised in this until 2024.

10.4 Expected Changes to the Post-16 Landscape, in the Next Year

The roll out of T-levels began in September 2020. They offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher education. It is likely that it will be some time before they have a major impact on post 16 education in the County.

10.5 DfE Review of Post-16 Qualifications at Level 3 and Below

Since 2019 the DfE has been consulting on the future of post 16 qualifications. The consultation on Level 3 qualifications has now been published (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074321/Review_of_post-16_qualifications_at_level_3_in_England.pdf) but we still await the publication of the Level 2 consultation.

The main recommendation is that in future there should be two main pathways of study for 16-19 year olds, T levels and A levels. Other qualifications, including applied generals such as BTECs, will be defunded in stages from 2024 (Delayed from 2023 due to Covid), unless there is no overlap with a T level or A level. There is a recognition that some areas are not well served by A levels or T levels and there will be a process to develop new qualifications to meet that gap for delivery from 2025 onwards.



The planned creation of this binary system, particularly as the implementation of T-levels, is untested and employer support for the workplace element has not been secured, has raised significant concerns across the sector and lobbying of government is taking place.

The timetable for reform of level 3 qualifications is:

- Withdraw approval for funding from 1 August 2020 for new starts on qualifications that the DfE deems meet its criteria for 'pre-existing qualifications'. Students already enrolled/registered on these courses will be funded through to completion.
- Withdraw approval for funding new starts on qualifications with no take-up from August 2021.
- Withdraw approval for funding for new starts on qualifications with low take-up (under 100 enrolments) from August 2021.
- 2022-2024 submission and approval of new qualifications for where there are gaps in A level or T level provision.
- From September 2024 onward, remove approval funding from applied general and vocational qualifications, where they overlap with A levels or T levels or do not meet defined characteristics that will be consulted on as part of the second consultation.
- From 2025 onward, delivery of new qualifications for where there are gaps in A level or T level provision.

KCC need to engage with employers and the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, who will have responsibility for developing the Local Skills Improvement Plan. This plan will influence the development of the FE offer and the allocation of funding. This will impact on our duties to support participation in education and to ensure there are sufficient educational places.

10.6 Provision Outside Schools and Colleges

Kent has historically had a wide range of provision for those who do not wish to attend or who have dropped out of mainstream institutions. These learners are often the county's most vulnerable and have not attained good grades in their GCSEs. Most of this provision is at level 1 or below. The number of places declined dramatically after 2018/19 and has slowly increased since but not to previous levels. Currently the geographic spread of provision is very uneven leaving areas of the West with no provision at all.

Funding for these bespoke, independent post 16 providers has historically been available through European Social Funding (ESF) and via subcontracts with providers who have direct Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) contracts. This funding has almost ceased, and provision has declined commensurately. Looking back over the last 4 years we can see:

- The number of providers offering this type of provision declined from 38 (2018/19) to 19 (2019/20). 2021 saw a small recovery and we now have 25 providers. In 20/21 this fell back to 23 providers as some left the market or became insolvent. This still falls short of the historic numbers of providers.
- The number of places available declined from 1451 (2018/19) to 755 (2019/20). This rose slightly to 799 places on 2020/21 but most of this was due to national organisations coming into the county and delivering exclusively online programmes, which were not suitable for many of our vulnerable learners. If these courses are discounted, we saw a further fall of 104 places to 651. In 2022 numbers rose to 1091 places but this is due to a final round of ESF becoming available. This will end in March 2023.



We have been working with the ESFA to bring more funding into the county to reverse the decline in provision. We provided an evidence base, which has raised the profile of the issue with the ESFA and DFE.

10.7 Capital Funding

The Local Authority currently receives no Basic Need funding for post-16. As secondary student numbers increase in the future, should additional post-16 provision be required it would be the responsibility of the ESFA to ensure this is provided.

Independent training providers cannot draw down capital funding. This hinders the development of their offer across the county as premises costs are high.

10.8 District and Area Analysis

This section provides an overview of the provision and offers that we believe are needed in the areas based on an analysis of the present qualifications available.

A common feature for each area is the number of qualifications relating to Arts and Media and the increasing popularity of Psychology and Sociology. Level 3 mathematics and science courses are also offered in abundance across all areas, however, average outcomes for these courses are below the national average. Within each area schools are still duplicating courses, sometimes with group sizes below realistic sustainability. The individual providers with a low pupil number, typically deliver Entry and Level 1 qualifications and consideration needs to be given to the development of appropriate destinations from these programmes.

Across the County there are 23 recognised post-16 providers in addition to the number of schools providing sixth form provision. The LA will work closely with all providers to ensure any post-16 provision is appropriate to the needs of the area and there is joined up thinking between providers to ensure the best possible pathways are offered to all students.

Figure 10.1: Number of courses, by level, offered by schools or colleges through the post 16 online application system in 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 (as reported by the schools and colleges)

Level	North		South		East		West		County Total	
	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022
Entry	2	1	12	15	15	23	3	6	32	45
1	22	17	37	50	55	54	41	27	155	148
2	70	61	93	133	97	137	87	69	347	400
3	470	487	542	550	627	689	682	678	2321	2404
Total	564	566	684	748	794	903	813	780	2855	2997

North – Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks

There continues to be a need to develop further transition year, entry level and level one course places across the districts, with the provision in Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks largely school and college based. North Kent college offers fewer Entry Level/lower level courses than other colleges and do not offer ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages). Some schools are responding to student needs and beginning to offer Level 2 courses. The area has also lost providers over the last couple of years, resulting in very limited or no training options for some young people.

South – Ashford, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe



Entry Level and Level 1 courses are being centralised by some provisions due to financial pressures which has required those, often vulnerable cohorts, to travel further to engage in such programmes, increasing the risk of dropouts. Provision in the area is mainly school and college based.

East – Canterbury, Swale and Thanet

Thanet has an established transition plan programme, and the college provides a good Level 1 offer. The Entry Level and flexible education offer is growing slowly. Swale needs greater transition support; The proportion of young people who become NEET at the age of 17 (Year 13) is high in this part of the County. Canterbury College has experienced very high demand for Level 1 courses.

West – Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells

In Maidstone, there is a declining number of providers. A lot have moved out of the area in the past year. There are not enough places to meet the demand, so it has become more important for a good transition with the College. Dropouts are an issue as provision is sparse halfway through the academic year. In Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells, provision is almost entirely within schools or college based. There is a need to develop further transition year, Entry Level and Level 1 course places across the districts. School Sixth Form entry requirements in the west are higher than other areas due to the high number of Grammar Schools in the area.

10.9 **Summary of priorities:**

- Qualification reform - Support will be needed to ensure that the changes coming due to the review of post 16 qualifications have a positive impact on the offer to young people.
- Securing the offer for the most vulnerable - A collaborative approach is needed to stop the decline and develop the offer for this cohort.
- Employer Involvement - Recent legislation places employers at the heart of developing and delivering vocational education and defining skills needs at an area level.
- Implementing the 16-19 review - Clear issues have been identified and will require ongoing collaboration across the sector to find solutions.



