

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform  
Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

**To:** Cabinet – 14 October 2013

**Subject:** COMMISSIONING PLAN FOR EDUCATION PROVISION 2013-18

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past pathway of paper:** The proposed decision was considered and endorsed by the Education cabinet Committee at its meeting held on 27 September 2013.

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:**

This report provides Cabinet with a summary of the Commissioning Plan for Education including proposals for additional and new school provision in the next 2-3 years, the forecasts for increased pupil numbers and the consequent need for increased provision to 2018. The Cabinet is asked to approve Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-18.

**Recommendations:**

**Cabinet is asked to approve the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2013-2018**

**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 to 2018, the commissioning needs which arise in each district as a consequence and what additional school provision we will deliver in the next 2-3 years .
- 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

local 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 additional 22 forms of entry (FE) in Primary Schools and 4 forms of entry 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 Commissioning Plan for 2013-18 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 age 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 the number 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 Secondary schools in some areas will still be needed.
- 3.4 This Commissioning Plan, therefore, identifies the need for additional permanent and temporary school places as follows:
  - 15.3 FE permanent and 250 temporary Year Reception places in Primary schools by September 2014
  - 3 FE permanent and 25 temporary Year 7 places in Secondary schools by September 2014
  - 25.6 FE permanent and 195 temporary Year R places in Primary schools by September 2015

- 9 FE permanent Year 7 places in Secondary schools by September 2015

3.5 Most of the additional places will be achieved by expanding existing schools but the Plan also includes proposals for new schools. While the need for new and expanded schools is significant because of the rising birth rate and increasing migration into Kent, the Plan's forecasts are also based on the best intelligence we have at present about future housing development in different areas of the County. These forecasts will be adjusted with each future year's publication of the revised Plan.

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1 Following the receipt of comments from schools and the Education Cabinet Committee's comments, final changes and amendments were made prior to being presented to Cabinet for consideration and approval.
- 4.2 The final approved Plan will be published in October 2013.
- 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 2013-18

#### **6. 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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