

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

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Summary:	This report presents the final Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 for consideration and approval, prior to publication
Recommendations:	Cabinet are requested to approve the Plan

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 for the next four years, 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 2012-2017 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. 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 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.

2.4 On 10 July Education Cabinet Committee considered the responses to the consultation on the draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision. Following the Education Cabinet Committee's comments, and taking on board the consultation responses, work was undertaken to make final amendments, and as agreed an amended version will be presented to the Committee on 12 September 2012, prior to the Cabinet meeting on 17 September.

3. Purpose of the Plan

3.1 The Local Authority is the strategic commissioner of education provision in the County. It has duties to ensure:

- there are sufficient places for 3 and 4 year old children to be able to access their free early years entitlement (15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year); from September 2013, this duty will extend to providing free places to disadvantaged 2 year olds;
- all Kent residents of statutory school age (5 to 16 years old) have school places, if their families wish to take these up;
- it provides full-time education to children who are not in school for reasons of illness, exclusion or otherwise;
- that from September 2013 all 16/17 year olds are in full time education or employment with training; and from September 2015 all young people are in such provision up to their 18th birthday;
- that children and young people are assessed, and statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) issued, where appropriate; this may require placement in special education provision in order to meet the child's needs. These responsibilities may extend to young people up to the age of 24;
- that it considers parental representations about the exercise of its functions in relation to the provision of primary and secondary school education.

3.2 The key challenge for the Authority is to ensure that it effectively discharges these duties, while also raising educational standards and meeting parental wishes. In the school sector, the County Council has set the following targets for achievement by 2015:

- There will be more good schools, with at least 85% of primary and secondary schools judged as good or outstanding. All special schools will be good or outstanding
- At least 85% of families secure school places at their first preference school, and 95% secure either their first or second preference
- We maintain at least 5% surplus capacity in the primary school sector in each District of Kent
- We maintain at least 5% surplus capacity in the secondary school sector in each travel to learn area of Kent

3.3 The Plan sets out the data and analysis behind the commissioning decisions which the Authority is making, or is likely to make in future. The Plan also exists to inform Kent residents about when and where provision in their local area may change, and to stimulate the "market" with potential education providers. The Plan seeks to provide transparency about the principles and planning guidance which KCC will use when making commissioning decisions.

4. Overview of Demographic Change

4.1 Since 2002 the birth rate in Kent has increased from 56 births per 1000 women aged 15-44 years to a little over 65 births in 2010. This means that the pupil cohort sizes in each year group in schools have increased from 14600 in 2002 to 17600 in 2010. The long term primary school pupil number forecast indicates that primary school rolls will peak in 2016. Beyond this date, the growth in some districts, such as Ashford and Dartford, offset the reducing school numbers in other Districts. Clearly, these long term forecasts are influenced by anticipated levels of house building and expected inward migration. Our forecasts take into account patterns of school attendance across local authority boundaries, which are predominantly a secondary school factor with 3000 out of county children attending Kent secondary schools, and the fact that only 92% of primary aged, and 87% of secondary aged Kent resident children attend maintained schools and academy schools in Kent. The remainder are educated at home, in independent schools, special schools or in alternative education provision.

4.2 The increasing Reception Year numbers in primary schools are expected to plateau in 2012/13 (16,800 pupils compared to 14,500 in 2006/07), although a spike is expected in 2015/16 (17,200). The total roll of primary schools will increase through the forecast period (from 106,000 in 2008/09) up to 2016/17 (118,000).

4.3 Secondary school pupil numbers will continue to fall until 2016/17 (to 76,600 pupils) when Year 7 intake numbers begin to exceed the outgoing Year 11 cohorts. Year 7 pupil numbers will increase from 15,200 in 2013/14 to 16,800 in 2019/20, then begin to reduce again, and thus secondary school rolls will fall shortly after this time.

5. Commissioning Needs

Early Years

5.1 Kent has been set a target by Government to create 3600 places for 2 year olds by September 2013 to enable the most disadvantaged children to access free provision for up to 15 hours a week (for 38 weeks a year). The target for September 2014 is 7000 places. It is expected that the private and voluntary sectors will provide these places, and officers are working with providers to secure the necessary provision. The Local Authority is the provider of last resort and in situations where no providers come forward, the Authority will need to make its own provision available to parents.

Primary School Places

5.2 In order to meet needs, Kent has added 2171 places in primary schools across Kent in the period 2010 to 2012, at a cost of £10.2m. This has been through a mix of temporary increases in the number of Reception Year children admitted to particular schools to cope with bulges in a locality, permanent enlargements of other schools, and new school provision in areas of housing growth.

5.3 The Commissioning Plan identifies the need for further capacity in the primary sector. In terms of Reception Year places, the need is 1025 places for September 2013 (compared with September 2010); a further 972 places in the period 2014 to 2016; and another 1628 in the period beyond 2016 (please note beyond 2016 need is linked to District Councils' proposed or agreed Local Development Frameworks which typically run to 2025 or 2030, and these provide details of expected housing growth). It is anticipated that the nearly all these needs will be met through permanent expansions of schools.