11. Appendices

11.1 Forecasting Methodology Summary

To inform the process of forecasting Primary school pupil numbers, KCC receives information from the Kent Primary Care Agency to track the number of births and location of Pre-school age children. The Pre-school age population is forecast into Primary school rolls according to trend-based intake patterns by ward area. Secondary school forecasts are calculated by projecting forward the Year 6 cohort, also according to trend-based intake patterns. If the size of the Year 6 cohort is forecast to rise, the projected Year 7 cohort size at Secondary schools will also be forecast to rise.

It is recognised that past trends are not always an indication of the future. However, for the Secondary phase, travel to school patterns are firmly established, parental preference is arguably more constant than in the Primary phase and large numbers of pupils are drawn from a wide area. Consequently, forecasts have been found to be accurate.

Pupil forecasts are compared with school capacities to give the projected surplus or deficit of places in each area. It is important to note that where a deficit is identified within the next few years work will already be underway to address the situation.

The forecasting process is trend-based, which means that relative popularity, intake patterns, and inward migration factors from the previous five years are assumed to continue throughout the forecasting period. Migration factors will reflect the trend-based level of house building in an area over the previous five years, but also the general level of in and out migration, including movements into and out of existing housing. An area that has a large positive migration factor may be due to recent large-scale housebuilding, and an area with a large negative migration factor may reflect a net out-migration of families. These migration factors are calculated at Pre-school level by ward area and also at school level for transition between year groups, as the forecasts are progressed.

Information about expected levels of new housing, through the yearly Housing Information Audits (HIA) and Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategies is the most accurate reflection of short, medium and long term building projects at the local level. Where a large development is expected, compared with little or no previous house building in the area, a manual adjustment to the forecasts may be required to reflect the likely growth in pupil numbers more accurately.

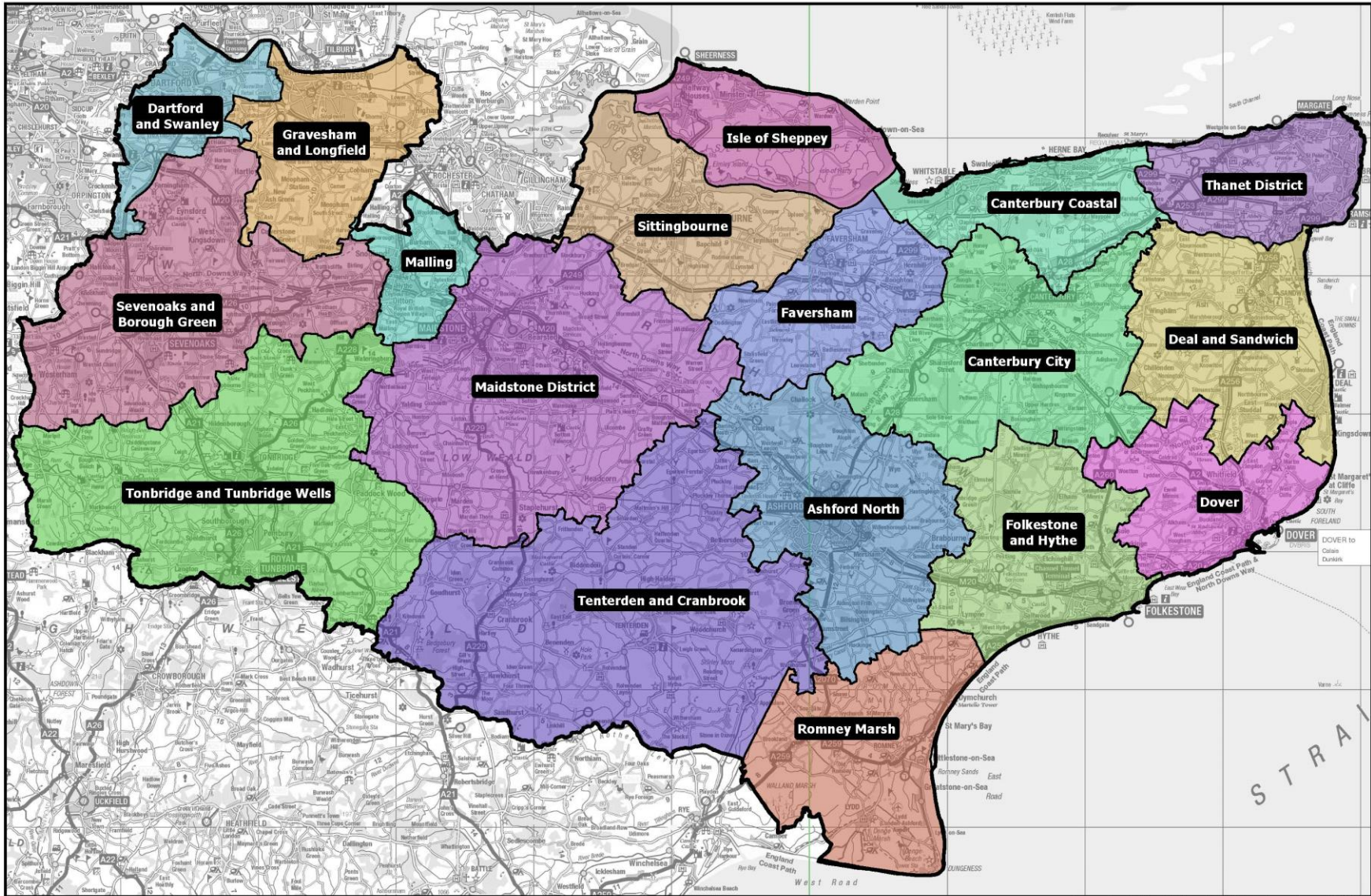
Pupil product rates (the expected number of pupils from new housebuilding) are informed by the MORI New Build Survey 2005. KCC has developed a system that combines these new-build pupil product rates (PPRs) with the stock housing PPR of the local area to model the impact of new housing developments together with changing local demographics over time. This information is shared with district authorities to inform longer term requirements for education infrastructure and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) discussions at an early stage.

Forecasting future demand for school places can never be completely precise given the broad assumptions which have to be made about movements in and out of any given locality, the pace of individual housing developments, patterns of occupation and not least parental preferences for places at individual schools. This will be a function of geography, school reputation, past and present achievement levels and the availability of alternative provision.



