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To: Select Committee – Grammar schools and social mobility –  
6 June 2016

Subject: **Grammar schools and social mobility Select Committee –  
Final Draft**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: The Committee is requested to consider and approve the final version of their report for submission to Cabinet and County Council.

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## **Introduction**

The Committee took evidence from a range of witnesses in February 2016 following which an early version of the report was produced. This version was circulated to the witnesses who attended the Committee and to relevant colleagues in Kent County Council's Education and Young People's Services Directorate.

The Committee has also met with the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform and the Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, and received comments from them on the draft report.

The Committee took account of the comments received and following further Select Committee discussions in April and May 2016 a number of amendments to the draft report have been made and incorporated into the attached version.

## **Timetable**

Following the agreement by Members of the final version of the Select Committee report, the report will be presented to Cabinet on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 for endorsement and to County Council on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2016 for approval.

## **Recommendations**

That the Committee's report, attached to this paper, be approved as the final version, subject to any minor amendments made at the meeting, and be submitted to Cabinet and County Council.

## Appendix 1 – Report Recommendations

### Viewing grammar school as a potential option

**Recommendation 1:** As the champion of pupils, parents and families, KCC will work with all primary school Headteachers to identify those most academically able pupils and discuss with parents the opportunity to put their child forward for the Kent Test.

**Recommendation 2:** Grammar schools should engage fully with parents and families to address misconceptions and promote the offer grammar schools can make to all students irrespective of background.

**Recommendation 3:** KCC should target all children eligible for Pupil Premium and children from areas of low registration for the Kent Test, providing detailed information on the Kent Test process and their transport entitlements.

### Securing a grammar school place

**Recommendation 4:** All grammar schools should provide more outreach to primary schools including after school classes in English and mathematics, mentoring and preparation for the Kent Test for primary aged pupils in Yrs 4-6 including those most academically able children in receipt of the Pupil Premium.

**Recommendation 5:** Urge all Primary Headteachers to utilise Headteacher Assessment Panels within the Kent Test process to advocate for those most academically able children supported by the Pupil Premium.

**Recommendation 6:** Identify a dedicated education professional in the Virtual School Kent to provide support and guidance to foster carers on appropriate secondary school destinations, as well as support through the secondary schools appeal process for children in their care, to be tracked through their Personal Education Plan.

**Recommendation 7:** Publish information on Pupil Premium spend for children in care on the Virtual School Kent website, including support for pupils from Key Stage 1 through to Key Stage 2, and detail on the type of secondary school destinations for these children.

**Recommendation 8:** KCC to monitor and challenge the proportion of pupils supported by the Pupil Premium who go on to grammar school.

**Recommendation 9:** KCC School Improvement Advisers to work with Primary Headteachers to consider how the most academically able pupils supported by the Pupil Premium are being identified and assisted to progress.

**Recommendation 10:** If not already in place, schools should follow best practice and nominate a lead governor for the Pupil Premium and how children in receipt of this are being supported to apply for the school most appropriate for them.

### Removing financial barriers to grammar schools

**Recommendation 11:** Urge all grammar schools to use multiple uniform providers to minimise costs and subsidise/cover the costs of schools trips and other expenses for pupils from low income families to ensure these are not prohibitive factors to children applying for or securing a grammar school place.

Due to the severe constraints on local government finances, the decision was taken to remove free transport for pupils attending their nearest appropriate secondary school if located more than three miles away. This Committee would like to see this entitlement reinstated; however, recognising the continuing, and ever more severe, constraints on the Council's finances, we make the following interim recommendations;

**Recommendation 12:** KCC to extend the existing entitlement for children on Free School Meals to free school transport to their nearest appropriate school to all children in receipt of Pupil Premium;

**Recommendation 13:** KCC should raise the low income threshold to £21k to enable pupils from low income families but not entitled to Free School Meals to access free transport to their nearest appropriate secondary school.

**Recommendation 14:** KCC to create a schools focused supplementary transport bursary, that would enable grammar schools and other types of schools where appropriate, to provide bespoke transport solutions especially for children from rural areas without bus services to enable better access to grammar schools.

### Increasing fair access to grammar schools

**Recommendation 15:** To invite grammar schools to fully consider the disadvantage children eligible for Pupil Premium support face and take action within their oversubscription admissions criteria. Where this fails to happen we will expect KCC to challenge the determined admissions arrangements.

**Recommendation 16:** Urge all "super selective" grammar schools to allocate a number of places for pupils registered in that academic year for Pupil Premium support and who achieve an appropriate combined test score in the Kent Test. We would also invite these schools to review the impact of "super selection" on social mobility in their areas.