

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
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To: Education Cabinet Committee – 27 September 2013

Subject: COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2013-18

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18 prior to final approval by Cabinet.

Recommendations:

The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider the Plan and give their views prior to the final version being considered and approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2013.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan is a five year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out how Kent discharges its statutory responsibility, as the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, to provide sufficient school places in the right locations, to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and 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 future provision, and the commissioning needs which arise in each district as a consequence.
- 1.2 There is a significant increase in the birth rate and other demographic changes, which mean there is a very substantial increase in provision needed in the coming years. The Plan includes clear proposals for increased provision in 2014 and 2015 and looks ahead to 2018 with forecast data about the additional places required.
- 1.3 This updated plan 2013-18 is a 'live' document which underpins our on-going dialogue and consultation with Schools, District Councils, Diocesan Authorities and

Elected Members, to inform the process of ensuring there are sufficient school places of good quality for Kent children in all localities.

2. Commissioning Achievements

- 2.1 In September 2012 Kent County Council published the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2012-17.
- 2.2 In 2012-13 we achieved our aim of creating an extra 22 forms of entry (FE) in Primary Schools and 4FE in Secondary Schools, plus 362 temporary places for meeting short term pressures for Reception age pupils
- 2.3 On 21 June 2013 Education Cabinet Committee received a mid year review of the progress being made in implementing the plan. The review demonstrated that:
 - The County Council successfully provided sufficient school places for all Kent children and young people for September 2013 by creating the additional provision set out in last year's Plan;
 - The accuracy of the forecasts of pupil numbers has been very good, thus providing confidence in future forecasts and proposals; and
 - High levels of parental preference for schools have been delivered in 2013 despite the pressure of an increasing population.

3 Commissioning Requirements

- 3.1 The proposed 2013-18 Plan builds upon the positive achievements of the past year and provides a clear and confident direction for education providers over the next five years and beyond.
- 3.2 The number of primary-aged pupils is expected to continue rising significantly from 111,193 in 2012-13, to 121,278 in 2017/18 – which is more than 10,000 extra Primary school pupils over the next five years. Beyond this date the number of Primary age children remains comparatively level, although increases in some Districts are off-set by reductions in others. There is a need to continue to make new provision available in some Districts on a permanent basis.
- 3.3 The Secondary age population, while reducing between now and 2016 will rise through the latter part of this decade. The number of 11 to 16 year olds in Kent secondary schools is 79,244 in 2012-13. This will fall to 76,060 pupils in 2015-16 and then it is forecast to rise to 85,883 by 2022-23. The falling numbers to 2015-16 mask significant growth in some districts that run counter to the overall trend, so that additional forms of entry in Year 7 in schools in some areas will still be needed.
- 3.4 This proposed Commissioning Plan, therefore, identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary school places as follows:
 - 15.3FE permanent and 250 temporary Year Reception places in Primary schools by September 2014

- 3FE permanent and 25 temporary Year 7 places in Secondary schools by September 2014
- 25.6FE permanent and 195 temporary Year R places in Primary schools by September 2015
- 9FE permanent Year 7 places in Secondary schools by September 2015

1.3 Most of the additional places will be achieved by expanding existing schools but the Plan also includes proposals for new schools. While in many cases the need for new and expanded schools – particularly after 2018 - is dependent upon future housing development, the increase in demand for education places is significant.

3. Next Steps

3.2 Following the Education Cabinet Committee's comments any final changes and amendments will be made prior to being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval on 14 October 2013.

3.3 The final approved Plan will be published in October 2013.

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 review.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider the Plan and give their views prior to the final version being considered and approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2013

5. Background Documents

Education Cabinet Committee report dated 9 May 2012

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=746&MId=4878&Ver=4>

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17

[https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20\(Sept-2012\).pdf](https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Commissioning%20Plan%20for%20Education%20Provision%20Kent%202012-17%20FINAL%20(Sept-2012).pdf)

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