11.2 Secondary Planning Group Maps

Kent Secondary Non Selective Planning Groups



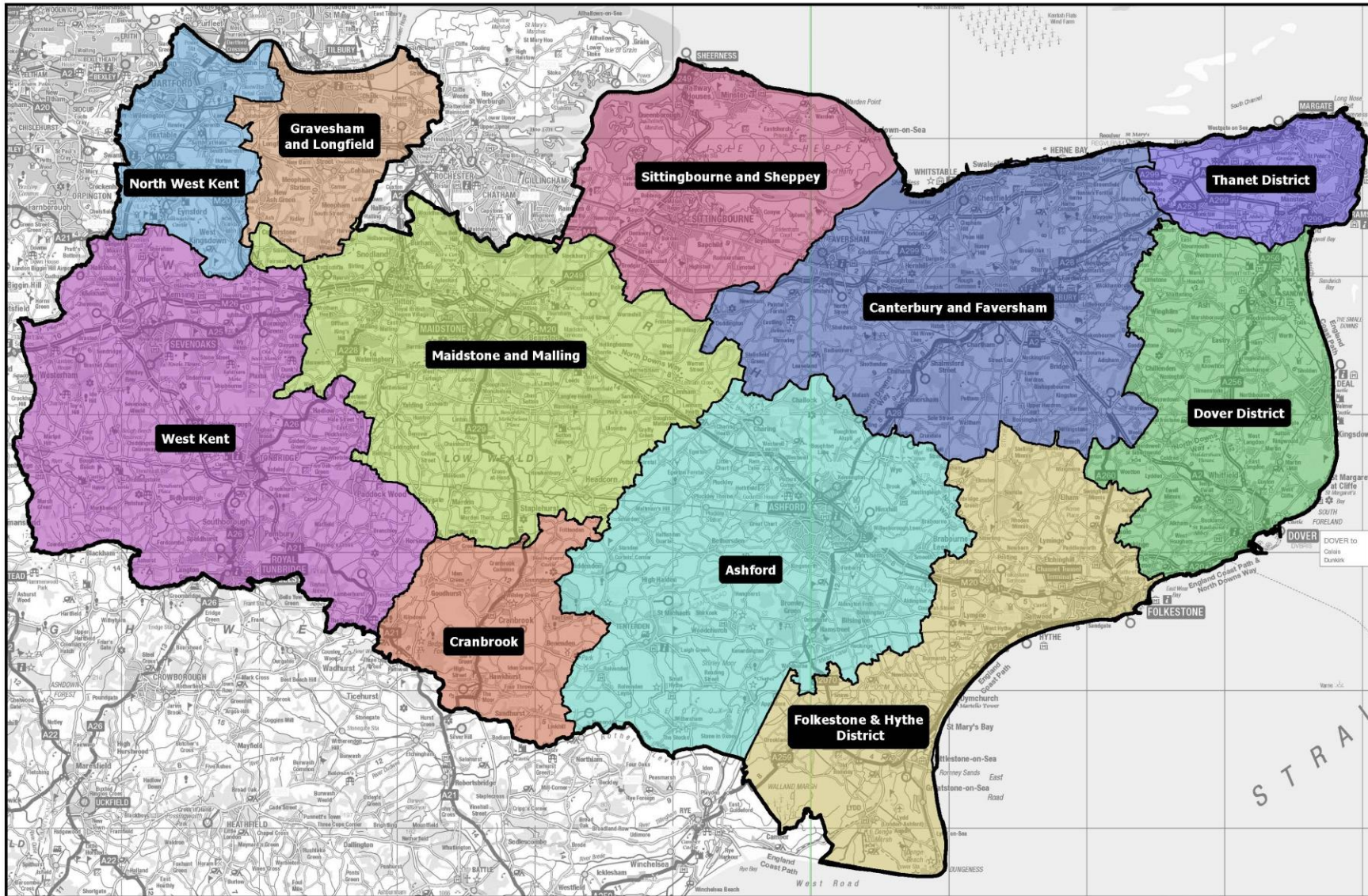
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Kent Secondary Selective Planning Groups



Management Information, KCC, 11/08/2022

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From: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council
Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader
David Cockburn, Chief Executive
Amanda Beer, Deputy Chief Executive

To: Cabinet – 26th January 2023

Subject: **Strategic Reset Programme**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Summary: The Strategic Reset Programme (SRP) is Kent County Council's transformation programme that oversees complex, high priority programmes which are critical for sustainable change and the future of the Council. This paper provides an overview for Cabinet on the programmes within SRP, an update on progress, and sets the context for delivering change in a challenging operating environment.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1) **NOTE AND DISCUSS** the progress within SRP since its inception in 2020.
- 2) **DISCUSS** the focus of SRP within the current operating environment, and how it will contribute to the delivery of the Council's priorities.
- 3) **AGREE** that SRP will continue to update Members on delivery every six months.

1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2020, a paper to County Council entitled "*Strategic Reset – recovery, resilience and reset in Kent County Council*" set out the need for a KCC-led programme to manage the extensive change required given the fundamental shift and demands in our operating environment, largely driven by the unique challenges of COVID-19. It was about responding to the immediate 'here and now' challenges, as well as looking ahead to prepare KCC for the future.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the Strategic Reset Programme (SRP) would be collectively owned by the whole council. A key aim was to ensure that KCC's operating model could deliver organisational priorities and was affordable in the challenging financial environment.
- 1.3 SRP went live in December 2020, as the [Interim Strategic Plan](#) was approved by County Council. Many of the programmes within SRP were agreed to be in scope because they contributed to KCC's response to the five Challenges within the Interim Strategic Plan, were enablers for frontline change and

continued to support our recovery from Covid-19, for example building on the Kent and Medway Economic Resilience and Recovery Plan with our partners.

- 1.4 This close alignment between SRP and the political priorities of the Council continued in May 2022, when the County Council agreed [Framing Kent's Future Our Council Strategy 2022 - 2026](#). SRP's scope was updated to contribute towards the delivery of the commitments in the Strategic Statement and will continue to respond to the Council's political priorities.
- 1.5 SRP's approach is about being flexible and responsive to the organisation's needs and resources available. The scope of SRP has evolved over time and now covers 11 programmes, focusing on the most critical, complex and high risk strategic priorities for the Council.

2. SRP's Focus and Scope

- 2.1 KCC continues to face an exceptionally pressured and fast-paced operating environment. Our services are accountable for driving through complex, medium-term change in an incredibly difficult financial and service delivery context. Changes in the Government's policy position and the financial challenges facing the Council, means that SRP needs to be focused on making real progress on those challenges and building organisational resilience.
- 2.2 Managing this scale of cumulative, complex change across the organisation, alongside the delivery of our budget commitments, is exceptionally challenging - SRP aims to deliver change in a realistic, agile and pragmatic way.
- 2.3 The focus of SRP is to deliver sustainable change together for our Council's priorities. Our short-term priorities for the programmes within SRP are to:
 - Respond to our finance and resource challenge
 - Mitigate significant risk for the Council
 - Work as one council and manage critical dependencies
- 2.4 Whilst we have a clear short-term focus, it is important that SRP also has a long-term sense of purpose and direction. To support this, SRP has five Ambitions. Each SRP programme assesses their contribution and confidence against the Ambitions every six months, to keep us focused on the longer-term aims of SRP and ensure we are pulling together in the same direction. The Ambitions are:
 - Improved experience for residents, staff and people who use our services
 - Lower cost, value for money services
 - Data and digital led
 - Resilient and future ready
 - Joint working with our partners
- 2.5 Since SRP was established two years ago, events have brought into focus the exceptionally difficult scale of the financial challenge facing the Council over the medium term. SRP will need to continue to adapt to the financial reality and the delivery of our programmes must now be even more focused on financial sustainability, opportunities for return on investment, and contribution to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) budget challenge. We are continually

examining ways to be more effective, productive and efficient and to make use of the limited resources we have in the best possible way.

