

**From:** Matt Dunkley CBE, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education  
Richard Long, Cabinet Member Education and Skills.

**To:** Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 28 June 2020

**Subject:** Review of the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:**

**Summary:** This report informs Members of the progress made in implementing the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 since its adoption by Cabinet in January 2020.

*Recommendation(s):*

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in Autumn 2020.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In January 2020 Kent County Council published the latest Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2020-24 (KCP). This set out how the County Council, as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, will provide sufficient good quality provision across all types and phases of education, in the right locations, to meet the demands of increased pupil numbers and parental preferences. The KCP is updated annually.
- 1.2 This report reviews the progress made since the KCP's production. It covers:
- The impact Covid-19 has had on the County Councils ability to deliver the additional provision planned in the KCP 2020-24;
  - A review of forecasting accuracy, including the impact of the change in forecasting methodology to include the planned housing and revised planning groups;
  - The progress in implementing the expansion of school places in mainstream and special schools;
  - An update of SEN, Early Years and Post 16 provision; and
  - The progress against our targets as set out in Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2019-21.

### 1.3 In summary, this Review demonstrates that:

- Covid-19 has impacted on the County Council's ability to deliver new school places for September 2020 and may well impact on the plans for September 2021. The mitigation that we need to put in place for September 2020 could cost the County Council in excess of £7.9m.
- For September 2020, we commissioned all planned permanent places in both primary (2.5FE) and secondary (1FE) phases. Slightly fewer temporary Year 7 places were commissioned than intended with 544 of the 565 places identified being delivered<sup>1</sup>. In addition, 914 specialist places have been commissioned<sup>2</sup> in special schools or specialist resource provisions in mainstream schools. This is an increase on the 884 places identified in the KCP.
- We over forecast Year R pupils by 0.2% and primary rolls by 0.3%. Year 7 pupils were under forecast by -0.4% and Year 7-11 over forecast by 1.0%. The detailed forecasting accuracy is set out in section 5.
- As of October 2019, surplus capacity was 11.0% in Year R and 6.5% across all primary school year groups. This is similar to the previous year (11.3% and 5.8%). Surplus capacity across the secondary school sector has reduced as larger Year 6 rolls continue to enter secondary provision. Presently, surplus capacity is at 3.1% in Year 7 and at 6.4% across all years. This is down from 6.1% and 8.9% in September 2018 respectively.
- As of National Offer Day 2020 88.3% of parents secured their 1<sup>st</sup> preference primary school place for September 2020, which is slightly below the target of 91%. At secondary level with 77.7% securing their 1<sup>st</sup> preference against the target of 76%.

## 2. The Impact of Covid-19 on the commissioning of school places

2.1 31 separate school projects are in the process of being delivered for the 2020-21 academic year. The lockdown initiated in March 2020, led to contractors leaving school sites, delays in securing planned modular provision and a consequential delay to the date of delivery of new schools and school expansions. The Area Education Teams, alongside colleagues in Property and school leaders have looked at all options to mitigate any delays and ensure that there is sufficient provision to accommodate all pupils. 18 of the 31 projects have been mitigated at nil cost due to the work of AEOs, property and the goodwill of schools. This mitigation has included the use school halls, staffrooms or training rooms to provide additional teaching spaces. In some cases, modular classrooms that were due to be replaced will be kept longer than anticipated. We estimate that the delays due to Covid-19 for the projects due to be delivered in 2020-21 will cost in the region of £7.9m.

2.2 Moving forward, projects due to be delivered from 2021-22 onwards could also be at risk. Several planned consultations have had to be pushed back, and planning

---

<sup>1</sup> Delivered in this instance means that the places have been agreed but any works to accommodate the additional pupils for September 2020 may still be being completed.

<sup>2</sup> Commissioned in this instance means the total number of places the special school will be designated to accommodate. However, as a school generally fills from the youngest pupils in the first instance not all 914 places will be available immediately.

permission delayed as planning committee meetings are cancelled or reorganised. This is in addition to any issues within the construction industry that will have a longer-term impact, for example supply chain. Work is being undertaken to mitigate these risks.

