

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Beverley Fordham
Cabinet Member for Education

DECISION NUMBER:

25-00115

Executive Decision – key

25-00115 – Contractual Changes – The Education People

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, I agree to:

- a) reduce the value of the core contract with The Education People by £1.633m during 2026/27 through the changes to the service areas set out in the decision report; and
- b) delegate authority to Interim Deputy Director Effectiveness, Sufficiency and Skills to take the necessary actions, including but not limited to, entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary, to implement the above decision.

Reasons for decision:

KCC's contract with the Education People has been in place since 2018/19. It provides for delivery of a range of KCC's statutory functions, and to a much lesser extent, the provision of discretionary service.

The County Council needs to respond to a range of challenges – financial, legislative, policy based and quality related. It needs to ensure its resources are focused on delivering its statutory duties to suitable standard, and on meeting the changing policy objectives of both Government and the County Council.

The contract with TEP currently totals £9m. Changes are required to reduce the contract cost to match the funding envelope available.

Financial implications:

The contract value will reduce by £1.633m during 2026/27. The revised annual contract value will be £7.3m There will be one-off implementation costs associated with KCC's contractual obligations.

Legal implications:

TEP is a wholly owned KCC trading company. The proposed contract changes are being developed and agreed jointly by the company and Education Service, the contract commissioner, in line with contract requirements. Any contract variation will be managed in line with the contractual requirements.

The proposals will not impact negatively on the Council's ability to deliver its statutory duties.

Equalities implications:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed. As the proposals relate to commissioned services funded by the Children's, Young People and Education budget, these discharge the County Council's statutory responsibilities towards children, and thus affect this age group. However, the purpose of the changes are to ensure the available resources are used in a manner which best supports the outcomes for children and young people.

Data Protection implications:

A DPIA is not required. Any personal data required to implement the proposals can be anonymised.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

“The proposed decision will be considered by the Children’s Young People and Education Cabinet Committee 20 January 2026”.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option of not looking closely at the TEP contract for efficiencies and service deliver changes to secure a contribution to the savings needed by KCC was discarded. The services commissioned from it by KCC need to continue to evolve to meet the current demands and requirements of KCC.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

Signed

Date