- 2.6 SRP includes programmes which are responsible for contributing to the delivery of significant savings as part of the Council's Budget, including Adults' Sustainability and Integration, Children's Transformation, Future Assets and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation. As set out in Section 3, SRP provides financial oversight and assurance for programmes, with quarterly financial monitoring for all programmes. Any financial issues (e.g. overspend, slippage or reprofiling of savings) are escalated to SRP Programme Board for management response, with the management accountability for the delivery of savings remaining with individual services.
- 2.7 Planning for change is never a linear process – the scope of SRP will further evolve over time to respond to changing needs and priorities. SRP is not intended to be representative of the whole Council's business-as-usual and statutory responsibilities, or the delivery of all our budget commitments. Instead, SRP helps to ensure that the officer leadership team is focused on the successful delivery of projects and programmes that support KCC's most critical priorities.
- 2.8 To deliver added value to the Council, SRP needs to rigorously focus on prioritisation and best use of resources. The Leader, Deputy Leader and SRP Programme Board (Corporate Management Team) regularly reflect on the priorities within SRP to prioritise the right activities, at the right time. With the focus on our challenging budget position, in December 2022 it was agreed that several programmes would come out of the scope of SRP and move to core business delivery to allow a greater focus on prioritising resources on the remaining 11 high priority programmes.
- 2.9 Central to SRP's approach is joining up, working together and collaborating as one Council, particularly on complex and difficult issues that have implications across KCC. SRP has helped to take forward a whole-council approach on areas such as digital transformation, SEND and commissioning. Officers in different services now work much more closely together and have built strong relationships through a more agile approach including Task and Finish Groups. These connections and dependencies between the programmes are essential to SRP and need strategic management – these are detailed in *Appendix 1*.
- 2.10 There are currently 11 programmes in scope of SRP. *Appendix 1* sets out a summary description of each programme and the responsible Cabinet Member. The SRP programmes comprise:
- Adults' Sustainability and Integration
 - Building Our Resilience
 - SEND Transformation
 - Children's Transformation Programme
 - Commissioning
 - Enterprise Business Capabilities
 - Environmental Step Change
 - Future Assets
 - Resident and User Experience
 - Social Care Reform

- Strategic Economic Interventions

3. Programmes within SRP – programme delivery, reporting and governance

- 3.1 In order to monitor the activity of the different programmes within SRP, there is a clear cycle of reporting and governance. Each programme maintains their own delivery accountability and has their own individual programme governance (*Appendix 1* provides further information). Programmes provide regular updates, critical management decision points and escalations up to the SRP Programme Board (Corporate Management Team).
- 3.2 The SRP Programme Board provides robust challenge and oversight of individual SRP programmes, collective oversight for SRP as a whole and shared responsibility for the successful delivery of the programme's objectives. It takes management decisions (e.g. business case approval, changes in scope, resource decisions) and provides a strategic steer for programmes.
- 3.3 The SRP Programme Board considers quarterly financial monitoring across the programme as a whole, and for individual programmes, including costs, financial benefits, alignment with MTFP savings and funding sources. SRP provides an independent view of the financial and resource planning for programmes, and financial modelling and impact assessments to support business case development, working closely alongside Finance.
- 3.4 The SRP Programme Board also takes a strategic view across SRP as a whole considering items on prioritisation and resources, risk, progress against the SRP Ambitions, dependencies (connections and relationships between programme activities) and the 'critical path' to advise on sequencing the right activities in the right order to work cohesively and meet our ambitions.
- 3.5 SRP has a monthly reporting cycle whereby each programme submits a Monthly Status Report which provides an overview of milestones, timelines, risks, issues, financials, dependencies and any required decisions or escalations for SRP Programme Board. Trends in monthly reporting are being developed, for example to analyse common risk themes across programmes.
- 3.6 The SRP Team triangulates the findings of these reports with other information about the programmes to develop a monthly highlight report for the Leader, Deputy Leader and SRP Programme Board giving them the most up to date picture of programmes' progress and current status along with high risks/significant issues at the time of reporting. This report also tracks key milestones, providing commentary on reasons for changes in milestones and any programme slippage.
- 3.7 The SRP Team provides a range of programme management, dependency, stakeholder and financial management and expertise, and practical support for individual programmes. For example, the team are currently prioritising support for the SEND Transformation, Future Assets, Children's Transformation and Commissioning programmes.
- 3.8 SRP works closely with the Corporate Assurance and Risk team to understand key risk themes, mitigate risks and improve delivery confidence to get

programmes working in the right way to deliver successfully. Delivery confidence recommendations are provided on draft business cases to ensure these are robust and well-developed.

- 3.9 Whilst SRP is focused on transformation/change programmes not core business risks which are outside of scope, the alignment between programme risks and mitigations with the Corporate Risk Register is strong through regular engagement with the Corporate Assurance and Risk team, SRP Programme Board and Corporate Board (Cabinet and Corporate Management Team). Corporate Assurance and Risk also have an open invitation to attend SRP Programme Board items where there could be significant risks.
- 3.10 SRP, Corporate Assurance and Risk and Internal Audit also take an integrated assurance approach, for example on the Enterprise Business Capabilities programme working together on risk management, business case development and programme governance.

4. Benefits and positive outcomes

- 4.1 It is important to be clear on 'why' many of the SRP programmes were created and included in SRP. A key focus is to improve the quality of services delivered to Kent residents. SRP covers a unique variety of programmes, which are at different stages of delivery and benefits realisation – from early scoping to full implementation. *Appendix 1* provides further detail for each of the programmes.
- 4.2 Change is difficult and complex - we need to focus on the impact we are having and the progress towards our longer term outcomes and ambitions. SRP supports sharing lessons learned and being open about what does and doesn't work. Being clear on our success measures, the benefits we want to deliver and tracking this through to successful delivery and transition into 'business as usual' is something we recognise we need to continue to develop.
- 4.3 To support this, we are learning from best practice in other councils and working closely with the Analytics, Evaluation and Internal Audit teams. We also work jointly with Finance to track financial benefits (including important non-cashable benefits such as productivity gains and cost avoidance).
- 4.4 Since its inception in 2020, programmes within SRP have delivered a variety of positive change and tangible outcomes, with some examples captured below. In addition, SRP has also been involved in developing KCC's Data Strategy.
- 4.5 The Automation programme has recently successfully transitioned from SRP into core business. The programme developed a Centre of Excellence that supports staff across KCC to upskill and utilise technology for improved efficiency and productivity gains. The team supported the Homes for Ukraine project to develop a new app to enable the dissemination of information and to gather information on key checks to pass back to Government, which made a huge difference to how we are able to support Ukrainian citizens and families. The Centre of Excellence is now supporting other frontline services to release hours of time each month for added value activities, rather than dealing with complex processes.