### 3. Progress in Expanding the Number of School Places

- 3.1 Changes to the number of school places available happen for a variety of reasons. KCC commissions both temporary and permanent places, schools which are their own admissions authorities may offer places above their published admissions numbers (PAN), and temporary places available in one year may not be available in subsequent years. The details below outline the gross additional places added and net changes to the number of places being offered.
- 3.2 Gross Change - For admission in September 2020 15 primary schools offered a total of 110 Year R places above their PAN. Within the secondary sector 35 secondary schools offered a total of 993 Year 7 places above their PAN. Not all of the additional places were commissioned by KCC. The ability for schools to self-determine temporary increases above their published admission numbers without recourse to the Local Authority adds to the complexity of place planning in the medium and longer term.
- 3.3 Across all Kent schools, the net change to the number of places being offered for September 2020 entry (compared with September 2019 entry) shows that there is no change in Year R places and an increase of 242 Year 7 places.
- 3.4 Figure 3.1 summarises new places identified in the 2020-24 Commissioning Plan as needing to be commissioned by September 2020 and compares this to the places delivered. All Year R places are due to be delivered in line with the KCP. Figure 3.2 sets out any variation between what was planned to be commissioned for Year 7 and what was actually commissioned for September 2020.

**Figure 3.1: Comparison of need identified by September 2020 with places delivered by May 2020**

	Primary		Secondary	
	Permanent Year R	Temporary Year R	Permanent Year 7	Temporary Year 7
Need identified in Plan	2.5FE	0 places	1FE	565 places
Places delivered	2.5FE	0 places	1FE	544 places
<b>Difference</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-21</b>

**Figure 3.2: Variations between the commissioning intentions for secondary school provision by September 2020 and delivery**

District	Planning Group	To be Commissioned by 2020-21	Variation	Reason	Impact
Ashford	Ashford North non-selective	Up to 90 non-selective Year 7 places	153 non-selective places were added to ensure sufficient places for National Offer Day 2020.	The number of applications where higher than forecast.	The additional places offered ensured all families were offered a secondary school place on National Offer Day. Increased numbers of families were offered one of their preferred schools.
Canterbury	Canterbury and Faversham	30 selective places	Places were not commissioned	There were sufficient selective-places for National Offer Day	No impact as there were sufficient non-selective places available
Folkestone and Hythe	Folkestone non-selective	30 non-selective places	Not required	Numbers on National Offer day were lower than forecast.	No impact as there were sufficient non-selective places available.
Thanet	Thanet selective	30 selective places	41 selective places commissioned	Number of pupils eligible for selective provision in the District was higher than forecast.	There is enough selective provision available for nearly all pupils who are eligible.
Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells	West Kent Selective	Up to 70 Year 7 selective places	35 places commissioned	Fewer selective places needed than forecast.	No impact as all pupils requesting selective provision have been offered a selective school place.

It should be noted that a surplus of school places both selective and non-selective has a detrimental impact on the financial viability and demographic of other schools in the area, including where selective schools admit non-selective pupils.

#### **4. Increase in the Number of Academy Schools**

4.1 There has been a small increase in the number of academy schools operating in Kent. As of March 2020, there were 260 academies in the County.

#### **5. Forecasting Accuracy**

5.1 The KCP sets out forecast roll numbers by planning groups at both primary and secondary school levels. The overall forecast numbers are accurate within +/-1% at a County level in respect to both school-roll based and pupil residence-based numbers.

5.2 Figures 5.1 to 5.4 set out the forecast primary and secondary school rolls for 2019-20 and compare these to the actual school rolls as at October 2019. The target is to be accurate to within plus or minus 1% at County level. Figures 4.1 to 4.4 show that:

- Year R rolls were over forecast by 0.2% / 30 pupils.
- Years R-6 rolls were over forecast by 0.3% / 323 pupils.
- Year 7 rolls were under forecast by -0.4% / 79 pupils, and
- Years 7-11 rolls were over forecast by 0.3% / 323 pupils.

This demonstrates a high level of forecasting accuracy at a County level. However, there are variations across the districts.

5.3 For primary, there were three districts where we over or under forecast Year R places by +/-1% and 30 places (Dartford, Gravesham and Maidstone). This is an improvement on the previous year where five districts were outside the same measure. Across Years R-6, three districts were over or under forecast by more than +/-1% (Ashford, Dover and Maidstone), again an improvement on the previous year where there were four districts outside that measure.

5.4 For secondary, six districts were over or under forecast in Year 7 by more than +/-1% (Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Sevenoaks, Swale and Thanet). An improvement on the previous year where there were eight districts outside the same measure. Across Years 7-11 two districts were over or under forecast by +/-1% (Sevenoaks and Thanet). This is a significant improvement on the previous year where nine districts were outside the same measure.

