

From: Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform, Mr Roger Gough and Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services, Patrick Leeson,

To: Cabinet – 13 October 2014

Subject: COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2015-19

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This report provides Cabinet with the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2014-19 prior to final approval.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is asked to approve the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Education 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 determine proposals, it forecasts the need for future provision, and proposes forward plans to meet the commissioning needs which arise in each district in Kent.
- 1.2 There have been significant increases in the birth rate, birth numbers, inward migration and other demographic changes over recent years, which require substantial increases in the provision of school places in the coming years. The Plan includes clear proposals for increased provision in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and looks ahead to 2019 with forecast data about the additional places required.
- 1.3 This updated plan 2015-19 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, and other provision including childcare, for Kent children and families in all localities.

2. Commissioning Achievements

- 2.1 In September 2013 Kent County Council published the Kent Commissioning Plan for Education 2014-18.
- 2.2 On 23 June 2014 Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee received a mid year review of the progress being made in implementing the plan. The review demonstrated that:
 - Commissioning and implementing the planned number of new school places overall for September 2014 has been successful. Delivery of a small number of projects has been adjusted in response to changing contexts during the year including: new provision in the light of increased inward migration; additional works to mitigate the impact upon the highways to enable planning consent to be requested; and adjustments to allow for improvements in school standards.
 - The re-designation and expansion of Special Schools is on track for September 2014 and 2015, including the relocation and rebuilding of three schools.
 - The accuracy of our forecasting methodology has remained close to within 1% of accuracy, although the increase in inward migration into Kent during 2013-14 was greater than in previous years and higher than forecast. This has created greater pressure on spare capacity in some areas.
 - The increase in the school population has reduced the surplus capacity of school places across the Primary School sector – seven out of the 12 Kent districts are now operating at below 5% surplus capacity. Surplus capacity across the Secondary School sector remains high.
- 2.3 On 24 September 2014, the Education and Young People's Cabinet Committee received a report on the Commissioning Plan. The majority of the Committee voted to recommend that Cabinet approve the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19.

3 Commissioning Requirements

- 3.1 The proposed 2015-19 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 114,275 in 2013-14, to 129,338 in 2018-19 – which is more than 15,000 extra pupils over the next five years. Beyond this date the number of Primary age children remains comparatively level, although increases in Dartford are expected to continue. We must therefore continue to make new provision available in some Districts on both a permanent and temporary basis.
- 3.3 The number of Secondary age pupils (Years 7-11) in Kent schools is expected to rise significantly from 78,222 in 2013-14 to over 94,000 in 2023-24. Beyond this

point the longer term strategic forecasts indicate a slight fall in pupil numbers, although this estimate is heavily influenced by projections of new housing development beyond 2026.

- 3.4 This proposed Commissioning Plan, therefore, identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary school places as follows:

Totals

By 2015-16	By 2016-17	By 2017-18	2018-19 and after
<i>Primary</i> 29.3FE permanent 195 Year R places 90 places Years 1-5 <i>Secondary</i> 60 Year 7 places	<i>Primary</i> 15.5FE permanent 275 Year R places <i>Secondary</i> 13FE permanent	<i>Primary</i> 21.4FE permanent 130 Year R places <i>Secondary</i> 7FE permanent	<i>Primary</i> 46.5FE permanent 30 Year R places <i>Secondary</i> 60FE permanent 120 Year 7 places

- 3.5 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 continues to be significant.

4. **Next Steps**

- 4.1 Following the Education and Young People’s Cabinet Committee’s comments any final changes and amendments have been made prior to being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval on 13 October 2014.
- 4.2 The final approved Plan will be published in October 2014.
- 4.3 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.

5. **Recommendations**

- 5.1 Cabinet is asked to approve the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2015-19.

6. **Background Documents**

Education Cabinet Committee report - 9 May 2012

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

Education Cabinet Committee report – 24 September 2014

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=832&MId=5648&Ver=4>

[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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