- 4.6 The People Strategy was recognised as an important enabler and dependency within SRP and is now into long-term delivery in core business. Since the launch in April 2022, key activities have included development of a workforce planning tool, a new recruitment website, the Inclusion Passport, Single Parents staff group and the Reverse Mentoring project.
- 4.7 The delivery of the Making a Difference Everyday (MADE) strategy will continue to be a core part of our Adults' Sustainability and Integration programme. A real achievement has been creating Technology for Independent Living Facilitators who are able to provide advice on every day digital solutions such as voice assistants like Alexa, apps and the video carephone, KARA. The role has been designed as part of the MADE Innovation approach – working with staff and people we support to consider how technology can be used to empower and support independence. In August 2022, the authority won an award at the Health Tech Digital Awards for the “Best COVID-19 Solution for Safeguarding the Vulnerable” category.
- 4.8 The new Children's Transformation Programme will build on the achievements delivered by the previous “Change for Kent Children” programme which over the past two years has helped to achieve:
- An Outstanding Ofsted rating in 2022
 - Recognition of Kent as a Family Hubs Transformation Authority
 - Improved quality of work, audits and review of cases in Child Protection and Children In Care service with 80% outstanding – a 10% increase since 2019 – through the implementation of the Practice framework
 - Hired 70 newly qualified social workers and improved support to them
 - Hired extra in-house foster carers and a reduction in deregistering of foster carers, due to an increase in support to foster carers
- 4.9 The Environmental Step Change programme supports KCC's linked objectives to achieve Net Zero for its own estate and services and for Kent as a whole to be Net Zero by 2050. Most of this work not only reduces carbon emissions but also energy costs for KCC, Kent's residents and businesses. Projects under way include:
- For our own estate**
- Funding won to identify which of KCC's own buildings consume the most energy and create feasibility studies, decarbonisation plans and energy efficiency measures, such as solar and LED to reduce carbon emissions and costs.
- For Kent businesses**
- The [Kent REVS electric van trial](#) scheme (a joint scheme with National Highways) is reaching its final stage. Kent REVs has enabled nearly 300 Kent companies borrow an Electric Van (EV) for up to two months to encourage them to make a permanent switch to electric vehicles. The vehicles will now be incorporated into the KCC fleet as part of KCC's own switch to EV's.
- For Kent Residents**
- Round Two of the 'group buying' [Solar Together](#) scheme for solar panels run with most of the Kent districts and iChoosr has been fully subscribed. The scheme is open to all Kent residents and helps secure a better price for participants. Round One saw 230 installations of solar panels and

storage batteries. Round Two has already seen nearly 700 installations complete with more to come.

- KCC has won funding from the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot scheme to deliver 26 public charge points at four different locations (The Turner Gallery, Kings Hill, Paddock Wood Community Centre and Gravesend Cyclopark). This scheme will allow KCC to test out new technologies to bring forward charge points in areas constrained by electricity supply. Work also continues on the [EV 600](#) scheme to install public charging points in district council car parks across Kent.
- KCC was also awarded LGA funding in November 2022 for a behaviour change campaign [Share the Warmth](#) on social media to encourage people to share five important energy saving measures with loved ones.

4.10 The Digital Inclusion project, part of the Resident and User Experience programme, has utilised the Helping Hands funding and Contain Outbreak Management Funding in targeting support in local communities. Over 3800 laptops have been provided, 900 internet packages and just over 1000 Microsoft software packages to those most in need. Over 5,400 people have been reached through the Engagement and Skills project which includes one to one support as well as group work. In addition, 512 people across Kent have signed up to be volunteer Digital Champions, supporting friends, family and colleagues with their digital skills, motivation and confidence.

4.11 The Building Our Resilience programme has made positive progress to migrate our services to the Cloud and improve our technology security and areas of critical vulnerability. The new Digital Transformation workstream will prioritise digital support for critical business areas, placing the people we support at the heart of service design and delivery, developing a more cohesive approach and will ultimately mean KCC can spend money on ICT projects in a smarter way.

5. Member Engagement

5.1 The Leader and Deputy Leader have regular oversight of SRP through monthly meetings and reports, whilst Cabinet Members are updated on overall SRP progress every 4-6 months.

5.2 Individual programmes should provide their Cabinet Member with regular updates including governance to support decision making and have a responsibility to keep Members informed through Cabinet Committees, briefings and public consultations. This will help to inform Cabinet Member(s) with formal decision making, including key decisions for significant service change.

5.3 The SRP Team provides regular briefings and updates for all Elected Members to ensure they are aware of the latest progress. In January 2022, an All Member Briefing was held virtually to provide Members with an update on SRP, including how the programmes are delivering towards the Ambitions. A written update was also provided to all Members in June 2022, including latest updates on each programme. A further All Member Briefing was recently held in January 2023, highlighting the focus and priorities of SRP, including how programmes are working towards them, along with governance and monitoring and looking ahead.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The Council's Strategic Reset Programme is helping to progress a number of wide-scale changes that are required for a variety of important driving factors, including organisational and financial sustainability, resilience, improved experience and better-quality partnership working.
- 6.2 Programmes within SRP will continue to progress at pace and monitoring will continue of deliverables and outcomes which will be shared with Members.

7. Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1) **NOTE AND DISCUSS** the progress within SRP since its inception in 2020.
- 2) **DISCUSS** the focus of SRP within the current operating environment, and how it will contribute to the delivery of the Council's priorities.
- 3) **AGREE** that SRP will continue to update Members on delivery every six months.

7. Background Documents

- 7.1 County Council July 2020 paper: [Strategic Reset - recovery, resilience and reset in Kent County Council](#)
- 7.2 [Interim Strategic Plan](#) (approved December 2020)
- 7.3 [Framing Kent's Future Our Council Strategy 2022 - 2026](#) (approved May 2022)

8. Contact details

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Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Adult Sustainability and Integration

This programme is building on the delivery of our Making A Difference Everyday (MADE) strategy that has been co-produced with people who draw on care and support and other stakeholders. Our three core principles – putting the person first, improving all the time and measuring what matters - within our strategy will help to continue to improve practice and deliver sustainability; ensuring that we respond to the combination of challenges facing adult social care. A critical part of a whole-system response to those challenges will be integration with our health partners.

Cabinet Member: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Senior Accountable Officer (SRO): Helen Gillivan, Senior Accountable Officer

Why is it in SRP?

Making a Difference Everyday responded to the need for a person-centred model of care and support with increased focus on local communities, due to the increasing demand, financial pressures, and policy shifts in adult social care following the Covid-19 pandemic. The complexity, risk and scale of system challenges means we need to build financial, market and operational sustainability, alongside the delivery of our budget priorities to achieve an integrated and sustainable model for adult social care and health.

What progress have we made?

- KCC has been a key partner in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy and system response for hospital discharge, mental health and winter pressures.
- There is a rigorous focus on increasing financial sustainability and delivering our Medium Term Financial Plan commitments.
- A new innovative Technology Enabled Care Service to lead the way in transforming social care through the use of care technology and data-led practice.
- Delivery of the Digital Front Door and self-serve projects providing information, advice and guidance platforms such as AskSARA and Kent Connect to Support.
- A micro-enterprises approach is resulting in people being supported independently through their community, rather than formal care and support.
- Implementing a strength-based Practice Framework and Quality Assurance so people are listened to and receive support based on their strengths.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Important connections to Building Our Resilience's digital transformation
- Links to Social Care Reform and the implications as a result of national policy
- Links to Strategic Economic Interventions on market shaping for the health and social care sector, and micro-enterprises to deliver local care and support.