5.4 In the Commissioning Plan, clear proposals have been identified to address the vast majority of these needs arising in 2013 and 2014 for Reception Year places. These

proposals mean additional provision in 50 schools. In many cases delivery of these additional places, and the necessary accommodation, remains subject to legal processes such as planning approval and therefore substitute proposals may be required in a few cases. The breakdown of number of Reception Year places being added by District is set out below (note, these represent additional places compared to September 2010):

Kent Summary		2013	
District	Temporary Year R Places added	Permanent Year R Places added	
Ashford	60	140	
Shepway	30	15	
Maidstone	0	131	
Tonbridge and Malling	30	43	
Tunbridge Wells	0	170	
Sevenoaks	0	85	
Dartford	0	180	
Gravesham	0	60	
Thanet	0	120	
Swale	0	150	
Total	120	1094	

Kent Summary		2014	
District	Temporary Year R Places added	Permanent Year R Places added	
Ashford	0	140	
Shepway	30	45	
Maidstone	0	131	
Tonbridge and Malling	30	43	
Tunbridge Wells	0	170	
Sevenoaks	0	85	
Dartford	0	210	
Gravesham	0	100	
Thanet	0	120	
Swale	0	150	
Total	60	1194	

5.5 The provision of 1194 permanent Reception Year places equates to 40 forms of entry in Kent's primary schools and will provide 8358 additional places across all year groups from Years R to Year 6. Providing the accommodation for these places is estimated to cost £42.6m. Provision for this has been made in the 2012/13 to 2014/15 Capital Programme, although currently we only have a 2012/13 capital allocation from Government. As some accommodation will not be needed for a few years (as larger Year Reception cohorts work through the school), there is the opportunity to phase some of this expenditure in to the subsequent capital programme, and Officers are working through this detail currently.

Secondary Schools

5.6 The Commissioning Plan identifies the need for 480 Year 7 places in secondary schools to be added by 2016, 390 of which are needed on a permanent basis. This means 13 forms of entry, which is 1950 additional permanent places for 11-16 year olds

pupils in all year groups from Year 7 to Year 11. In July 2012 the Secretary of State for Education announced that three new free schools are likely to open in Kent in September 2013. These schools are expected to offer 240 Year 7 places between them (1200 places in Years 7 to 11). Additionally, a small number of secondary schools/academies, which are their own admissions authorities, have proposed increases to their intake numbers. It is likely, therefore, that much of the need identified in the Commissioning Plan will be addressed by these developments.

5.7 The capital implications of addressing identified need in the secondary sector have not, at this stage, been calculated, as formal proposals need to be invited and developed. The free schools will be funded by Government. Those schools/academies that have increased their intake numbers will have done so on the basis that their governing bodies are satisfied that there is sufficient capacity within the existing accommodation to support this action, or they have funding to increase the accommodation.

5.8 Beyond 2016, the Commissioning Plan identifies the need for a further 3900 permanent new secondary school places (26 forms of entry). All of this need is generated by anticipated growth in Ebbsfleet and Ashford and is therefore subject to the rate of house building. We anticipate developer contributions will provide a significant proportion of the capital costs of these new schools.

5.9 The parental petition for selective provision in Sevenoaks is acknowledged in the Commissioning Plan, and is being actively pursued. The capital costs of supporting this proposal are not yet known.

5.10 The raising of the participation age to 18 years means that education or employment with training opportunities need to be made for an estimated 6000 young people aged 16-18 years, who current do not access education or employment with training. We anticipate most of these opportunities will be made in the further education sector, and in the employment/work base provider sectors. The Education Funding Agency is responsible for capital funding post 16, including in school sixth forms. The Commissioning Plan recognises that more work needs to be done to fully understand the commissioning needs of this group of young people, and more detail will be set out shortly in the 14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy.

Special Educational Needs

5.11 Work continues in moving forward with the Special School Review proposals to deliver enhanced accommodation for the 10 remaining special schools in Kent which require capital investment. An agreed capital pot of £30m exists to support this. Complete delivery of this programme will provide an additional 372 places in maintained special schools compared to the current pupil numbers.

5.12 The Authority is undertaking an SEN review, and this will influence the next iteration of the Commissioning Plan.

6. Next Steps

6.1 Officers are working with early years providers to ensure that we achieve our targets for the provision of free places for disadvantaged 2 year olds. We are confident that we can deliver this new provision in good time.

6.2 Proposals for increasing primary school capacity for 2013 and 2014 are already in train, as set out in the Commissioning Plan. Capital schemes are being worked to ensure we can deliver these developments in the designated schools. Public consultations on significant school enlargements will be undertaken in the Autumn where legally

necessary, and reported through the Education Cabinet Committee. The early stages of commissioning are beginning for new school provision which will be needed from 2015.

6.3 The Plan will be reviewed, updated and published annually, in the autumn term, following updating of pupil number forecast information and 6 monthly monitoring.

6.4 Further work is being undertaken to refine the Capital Programme as proposals are developed.

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

7. Recommendations

7.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-2017.

8. Background Documents

Education Cabinet Committee report dated 9 May 2012

Draft Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17

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