5.6 Forecasting methodology incorporates a weighted migration factor across all year groups, a transition factor that forecasts the Year R roll and the Year 7 roll based on resident preschool, Year 6 numbers respectively and travel to school patterns. All factors are based on historic trends at a planning group level. Occasionally the migration into a planning group or the transition from one school phase to another can be significantly higher or lower than expected. This in addition to a change in the published admissions number or the popularity of a school, can have a significant impact on the forecasts for a district.

5.7 For instance, in Dartford West at Year 7, we had expected the 2018-19 Year 6 roll of 298 residents to become a 2019-20 Year 7 roll of 287 residents, a transition rate of 96.5% given historic data; however, the actual transition rate was 115.8%, to become 345 Year 7 pupils in 2019-20. This alongside any increase of in-migration of families with Year 6 children between October 2018 and October 2019, could be

the reason for Dartford District being under forecast so significantly. In Sevenoaks, the significant under forecasting of Year 7 places was due to over 3FE of additional places being offered in the District for September 2019. With forecasts being based on historic trends, the significant increase in Year 7 pupils will be reflected in future forecasts.

- 5.8 Further investigation is being undertaken across all districts where the variance was outside the expected level of tolerance and changes to the transition and migration factors will be made should the need arise.

**Figure 5.1: Comparison of Year R forecast v October 2019 roll**

District	Forecast Year R roll (2019/20)	Actual Year R roll Oct 2019	Difference (forecast less actual)	% variance (%)
Gravesham	1,325	1,365	-40	-2.9
Folkestone & Hythe	1,070	1,092	-22	-2.1
Tunbridge Wells	1,201	1,216	-15	-1.2
Sevenoaks	1,344	1,359	-15	-1.1
Tonbridge & Malling	1,571	1,585	-14	-0.9
Thanet	1,502	1,512	-10	-0.6
Canterbury	1,419	1,421	-2	-0.2
Dover	1,185	1,176	9	0.7
Swale	1,755	1,736	19	1.1
Ashford	1,559	1,538	21	1.4
Maidstone	1,983	1,937	46	2.4
Dartford	1,631	1,578	53	3.4
<b>Kent Totals</b>	<b>17,545</b>	<b>17,515</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0.2</b>

Under forecast  
 Over forecast

**Figure 5.2: Comparison of Primary (Year R-6) forecast v October 2019 roll**

District	Forecast primary roll (2019/20)	Actual primary roll Oct 2019	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)
Sevenoaks	9,499	9,551	-52	-0.5
Tunbridge Wells	8,636	8,673	-37	-0.4
Gravesham	9,635	9,674	-39	-0.4
Tonbridge & Malling	11,551	11,595	-44	-0.4
Canterbury	10,430	10,435	-5	-0.1
Folkestone & Hythe	8,370	8,361	9	0.1
Thanet	11,124	11,111	13	0.1
Dartford	10,898	10,848	50	0.5
Swale	13,042	12,978	64	0.5
Maidstone	13,620	13,476	144	1.1
Dover	8,634	8,541	93	1.1
Ashford	11,135	11,008	127	1.2
<b>Kent Totals</b>	<b>126,574</b>	<b>126,251</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Under forecast  
 Over forecast

**Figure 5.3: Comparison of Year 7 forecast v October 2019 roll**

District	Forecast Year 7 roll (2019/20)	Actual Year 7 roll Oct 2019	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)	
Sevenoaks	539	590	-51	-8.7	Under forecast
Ashford	1,553	1,620	-67	-4.2	
Dartford	1,784	1,844	-60	-3.3	
Canterbury	1,560	1,608	-48	-3.0	
Dover	1,231	1,245	-14	-1.1	
Tonbridge & Malling	1,817	1,816	1	0.0	
Gravesham	1,478	1,474	4	0.2	Over forecast
Maidstone	2,145	2,132	13	0.6	
Tunbridge Wells	1,664	1,651	13	0.8	
Folkestone & Hythe	1,139	1,124	15	1.4	
Swale	1,778	1,718	60	3.5	
Thanet	1,573	1,517	56	3.7	
<b>Kent</b>	<b>18,260</b>	<b>18,339</b>	<b>-79</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	