How is delivery monitored?

MADE and Adult Social Care Directorate Management Meetings, MADE Benefits Realisation Board (responsible for the Meaningful Measures principle in the strategy) and oversight of delivery through the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Building Our Resilience

Ensuring KCC has stable, reliable technology platforms, prioritising the delivery of essential projects in our Technology Strategy and ICT roadmap, enhancing our data security and reducing reliance on out-dated legacy systems.

Cabinet Member: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

Senior Responsible Officer (SRO): Lisa Gannon, Director of Technology

Why is it in SRP?

Building Our Resilience (BoR) came into SRP in April 2021 to deliver KCC's Technology Strategy and aims to increase quality, reduce duplication, risk and costs, and meet residents' expectations of digital services. This programme is a critical enabler, enhancing technology security and resilience of our ICT services and is essential for a whole council approach to digital transformation.

What progress have we made?

- All major services are now migrated out of Sessions Data Centre and remaining services to be migrated to 3rd party Data Centre. All KCC services are/will be hosted 'off prem'.
- Delivering Project Spring which is an urgent review of security practices, with further enhancements to our security posture and architecture planned.
- Prioritising the delivery of ICT Roadmap projects, with a focus on cyber security, improved service desk performance, laptops and critical frontline service projects.
- Leveraging external funding opportunities to support Digital Transformation.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Digital transformation connects to delivery of key digital projects in Adults' Sustainability and Integration, Children's Transformation, and Future Assets.
- Important connection to Resident and User Experience with the kent.gov.uk refresh and the Digital Strategy is co-owned across these teams.
- The People Strategy is an enabler for BoR because the success of digital transformation is supported by staff having the skills, capabilities and confidence to embrace new ways of working and new technologies.
- Links to the Commissioning programme as an important element of digital transformation will be technology rationalisation, determining which applications to keep and which to discard to make technology more efficient and streamlined.

How is delivery monitored?

The programme governance, linked with the delivery of the Technology Strategy, is overseen via the Strategic Technology Board, with oversight from SRP Programme Board. There is a Digital Transformation Steering Group with representation from Technology, SRP and Marketing and Resident Experience, to ensure a joined up approach on digital. There is regular monitoring of delivery of the ICT Roadmap projects within Technology.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

SEND Transformation

The SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Transformation programme will address rapid improvement in the areas identified in the recent Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection, alongside improving the financial sustainability of SEND services. The result will be improved outcomes and a better experience for parents and guardians and children and young people with SEND, working closely together with our partners. The programme brings together existing and new SEND projects under one umbrella to ensure projects are prioritised, well-managed and have a positive impact for children and young people.

Cabinet Member: Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

SRO: Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education

Why is it in SRP?

The SEND Transformation is a critical priority following Ofsted and CQC inspection, and the financial challenges that the Council faces, and is also being driven by an external imperative to change from the Government's policy direction for SEND. Having this as a programme within SRP allows us to rapidly progress a whole-council response, mitigating significant risk for the council. The delivery is broad and complex, with multiple projects with internal and external stakeholders. The programme needs to co-ordinate resources from across the Council to support delivery and manage the complex dependencies including with transition to Adult Social Care and Family Hubs.

What progress have we made?

- Over 50 projects are now being reviewed and a prioritisation exercise is underway to ensure a focus on those with the greatest impact and prioritise key areas for improvement identified in the inspection. Data regarding each project has been gathered and monthly status reports are now being completed.
- Action is being taken to reduce the backlog of annual reviews and ensure that the appropriate support is in place for children and young people to meet their needs.
- Action is being taken on SEND complaints and to develop a communications and engagement approach to build trust and confidence with families and partners.
- A bid to the Department for Education's Safety Valve programme has been submitted, which evidences a detailed understanding of our financial risks.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Important connection to SEND Transport in Growth, Environment and Transport and improvements from Internal Audit's lessons learned.
- Connection to Children's Transformation and Family Hubs as Government guidance states that Family Hubs should include services relating to SEND.
- Implications of Adult Social Care services when thinking about the lifespan pathway, independence and resilience of young people moving into adulthood.

How is delivery monitored?

Three operational groups monitor reporting and identify risks, with the SEND Transformation Strategic Board having oversight at a programme level and to action escalations, reporting up to SRP Programme Board. Defining the political and partnership governance is the next step. Progress is also shared through the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee and Cabinet.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Children's Transformation Programme

We are developing a new programme to deliver KCC's role as a Family Hub Transformation Authority, to provide high quality, joined-up, whole-family support. The programme will also look ahead to our response to the Children's Social Care Independent Review, leadership and financial sustainability. Our focus will be on impact and outcomes for children and young people and working with our partners in as part of a safe system, including with Kent Police, Public Health and Health.

Cabinet Member: Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services and Rory Love, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

SRO: Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education (CYPE)

Why is it in SRP?

Following on from the Change for Kent Children programme which closed in October 2022, SRP agreed a new Children's Transformation Programme, which is currently focused on the delivery of Family Hubs, a high profile initiative with the Department for Education, bringing in over £10m funding to KCC over 3 years, and to recognise the importance of integration with health for Children's as well as Adults' services. By February 2023, we aim to scope the other elements of the transformation programme alongside the implementation of our Family Hubs Delivery Plans.

What progress have we made?

- KCC has been recognised as a Family Hubs Transformation Authority, which will focus on services including perinatal mental health and relationship support, infant feeding, parenting support and has strong links with SEND transformation.
- KCC has been announced as one of five national Family Hubs Trailblazer pilots
- Close alignment between the Future Assets - Kent Communities and Family Hubs programmes, working together on opportunities for co-location, outreach and digital offer, which will go to public consultation in January 2023.
- Working together with SRP on dependencies, impact, outcomes and governance.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Critical dependency between Family Hubs and Future Assets - Kent Communities
- Digital transformation links with Building Our Resilience and Future Assets.
- Although SEND Transformation is a separate programme, there are important connections with early years, Family Hubs and integration with health partners.
- Strong connection with Public Health through Best Start for Life which is a national policy focused on early years healthy development.

How is delivery monitored?

The governance will be considered as part of the development of the new programme, including updates for the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee. The Family Hubs Steering Group reports to CYPE Directorate Management Team. Children's and youth centres have Local Children's Partnership Groups which are Member led. The dependency with Future Assets is managed through the Kent Communities Cross-Directorate Group and SRP Programme Board.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Commissioning

A new whole-council commissioning operating model is being designed. Service engagement is underway to inform the design for the new model, creating the future functions, skills and capabilities for commissioning and procurement (including commercial expertise and contract management) across KCC. This will also ensure we are ready to take forward integrated and joint commissioning opportunities and strategic relationships with our partners, including Health, the Voluntary and Community Sector and local businesses.

