

From: Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 29 November 2019

Subject: The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Committee 14 January 2018

Electoral Division: All

This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23 prior to final approval by Cabinet.

Recommendations:

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the Plan prior to the final version being considered and approved by Cabinet on 14 January 2019.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent (KCP) is a five-year rolling plan which is updated annually. It sets out how Kent County Council discharges its statutory responsibility to provide sufficient early years, SEND, primary and secondary places and to ensure that there are appropriate learning pathways for pupils at post-16. It is our responsibility to ensure that we have enough places in the right locations and at the right time to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and parental preferences. The Local Authority's role has changed to being the commissioner, as well as continuing to be a provider, of education provision.
- 1.2 The KCP sets out the principles by which we determine proposals, and it forecasts the need for future provision. It also sets out in more detail plans to meet the commissioning needs which arise in each district and borough in Kent, during the next three to five years.
- 1.3 This updated KCP is a 'live' document which underpins our on-going dialogue and consultation with schools, district and borough councils, diocesan authorities, KCC Members and local communities, to ensure we meet our responsibilities.

2. The demographic context

- 2.1 Information from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2005 there were 15,613 live births in Kent (excluding Medway). The number of births rose each year up to 2012 when there was a baby boom of 18,147 but fell in 2013 to 16,955. Between 2014 and 2017 the number of live births has begun to rise to the latest figure of 17,467, but the level of growth would appear to be at around one third of the rate than that seen between 2002 and 2012. As well as increases in the birth rate and birth numbers, inward migration into the County has increased particularly from London Boroughs. The combination of these factors will require additional school places, particularly at secondary level.
- 2.2 New housing is also a driver for the increase in school rolls. For the first time our forecasts include the pupils that we would expect to see from new developments. This suggests that, between the years 2017-18 and 2022-23, should all housing be delivered in line with district and borough council plans, primary school rolls could increase by up to 11,500 pupils and secondary rolls by up to 20,000 pupils.

3. Our Commissioning Intentions

- 3.1 The KCP 2019-23 identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary mainstream school and specialist places each year as follows. Additional provision will be secured through a combination of expanding existing schools and opening new ones.

Mainstream Schools

By 2019-20	By 2020-21	By 2021-22	By 2022-23	By 2023-24	Between 2024-2030
Primary 3FE	Primary 11.3FE	Primary 8.1FE	Primary 6FE	Primary 13.3FE	Primary 16.2FE
40 Year R places			30 Year R places		
Secondary 10 FE	Secondary 22FE	Secondary 30FE	Secondary 18FE	Secondary 36FE	Secondary 12FE
570 Year 7 places	510 Year 7 places	520 Year 7 places	300 Year 7 places	360 Year 7 places	210 Year 7 places

Primary - Total of 58FE* across the Plan period and 70 temporary Year R places.

Secondary - Total of 128FE* across the Plan period and 2,470 temporary Year 7 places.

*All figures rounded to the nearest 0.5FE

Specialist Provision

By 2019-20	By 2020-21	By 2021-22
363 places	450 places	538 places

Total of 1,351 specialist places across all key stages are planned for the forecast period.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Local Authority has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient numbers of pupil places. The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues to increase as a result of the requirements set out in the Plan. This pressure will continue the further ahead we look.
- 4.2 The cost of delivering new schools and school expansions is currently met from Basic Need grant from the Government, prudential borrowing by the County Council, Section 106 property developer contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy monies (CIL). Basic Need funding provided to KCC does not support the delivery of the school places needed to support new housing, developers are expected to fund these. As Basic Need funding is an annual allocation, based on a three-year rolling allocation, cash flow issues arise when delivering new schools which have high upfront capital costs. Developer contributions, although a major contributor to the capital cost of new schools and school expansions, are generally linked to housing delivery and there is a significant lag between the need for the County to deliver school places and the receipt of the developer contributions. The need to provide funding to bridge this gap is a growing pressure on the Council. As the pressure for new school places moves from the primary to secondary sector this issue will exacerbate with for example a new 6FE secondary school costing in excess of £20,000,000 to deliver.
- 4.3 Another funding option is the Free Schools programme; though recent changes in the Free School Wave process means that the scope is more limited than before. The impact of the delays to the previous rounds of free schools is being felt in the pressure for school places in some parts of the County and the pressure is reflected in the new Kent Commissioning Plan.
- 4.4 It remains the statutory duty of the Local Authority to secure sufficient school places. KCC officers will continue to work with Education, Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) officials to address our concerns, with particular reference to how the school's capital costs can be met ahead of the full contributions being received from developers and the need to revise some of the existing regulations around S106 funding which has cost Kent around £46m in the past 4-5 years.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following receipt of the Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee's comments, final changes and amendments will be made to the Commissioning Plan prior to it being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval on 14 January 2019. The final approved Plan will be published as soon as it has been agreed by Cabinet.

6. Recommendation(s)

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| 6.1 The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and endorse or make recommendations on the Plan prior to the final version being considered and approved by Cabinet on 14 January 2019 |
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7. Background Documents

- 7.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2018-21
<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/vision-and-priorities-for-improvement>

7.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2018-22

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/66990/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-for-Education-Provision-2018-22.pdf

7.3 Equalities Impact Assessment.

http://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/66991/Kent-Commissioning-Plan-For-Education-2018-22-Equalities-Impact-Assessment.pdf

8. Contact details

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