**Figure 5.4: Comparison of Year 7-11 forecast v October 2019 roll**

District	Forecast Secondary roll (2019/20)	Actual Secondary roll Oct 2019	Difference (forecast less actual)	Over / under forecast (%)	
Sevenoaks	2,469	2,533	-64	-2.5	Under forecast
Dartford	8,349	8,404	-55	-0.7	
Ashford	7,124	7,161	-37	-0.5	
Canterbury	7,538	7,567	-29	-0.4	
Maidstone	10,040	10,029	11	0.1	
Dover	5,966	5,956	10	0.2	
Tonbridge & Malling	8,385	8,346	39	0.5	Over forecast
Folkestone & Hythe	5,302	5,273	29	0.5	
Gravesham	6,955	6,900	55	0.8	
Tunbridge Wells	7,945	7,879	66	0.8	
Swale	8,258	8,183	75	0.9	
Thanet	7,138	7,041	97	1.4	
<b>Kent</b>	<b>85,469</b>	<b>85,272</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>0.2</b>	

## 6. Progress in Achieving the Targets

- 6.1 The targets which relate to providing sufficient school places are set out in 'Vision and Priorities for Improvement.'
- 6.2 The target is to maintain 5% surplus places in both primary and secondary schools. Maintaining sufficient surplus capacity in schools across a planning group is essential both to meet increased demand, and to enable parental preferences to be met. However, as the majority of school funding is pupil led, too great a surplus of places can cause viability issues for schools.

- 6.3 Figure 6.1 shows that surplus capacity in Reception classes across Kent is at 11.0% and for all primary aged pupils it is 6.5%. We expect the number of surplus places to fall if housing comes forward as planned. Surplus primary school capacity across a district may mask pressures within specific planning groups. Where pupil numbers do not increase and surplus capacity is forecast to remain high, we will work with headteachers of both maintained schools and academies to look at ways to reduce surplus capacity. This could be through the reduction in pupil admission numbers and/or the removal/re-designation of temporary classrooms.
- 6.4 Surplus capacity in Year 7 across Kent is at 3.1%. Across Years 7-11 it is at 6.4%. The surplus capacity at Year 7 falling below the 5% threshold was expected due to the increased numbers of primary aged pupils transferring to secondary schools. For September 2019, 605 additional Year 7 places were commissioned (240 permanent and 365 temporary). For September 2020, 574 Year 7 places (30 permanent and 544 temporary) will be commissioned. Year 7 numbers are expected to peak around 2023-2024 before falling back. We therefore need to balance the commissioning of permanent and temporary secondary places so that we are not over commissioning permanent places leaving schools with a legacy of excess surplus places.

**Figure 6.1: Surplus capacity in mainstream schools as of October 2019**

<b>October 2019</b>		
<b>District</b>	<b>% Year R</b>	<b>% Years R-6</b>
Ashford	7.3	6.1
Canterbury	10.5	6.3
Dartford	5.1	1.7
Dover	12.7	9.1
Folkestone & Hythe	17.5	7.2
Gravesham	7.5	3.3
Maidstone	6.4	3.9
Sevenoaks	13.1	10.0
Swale	16.9	7.2
Thanet	16.0	10.4
Tonbridge & Malling	11.1	5.8
Tunbridge Wells	7.6	7.3
<b>Kent</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>
<b>District</b>	<b>% Year 7</b>	<b>% Years 7-11</b>
Ashford	0.5	7.7
Canterbury	0.3	4.0
Dartford	0.6	4.7
Dover	8.1	10.5
Folkestone & Hythe	7.6	4.1
Gravesham	-1.4	0.9
Maidstone	2.2	6.9
Sevenoaks	-3.5	3.0
Swale	5.6	6.5
Thanet	-0.9	5.6
Tonbridge & Malling	8.8	12.0
Tunbridge Wells	5.4	6.6
<b>Kent</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>6.4</b>

- 6.4 We set targets for the percentage of families securing their first preference school for entry in September 2020. For primary schools the target was 91% and on

National Offer Day 88.3% of parents secured their first preference. For secondary schools the target was 76% and 77.7% of parents secured their first preference.

- 6.5 The target for first and second preferences for both primary and secondary schools was 95% and 86% respectively. This year 95.1% secured their first or second preference in a primary school and 89.3% of parents secured their first or second preference at a secondary school.