Cabinet Member: Roger Gough, Leader of the Council

SRO: John Betts, Financial Consultant

Why is it in SRP?

The Commissioning Programme came into SRP in June 2022 to respond to the direction in Framing Kent's Future, Public Procurement Reforms, the Integration White Paper and joint commissioning opportunities with Health. The new model will focus on making commissioning more sustainable and effective to respond to the significant economic challenges and pressures in the market, particularly in the social care market. Taking a whole-council approach will also mean we can maximise opportunities for collaboration with our partners, build on subject-matter expertise in services and respond to the changing demographic and demand for services.

What progress have we made?

- A review of our current commissioning and procurement approach has been undertaken, including a benchmarking exercise considering best practice in other local authorities and the Government's Commercial function.
- A Task and Finish group has collectively developed the new functions which are needed and is now into the detailed design of the new functional operating model, along with engagement with our staff and Trade Unions.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- The Task and Finish Group includes representatives from across KCC showing a commitment to a collaborative, co-design development approach.
- Connections with SRP's Adults' and Children's programmes, particularly where there are opportunities for integrated and joint commissioning with our partners
- Links to KCC's Civil Society Strategy and full cost recovery action plan for Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise, which is helping inform the model.
- Dependency with People Strategy given the new operating model is focused on KCC's culture, values and behaviours and staff expertise, skills and capabilities.
- Whole Council approach to managing budget position as it is expected that the new operating model could save costs through efficiencies.

How is delivery monitored?

The Task and Finish group and supporting sub-groups provide monthly programme reporting on progress through SRP, with oversight from SRP Programme Board, and updates for the Leader and Deputy Leader. The programme team are working closely with Finance to provide detailed modelling of the current and future costs.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Enterprise Business Capabilities (EBC)

Enterprise Business Capabilities will update the core business systems that support Finance, HR and Procurement, transforming 18 capabilities that are critical to the effective management of KCC's day to day business and enable future transformation.

Cabinet Member: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

SRO: Lisa Gannon, Director of Technology

Why is it in SRP?

Our current systems are at the end of their life and whilst we have support arrangements in place to ensure these remain stable and secure, there is an inherent risk to the Council of using outdated systems, so a new EBC solution is critically important for the sustainability of our most essential business functions (e.g. Accounts, Payments, Payroll). EBC requires collaboration and resources from across the council, as the capabilities underpin all our services and it involves undertaking a complex commissioning process to inform future decision making.

What progress have we made?

- Detailed work on the baseline architecture and all 18 business capabilities has been undertaken to inform the detailed specification for the new system.
- Exploring the best commissioning options has been a key focus, including Soft Market Engagement, designing a robust evaluation process and finalising the Invitation to Tender pack to formally start the open procurement process.
- As part of an integrated assurance approach, SRP, Corporate Assurance and Risk and Internal Audit are working together to ensure a KCC programme management approach is adopted.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- The new EBC solution is likely to be a Cloud based solution, which supports a more agile and responsive approach to emerging and new technology in the Building our Resilience programme. The safety and security of our data will also be essential.
- One of the advantages of a new EBC solution will be better quality data and better use of data across the Council, which supports KCC's new Data Strategy.
- It is important to look at EBC in the context of the Council's financial position and the risks that come with using outdated systems.
- Connection to People Strategy and the resources required to implement EBC and train staff on new systems.

How is delivery monitored?

The Enterprise Business Capabilities Board provides the programme governance, with oversight of progress and management of risks, with SRP Programme Board providing a strategic steer on options and critical management decision points (e.g. consideration of business cases). The EBC Operational Working Group meets weekly to progress actions and detailed programme tasks (e.g. developing the specification). Monthly reports are provided to SRP, which are reflected in highlight reporting to SRP Programme Board, the Leader and Deputy Leader.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Environmental Step Change

A new programme to deliver KCC's environmental step change priorities through a clear pipeline of projects. This will support a new Kent Environment Strategy, climate resilience and adaptation, the Energy and Low Emissions Strategy, and progress towards Net Zero.

Cabinet Member: Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment

SRO: Matthew Smyth, Director of Environment and Waste

Why is it in SRP?

KCC has set ambitious net zero targets for relating to our carbon footprint within KCC and as a whole with our partners to support the county to adapt and become more resilient to climate change, which needs a whole-council response. With Environmental Step Change one of the Framing Kent's Future priorities, changes in national Government policy and external funding sources such as EU Grant Funding coming to an end, this has been recognised as a time-limited programme to ensure we have clear projects and sustainable funding to deliver our priorities. There are highly complex stakeholders and dependencies including partnership working across Kent and Medway to achieve environmental targets.

What progress have we made?

- A review of the existing Kent Environment Strategy has been undertaken, to move towards development of the new strategy.
- The team continue to work alongside partners to support business and residents to make informed choices and access funding to support the environmental goals.
- Given the emphasis of the environment within Framing Kent's Future, a prioritised programme of work is underway, considering KCC's role across the programme, with a whole-council approach and a costed resource model to manage the delivery.
- The Environment and Waste division are putting in place the right skills, roles and resources to deliver our Environmental Step Change priorities

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Important connection to Future Assets – the implementation of Office Strategy and Kent Communities is needed to contribute towards environmental targets.
- Connection to the Commissioning programme – for KCC to be sustainable and achieve environmental and carbon neutral targets, what we purchase and ask for from suppliers as part of our tendering and contracting arrangements is important
- Needs to consider the commitments and aims outlined in policies, plans and strategies, including the Kent Environment Strategy, Kent and Medway Economic Strategy and Local Transport Plan
- Connection to Public Health, for example the impact of the climate emergency on local communities' health and wellbeing, and physical activity in our local environment.

How is delivery monitored?

In addition to action planning and monthly reporting, the governance arrangements are being developed, which will consider the role of the Kent Environment Board, Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee and partnership governance groups.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Future Assets

We will prioritise our most vulnerable communities, whilst reducing costs for the authority in line with our best value duty and reducing CO2 linked to our office, community and specialist property estate. This will result in a more manageable, sustainable, efficient estate that enables us to serve our community effectively by providing ease of access to services in a variety of ways.

Cabinet Member: Peter Oakford, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Traded Services

SRO: Rebecca Spore, Director of Infrastructure

Why is it in SRP?

The Future Assets programme is a large, complex programme which will affect a large proportion of KCC staff and partners, as well as residents who use community spaces. There are ambitious timescales for delivery, and complex dependencies across other SRP programmes which need to be managed, and the programme is an important part of delivering our Medium-Term Financial Plan commitments.

What progress have we made?

- The Kent Communities programme is developing detailed proposals ahead of the public consultation in January 2023 including engaging with community services across KCC, Members, staff, trade unions and partners and completing Equality Impact Assessments for each of the services where changes are being considered.
- Officers from across KCC have collaborated in the co-design of the proposals for Kent Communities and developed a joint communications and engagement approach, so stakeholders have an opportunity to shape the proposals and engage in the proposed change.
- The Office Strategy has explored options for utilising our estate including where leased buildings are coming to the end of their term along with providing shared space in partner sites across the county. We are now moving into feasibility studies and more detailed implementation planning for our office sites.
- Members have been engaged on the options for Sessions House HQ.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Family Hubs is included within the proposals for Kent Communities and our outreach and digital offer links to the Digital Transformation in the Building Our Resilience Programme.
- Connection to Resident and User Experience - the insights gathered in the resident research and consultation responses will inform our future approach.
- Links to the delivery of KCC's and Kent wide environmental aspirations in the Environmental Step Change programme.

