

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

**To:** Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 10 January 2020

**Subject:** **The Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** None

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Committee 27 January 2020

**Electoral Division:** All

This report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 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 27 January 2020.

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The County Council is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in Kent. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality, in the right places for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards, while supporting parental preference. The Plan details our future need for education provision, thereby enabling parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.

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. Numbers have since fallen, to 17,062 in 2018.

The increasing number of births, which required us to add significant primary school places, is now being felt in the secondary sector. Between the 2018-19 and 2023-24 academic years we forecast secondary school rolls will rise by 11,984 pupils. This is

equivalent to around 13 new 6FE secondary schools. Primary rolls are forecast to rise by 698 pupils across the same period.

### 3. Forecasting methodology

3.1 For the 2019-23 iteration of the KCP we published forecasts which included the additional pupil places required to support planned housing development as laid out in the 12 District/Borough Council Local Plans or their variants. This was to illustrate and evidence the total infrastructure needed if planned housing was built at the time, in the place and at the rate expected. While helpful, we have found that this approach has concentrated the additional provision needed into a shorter timeframe than that which will be reality, as housing sites and delivery rates do not always match the trajectories.

3.2 For this iteration, we have reverted back to using forecasts which adjust pupil cohorts for migration only. The commentary illustrates where provision linked to new housing will be needed.

### 4. Our Commissioning Intentions

4.1 The KCP 2020-24 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 School Commissioning Intentions

by 2020-21	by 2021-22	by 2022-23	by 2023-24	Between 2024-28	Between 2028-2031	Total
Primary 2.5FE	Primary 2.5FE 60 Year 7 places	Primary 4.5FE 30 Year R places	Primary 3FE	Primary 23.6FE	Primary 11FE	Primary 47FE* 90 Year R places
Secondary 1FE 565 Year 7 places	Secondary 18FE 450 Year 7 places	Secondary 14FE 225 Year 7 places	Secondary 20FE 240 Year 7 places	Secondary 21FE 90 Year 7 places	Secondary 8FE	Secondary 82FE 1,570 Year 7 places

\*All figures rounded to the nearest 0.5FE

#### Special School Commissioning Intentions

by 2020-21	by 2021-22	by 2022-23	by 2023-24	Between 2024-28	Between 2028-2031	Total
874 places	150 places	490 places	-	120-	-	1,634 places

### 5. Financial Implications

5.1 The Local Authority has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient numbers of pupil places in all education phases. The pressure on the County's Capital Budget continues to increase as secondary school demand grows. The cost of delivering school places 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).

5.2 Government funding for 'Basic Need' is allocated on a formula based upon information provided by local authorities about forecast numbers of pupils and school capacity. Such funding will only provide for predicted growth in numbers arising from changes in the birth rate and from inward net migration. The basis of allocation is supposed to be to add a third year of funding to a rolling three-year funding allocation. However, at the time of publication we continue to await the

confirmation of the Basic Need Funding from the 2018 round (for places needed in 2021) and have been informed that allocations for the 2019 and subsequent rounds will not be announced until after the next Comprehensive Spending Review.

- 5.3 The Government's decision to remove the 'pooling' restrictions on developer contributions is welcomed. This will assist in securing contributions for additional secondary school places. The Department for Education has issued guidance that local authorities should seek contributions to support nursery, sixth form, and special educational needs provision. The Council's guide to developer contributions being amended to reflect this. However, this will not support the lag in the funding streams and reduce the upfront capital costs that put the Council under so much financial pressure. As the pressure for new school places moves from the primary to secondary sector this issue will be exacerbated with, for example, a new 6FE secondary school costing in excess of £20m to deliver.

## 6. Next Steps

- 6.1 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 27 January 2020. The final approved Plan will be published as soon as it has been agreed by Cabinet.

## 7. Recommendation(s)

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| 7.1 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 27 January 2020 |
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## 8. Background Documents

- 8.1 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>
- 8.2 Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2019-23  
<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/education-provision/education-provision-plan>
- 8.3 Equalities Impact Assessment.  
An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed.

## 9. Contact details

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