## **7. Progress in Commissioning Provision for SEND Pupils**

- 7.1 The KCP identified KCC's intention to commission 884 new places in special schools and Specialist Resourced Provisions (SRPs) from September 2020. In total, 842 of the 884 places identified in the KCP have been commissioned, with a further 72 places being commissioned that were not identified in the KCP. This will bring the total to 914 new special school places. Figure 7.1 sets out the variations between what we planned to commission, and what we have commissioned for September 2020.
- 7.2 Covid-19 has had an impact on the delivery of some of the additional places commissioned for September 2020. The satellite of The Beacon Folkestone, to be located at the former Walmer Science College will be delayed until December 2020. The delay will be managed through the use of temporary facilities and/or supporting pupils to remain in the short term, in their present pre-school provision or maintained schools. Two Specialist Resource Provisions at Garlinge Primary School and Holy Trinity and St Johns (both in Thanet) will also be delivered later in the 2020-21 academic year.
- 7.3 We are aware that Kent pupils with an EHCP are less likely to be educated in a mainstream school than would be expected nationally. This places significant pressures on the specialist school sector and increases the number of places that we need to commission in independent provision.
- 7.4 Continually increasing the number of special school places is not the solution, or necessarily in the best interests of all pupils some of whom could successfully grow and learn in mainstream schools with the right support. Work, as outlined in the Written Statement of Action continues to engage with our mainstream schools to explore the barriers and challenges to effective inclusion of young people with additional needs in mainstream education.

**Figure: 7.1 Specialist Provision Planned in Special Schools**

District	To be Commissioned by 2020-21	Variation	Reason	Impact
Dover	168 place satellite if a PSCN School	The number of places has been increased to 240 places	During the consultation process suggestions were made that 168 places would not be sufficient and that 240 places (2FE at primary and secondary phases) would be required. CYPECC Members agreed with this and resolved that the Record of Decision should be amended to reflect the increased size of the satellite and the subsequent increase of the designated number at The Beacon to 620 places.	Positive impact for pupils with PSCN as there will be increased specialist places available.
Swale	2x15 places ASD satellites	Not commissioned	No expressions of interest were received from mainstream schools.	This will impact on the pressure for places in specialist schools. Officers will continue to work with mainstream schools to commission provision during 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic years while working towards an alternative solution.

## **8. Progress in implementing Changes to Provision for Early Years**

- 8.1 The annual Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) is typically prepared through the Summer Term ahead of September in each year. The CSA enables officers to identify the supply of and demand for early years and childcare provision across the County, including where there might be over supply and particularly a deficit in provision. The outcomes of this are reported in the next KCP. We work with providers and potential providers to encourage the establishment of additional provision where it is required.
- 8.2 For 2020, the CSA is clearly a markedly difficult piece of work because of the likely impact of COVID-19 on supply (sustainability issues have not yet but may well bring about the closure of some provisions) and demand (parental reduced need for childcare to work and/or nervousness of their children taking up their Free Early Education Entitlement/s because of a perceived or real risk of infection). This is monitored closely in order to quickly identify presenting issues and respond accordingly.
- 8.3 In the KCP 2020-24 we reported that the DfE had made £30m available for maintained school nursery provision through the Capital Funding for Nursery Provision programme. The aim of the funding is to create new high-quality school-based nursery places targeted at closing the gap for disadvantaged children. Four schools were supported in submitting bids of which three were successful. These were:
- Molehill Primary Academy, Maidstone, Maidstone
  - Greenfields Community Primary School
  - St Mary's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Sevenoaks
- 8.4 Developer contributions have a role to play in helping to fund additional nursery places required as a result of housing growth, however they may be provided. All new primary schools (or all through schools) are expected to include a nursery provision. Baseline costs, which are presently being reviewed, include for nursery provision. However, nursery provision within maintained schools may not provide sufficient pre-school provision to mitigate the needs of the population, particularly in new developments such as Garden Communities where there is evidence that new build developments have higher child yields on average than the housing stock as a whole in early years. Where this is the case we work with developers to identify how provision for additional Early Years places can be identified. This may be through the provision of shared spaces in community spaces and/or commercial spaces for rent.
- 8.5 Through the COVID-19 lockdown period, in line with national patterns, approximately 75% of the early years and childcare sector (across all provider types) has been closed. Reports have been provided to the Department for Education twice weekly, including provision that has been open and the numbers of children of Critical Workers and those who are vulnerable that have been cared for. A bespoke Brokerage Service has been offered via the Children and Families Information Service to all parents who are Critical Workers and in need of childcare. All requests for childcare were satisfied, indicating that supply (although much reduced from the usual) has been meeting demand. In line with the comments in paragraph 8.2, it is difficult at the moment to predict what the demand for provision

will look like going forward, which in turn will impact the medium and longer term scale and nature of the Childcare Market in Kent.