How is delivery monitored?

The Future Assets Programme Board is supported by the Office Strategy Board and Kent Communities Cross-Directorate Group. The programme has regular Cabinet Member oversight and for Kent Communities, a public consultation will shape the way forward, along with All Member Briefings and Cabinet Committee updates.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Resident and User Experience

The Resident and User Experience programme has the long-term outcome to deliver services across all channels that build trust and a positive reputation with our residents. This programme will allow us to be better informed to provide services and interactions that meet residents' needs and includes a refresh of Kent.gov.uk, resident research, branding, marketing and communications, and digital inclusion.

Cabinet Member: Shellina Prendergast, Cabinet Member for Communications, Engagement, People and Partnerships

SRO: Christina Starte, Head of Marketing and Resident Experience

Why is it in SRP?

Improving people's experience is a core part of our SRP Ambitions and the resident research will inform and influence many other SRP programmes and KCC services. A focus on improving digital services for residents means that this programme links with many others and these dependencies need to be managed and visible across SRP, including the Digital Transformation workstream within the Building our Resilience programme) and Kent Communities digital offer.

What progress have we made?

- We are now undertaking our resident research with a specialist market research partner, and this is gathering key intelligence that will inform our future approach for communications, marketing and branding.
- The web strategy development has focused on insight, purpose, strategy and roadmap to refreshing Kent.gov, ensuring it meets the needs of Kent residents.
- The Digital Inclusion team have delivered positive interventions including providing laptops to those most in need, recruiting Digital Champions, working alongside our partners and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise to provide advice and upskilling, along with launching the Social Tariff Campaign aimed at low-income households accessing broadband deals.
- The Digital Inclusion project has been extended to March 2024 and will now move to the next stage of delivery to support those at most risk of being digitally excluded, informed by a robust evidence base and community engagement.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Kent.gov refresh needs to consider all services and their needs, with an emphasis on accessibility and inclusion, aligned with the Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- It is important to align the plans for the Kent.gov refresh with Building Our Resilience's digital transformation, so the Digital Strategy and Digital Design Principles are adopted consistently across KCC.
- Any online payments on a new Kent.gov site will be safe, secure and compliant by working with the Online Payments workstream in Building Our Resilience.

How is delivery monitored?

The progress on the programme is monitored by the Marketing and Resident Experience Senior Management Team with oversight from the SRP Programme Board and the Cabinet Member.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Social Care Reform

As a result of the Government's 10-year vision for Adult Social Care, this programme looks at the systemic changes and the impact these could have on the authority and our residents that use adult social care. In the Autumn Statement 2022, delivered on 17 November 2022, the Chancellor announced that the reforms would be delayed for two years and the programme is currently considering the implications of this.

Cabinet Member: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care & Public Health

SRO: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Finance

Why is it in SRP?

The recent Government announcements mean that we need to consider KCC's response to any changes in Social Care Reform. Even if the reforms are amended or delayed, this will be a significant change to Adult Social Care policy and could impact thousands of people we support with our services, self-funders and their families and carers. We need to ensure we are well prepared so that we can meet our statutory duties and manage any increase in demand that the proposed policy changes will bring about. There is financial risk with the Government projected funding for the reforms and the delivery is likely to be complex and require a significant resource from across KCC and our partners. We are continuing to respond to the new national assurance framework under which the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspects local authorities and the Integrated Care Systems (Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnerships) about their respective functions.

What progress have we made?

- Initially focused on four elements of the Government policy commitments: Fair Cost of Care, Care Cap and Extension of the Means Test, Section 18(3) of the Care Act—self funders have a right to ask a local authority to arrange their care and CQC inspection readiness.
- Detailed work has been undertaken on the Fair Cost of Care, across KCC services of Adult Social Care, Strategic Commissioning, Finance and Policy and Strategy.
- Working groups have been set up with colleagues from across KCC to review the changes in legislation and what the authority needs to do to prepare and be compliant to deliver our statutory duties.
- Adults' services are working on CQC inspection preparation, informed by Integrated Children's Services sharing inspection lessons learnt and good practice.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Connection to the Adults Sustainability and Integration work, including the delivery of the Making A Difference Everyday strategy.
- Connection to the Commissioning programme, as the Social Care Reforms will have a significant impact on the social care market, which is already experiencing significant challenges and pressures.

How is delivery monitored?

Project working groups are in place to reflect on priorities, next steps and milestones to meet statutory requirements, and this will inform the future governance and monitoring arrangements. Adult Social Care will respond to the reported CQC revised inspection timetable accordingly. Members will have oversight through the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee.

Appendix A: SRP Programmes – summary description

Strategic Economic Interventions

Working with our partners on a new Kent and Medway Economic Strategy which will be a ten-year framework for sustainable economic growth, in the context of the UK's net zero commitment, long-term demographic and technology trends and a refreshed view of the county's economic opportunities and challenges. The programme is now developing the action plan to support the delivery of the strategy.

Cabinet Member: Derek Murphy, Cabinet Member for Economic Development

SRO: Stephanie Holt-Castle, Director of Growth and Communities

Why is it in SRP?

Initially this programme was looking at the response to Covid-19 through the development of the Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan with our partners, and in Autumn 2021 Kent and Medway Leaders agreed to progress a new overall approach to economic growth looking forward to 2030. Strategic Economic Interventions has a strong alignment with the Framing Kent's Future "Levelling Up" priority and economic development is an enabler for many other programmes. The development of a joint strategy requires close working with national and local partners, and SRP has supported a more integrated KCC approach to delivery.

What progress have we made?

- The development of the ten-year Economic Strategy has involved extensive engagement with partners, including the business community, Kent and Medway Economic Partnership, Employment Task Force and District and Borough Councils.
- It is important to consider the KCC contribution to the delivery of the strategy and internal engagement has taken place with KCC services
- The economic interventions framework developed in the strategy is now informing the development of a detailed, costed action plan, initially focusing on Year 1 priorities.

How is this connected across KCC, as part of a whole council approach?

- Connection between economic and environmental strategies, with a focus on decarbonisation and green growth.
- Connection with the Micro-Enterprises work within Making A Difference Everyday in Adults Sustainability and Integration and Commissioning, to support our market shaping and future commissioning approach.
- Close working with Public Health as economic wellbeing is an important wider determinant of health and wellbeing in local communities.

How is delivery monitored?

Progress is regularly reported to the Growth, Environment and Transport Directorate Management Team and SRP Programme Board, alongside partnerships such as Kent and Medway Leaders and the Kent and Medway Economic Partnership. There is regular engagement and updates to the Growth, Economic Development and Communities Cabinet Committee.

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