

By: Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning & Skills

To: Education Cabinet Committee – 9 May 2012

Subject: COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report informs the Education Cabinet Committee of the consultation on the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision.

Recommendations Members of the Committee are asked to note the results of the planned consultation will be brought back to this Committee for its further consideration in July 2012

1. Introduction

1. (1) One of the key strategic roles of the Local Authority is to ensure there are sufficient education places of high quality available to the children and young people of Kent. This responsibility is intertwined with our other strategic duties; to promote high standards in schools, and to be the champion of children, families and their communities.

(2) The Local Authority has recently published its draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision. This sets out how Kent will discharge its responsibility as the Strategic Commissioner of education provision. It reflects the fact that our role has changed to being the commissioner, as well as continuing to be a provider, of school places. It sets out the principles by which we will have regard when determining proposals, the forecast need for provision, and the commissioning needs which arise as a consequence.

2. Consultation

2. (1) The consultation period runs for eight weeks – from 24 April 2012 to 19 June 2012. During this period there will be a series of meetings across the County to which the Headteacher and a governor from each school have been invited. County Councillors will be invited to these meetings, or they may request that a Member Briefing be set up in their area. There will also be consultation with Districty Locality Boards and with District Council Chief Executives and their staff about school planning needs for the future as set out in the draft Plan.

(2) A list of Consultees is attached at Appendix 1 and a timetable is set out below.

(3) Feedback from this consultation will help to inform the final version of the Commissioning Plan. We hope that the final plan will inform all education providers and sponsors of the commissioning needs and timescales for new provision, to enable them to come forward with proposals.

3. Next Steps

3. (1) Delivery of the plan will support Kent's ambition to ensure there is a modest supply of surplus primary and secondary school places (at least 5%), to increase the percentage of parents securing their preferred school(s) (85% to secure their first preference, 95% securing their first or second preference), to improve the quality of schools (our aim by 2015 is that at least 85% of primary and secondary schools, and all special schools, will be judged as good or better), and to further develop in-County special education provision so as to reduce (by at least 10%) the number of out-County independent and non-state maintained special school places commissioned for Kent pupils.

(2) Further work will be undertaken in relation to the school organisation and commissioning of specialist provision for children who have Statements of Special Educational Needs. This work is part of the SEN Strategy which the Authority is currently undertaking.

(3) To view the draft Plan and submit comments by 19 June 2012, please follow the link: www.kent.gov.uk/EducationProvision.

4. Timeline

Public Consultation Period	24 Apr 2012 to 19 Jun 2012
Headteacher Meetings	1 May 2012 to 23 May 2012
Report to Education Committee	9 May 2012
Report to Education Committee on outcome of Consultation	10 Jul 2012
Report to Cabinet for approval of Plan	17 Sep 2012

* The plan will be reviewed every 6 months

5. Recommendations

Members of the Committee are asked to comment on the draft plan and note that the results of the consultation on the plan will be brought back to this Committee for its further consideration in July 2012

Lead Officer
Simon Webb
Area Education Officer
West Kent
01732 525089
Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk

Background Documents:

None

Consultees:

Local MPs
Members
Chairs of Locality Boards
Dioceses – Canterbury, Rochester, Southwark
Neighbouring Authorities – Medway, East Sussex, Surrey, Bexley, Bromley
District Councils
Parish Councils
All headteachers
All Chairman of Governing Bodies
Early Years – EY Providers, pre-schools, nurseries, playgroups
Kent and Medway Directors for Public Health
Unions
Kent Parent Partnership Services
FE & HE Providers
Young People’s Learning Agency
Developers with known interest in Kent
KCC Officers – Press Office, Environment & Regeneration, Youth Support Service
Sponsors:-
 The Kemnal Trust
 Academies Enterprise Trust
 The Leigh Academies Trust
 The Westlands Academy Trust
 Roger de Haan Charitable Trust
 University of Greenwich
 Canterbury Christ Church University
 Kings School, Canterbury
 University of Kent
 Dulwich College
 The Diocese of Canterbury
 Microsoft (UK) Ltd
 Tonbridge School
 Crown Products (Kent) Ltd
 Holidayextras
 Hewlett Packard
 The Skinners’ Company
 West Kent College
 Gordon Phillips
 Sevenoaks School
 Benenden School
 Woodards
 Ministry of Defence