## **9. Post-16 Commissioning update**

### **Sixth Form and Post -16 Capacity**

- 9.1 The KCP identified a potential deficit of 6<sup>th</sup> form places in a small number of selective and non-selective planning groups. These figures related to sixth form places in maintained schools only and did not consider the wider post-16 offer available in other settings such as colleges.
- 9.2 Pupil forecasts for maintained sixth forms are based on the forecast Year 11 cohort and apply a staying on rate (for each individual school). The same is done between Years 12 and 13 and Years 13 and (notional) 14+. Sixth form capacity is based on current identified capacity as identified in the SCAP return. The return figures are either net capacities or declared academy capacities from funding agreements.
- 9.3 Where schools have a dedicated sixth form, the facilities used are not separated out within capacity assessments by the ESFA. This will mean that as larger cohorts have entered the secondary sector, the accommodation that may have been dedicated for sixth form provision in previous years, is considered to be available to be used to accommodate larger cohorts lower down the school. Clearly this will not be sustainable and also makes it challenging to fully understand the provision required to secure sufficient post 16 provision moving forward.
- 9.5 The Local Authority receives no Basic Need funding to address any shortfall in post-16 provision. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is responsible for providing the Capital funding to increase post-16 provision. In this respect, the ESFA would be looking at the whole gamut of post-16 providers within an area when considering if there is a need for additional provision to be made available. This would include maintained school sixth forms, colleges and other independent providers. Where provision in one sector may seem under pressure, such as is the case shown by our latest forecasts in regard to maintained school sixth forms, surplus provision in other sectors may off set this and therefore the ESFA would not consider that there is a need to increase provision.
- 9.6 DfE guidance around developer contributions outlines the expectation that local authorities will request contributions towards sixth form provision. We are reviewing our process to identify how best to manage this. We have also written to the ESFA requesting discussion on how we can join up secondary school expansions for Years 7-11, with any proposals the ESFA might bring forward for the expansion of the school's sixth form.

### **Changes to the Post 16 Curriculum**

#### **T Levels**

- 9.7 The roll out of T Level courses for September 2020 continues. These 2-year courses, equivalent to 3 A Levels, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to ensure that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

- 9.8 T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). Because of the high level of industry practice, school sixth forms are slow to take up these qualifications, the impact of Covid-19 on all employment sectors will make securing placement even more challenging.

### **DfE review of post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below**

- 9.9 In 2019 the DfE consulted on their proposal to change post-16 qualification. At this point the outcome to the consultation has yet to be published. We will continue to monitor the outcome of changes to post-16 qualifications at level 3 and below in England. The proposed change could have a significant impact on sixth forms provided by Kent non-selective schools who provide more flexible post 16 offers for those pupils not suited to a wholly level 3 academic programme.

## **10. Capital Funding**

- 10.1 Since the KCP was published the Basic Need (BN) Allocation has been announced with KCC allocated £23,579,403 for the 2021-22 academic year. As ever, additional school places required will rely on a combination of the BN funding, developer contributions and prudential borrowing. The Government’s decision to remove the pooling restrictions allowing more than 5 agreements to be linked to a single project will help in securing increased funding in the longer term but does not support gaps between the funding secured in the short to medium term and the cost of the Capital Programme.
- 10.2 The Capital Programme has been particularly impacted by the Covid-19 crisis. We estimate that delays to school delivery for 2020-21 alone could have an impact of up to £7.9m which is around 1/4 of the BN allocation noted above. We will continue to monitor this impact and report to Members.
- 10.3 Prior to the publication of the next iteration of the KCP, a review of the Capital Programme will be undertaken to ensure that we are providing the addition school places required when and where needed at the best value to KCC. In addition, we are reviewing our baseline costs for new build and expansions of primary, secondary and special schools which will be reflected in developer contribution requests once agreed.

## **11. Recommendations:**

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress achieved and to consider the report prior to the next version of the Commissioning Plan in autumn 2020.

## **12. Background Documents**

- 12.1 Vision and Priorities for Improvement:  
[https://www.kelsi.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf](https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/29074/EYPS-Vision-and-Priorities-for-Improvement.pdf)
- 12.2 Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2020-24:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/education-skills-and-employment-policies/education-provision-plan>

12.3 Working Together, Improving Outcomes: Kent's Strategy for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 2017-2019

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/13323/Strategy-for-children-with-special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.pdf)

Report Author and Relevant Director:

- Celia Buxton
- Interim Area Education Officer (South Kent)
- 03000 421415
- [Celia.Buxton2@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Celia.Buxton2@kent.gov.uk)
  
- David Adams
- Interim Director Education and Leadership
- 03000 414989
- [David.Adams@kent.gov.uk](mailto:David.Adams@kent.gov.uk)