

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning & Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 12 September 2012
Subject	COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2012-17
Classification:	Unrestricted

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Summary:	This report gives the Committee the opportunity to comment on the final Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 prior to final approval,
Recommendations:	The Education Cabinet Committee are requested to note Plan and give their views about the final version due to be approved by Cabinet on 17 September 2012

1. Introduction

1.1 The Local Authority has held a consultation on its draft Education Commissioning Plan. The Plan sets out how Kent will discharge its statutory responsibility as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, to provide sufficient school places to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and to make the provision available in a way that is responsive to parental preferences. It reflects the fact that the Local Authority 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 determine proposals, the forecast need for provision, and the commissioning needs which arise in each district as a consequence. It includes clear proposals for increased provision in 2013 and 2014 and looks ahead to 2017 with what the forecast data indicate about additional places.

2. Consultation

2.1 On 24 April 2012 Kent County Council placed the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision on public consultation. The consultation lasted for 8 weeks, ending on 19 June.

2.2 During the consultation period a series of meetings were held across the County involving Headteachers, Governor representatives, Members, District Locality Boards and District Councils.

2.3 84 responses were received by 19 June and these were considered as the Plan was amended. Of the 84 responses, 45 concerned specific schools, with 30 of these about Weald Primary School. Seven parish councils responded and six District / borough councils submitted written comments. We received responses from three colleges, two dioceses, Kent Public Health, a property developer and there was a variety of responses from parents, members of the public, headteachers and governors. Some responses were from schools coming forward with proposals. Overall the responses were positive and there was wide appreciation of what we are trying to achieve around openness and transparency. Some responses pointed out inconsistencies in the plan about projected

numbers and the need for new provision in some areas. The consultation process itself was designed to capture more local intelligence about the need for new school places in each area as a means of revising the forecast data.

3. Next Steps

3.1 On 10 July Education Cabinet Committee considered the responses to the consultation on the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision.

3.2 Following the Education Cabinet Committee's comments work was undertaken to make final changes / amendments, and as agreed an amended version is being presented to the Committee on 12 September prior to Cabinet approval on 17 September 2012.

3.3 The final approved Plan will be published in October 2012.

3.4 The Plan will be reviewed, updated and published annually, in the autumn term, following updating of roll and forecast information and 6 monthly monitoring and reviews.

4. Recommendations

2.1 Members are requested to note the Plan and give their views about the final version due to be approved by Cabinet on 17 September.

5. Background Documents

Education Cabinet Committee report dated 9 May 2012
Draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17

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