

Commissioning Plan for Education Provision

KENT

2012 – 2017

Maidstone (extract)



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Foreword

The role of local authorities within the education sector has been redefined by a combination of legislation. Local authorities have significant core responsibilities as strategic commissioners of education provision, agents for school improvement and champions of children and their communities.

These three responsibilities are intertwined. The role of strategic commissioner is to ensure there is sufficient, suitable education provision, in the right place for all local children and young people; and also to ensure we achieve improved educational standards and good outcomes for children and young people, by ensuring they can attend a good or outstanding school.

New provision opens opportunities to make schools better environments in which to learn. Expansion of popular and successful schools makes these accessible to more pupils. Places should be removed where capacity is not needed and it is necessary to protect standards and the quality of education. However, an element of surplus capacity ensures parents are able to exercise choice, whilst balancing this with the need to achieve an efficient and effective education system.

The County Council's goals by 2015 are to ensure:

- There will be more good schools, with at least 85% of primary and secondary schools judged as good or outstanding. All special schools will be good or outstanding
- At least 85% of families secure school places at their first preference school, and 95% secure either their first or second preference
- We maintain at least 5% surplus capacity in the primary school sector in each District of Kent
- We maintain at least 5% surplus capacity in the secondary school sector in each travel to learn area of Kent
- We make appropriate provision for children with special educational needs so as to reduce by 10% the number who need to attend independent and out of county provision away from their local community

The context within which the Local Authority fulfils its role is changing. The Local Authority is increasingly operating in a more diverse educational environment where decisions about school size and capacity are taken following dialogue and negotiation with a number of providers in the light of local demand. Many schools can now make their own decisions about expansion and there are new providers coming into the market, such as free schools. Nevertheless the Local Authority remains the strategic commissioner of education provision, with a duty to plan strategically and ensure we have the right number and quality of school places for local children and their families. We have a statutory responsibility to monitor the supply and demand for places and for ensuring that there is sufficient capacity to meet demand.

This Commissioning Plan sets out our future plans as strategic commissioner of education provision across all types and phases of education. We will update this on an annual basis and consult regularly on future developments.

County Councillor Mike Whiting
Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Commissioning Plan for new educational provision in Kent is key to achieving our aim to be the most forward looking area in England for education and learning and one of the best places for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.
- 1.2 Good and outstanding schools are the basis of strong communities and a strong local economy. All parents want their children to go to a good school and they want a choice of schools. And all children and young people should be able to achieve well at school, from the earliest years through primary and secondary education, no matter what their background. The goal of the education system in Kent is for all young people to have the best opportunities and to gain the right qualifications for rewarding employment and independence as they become young adults. Securing good quality school places in every community is essential for every young person to have the best start in life.
- 1.3 In Kent we are seeing a significant increase in pupil numbers and consequently a need for new provision. The number of primary-aged pupils is expected to rise significantly from 116,600 in 2011, to 127,300 in 2016. Beyond this point numbers remain comparatively level, although increases in some Districts are off-set by reductions in others. There will be a need to continue to make new provision available in some Districts on a permanent basis.
- 1.4 The secondary-aged population, while reducing between now and 2015 will rise through the latter part of this decade, and fall again in the first half of the 2020s. The number of 11 to 16 year olds in Kent secondary schools is 80,372 in 2011-12, which will fall to 77,600 in 2015 and is forecast to rise to a peak of around 83,200 in 2021. The falling numbers to 2015 mask significant growth in some districts that run counter to the overall trend, so that additional forms of entry in Year 7 in some areas will still be needed.
- 1.5 This Commissioning Plan, therefore, identifies the need for permanent new school provision as follows: 22.1 forms of entry in primary schools and 4 forms of entry in secondary schools across Kent by 2013. By 2016 we will need 30.4 additional forms of entry in primary schools and 13 forms of entry in Year 7 in secondary schools because of growth in some areas, for example in Ashford, Sittingbourne, Tonbridge and Malling and Gravesham. This is roughly equivalent to 25 new primary schools and 2 new secondary schools, although much of it will be achieved by expanding existing schools. Beyond this period we are forecasting a need for 51 new forms of entry in primary schools and 26 new forms of entry in secondary schools. While in many cases these needs are dependent upon future housing development, the increase in demand for education places is significant.
- 1.6 By clearly setting out the Local Authority's future commissioning needs and plans we hope parents and providers will be in a better position to make proposals and suggestions regarding how these needs can be met. This is a different approach to setting out predetermined solutions to perceived need, and should enable a greater range of options to be considered. We welcome the fact that new providers, such as free schools, will be entering the market and believe that parents and communities should have a strong voice in proposals for future school development. The Local Authority also recognises that popular schools may wish to expand, or be under pressure from the local community to do so. We support this greater diversity in the

range of education provision available to Kent children and young people. As the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision, we welcome proposals from existing schools and new providers that address the needs, identified in this Plan, for new provision to meet increased demand and to improve the quality of education.

- 1.7 The draft Plan was widely consulted on during May and June 2012, and the responses to the consultation have informed this final version for publication. We will continue to consult regularly, review our forecast data and publish a revised Plan on an annual basis. This is an on-going process which will evolve as circumstances change and we take on board the views of parents and communities about the future shape of education provision in Kent.

Patrick Leeson
Corporate Director
Education, Learning and Skills

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Purpose

Kent County Council (The Local Authority) is the Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision in the County. This Commissioning Plan sets out how we will carry out our responsibility for ensuring there are sufficient places of high quality for all learners, while at the same time fulfilling our other responsibilities to raise education standards, and be the champion of children and their families in securing good quality education. The Plan also supports the delivery of the Local Authority's Medium Term Plan, "Bold Steps for Kent", and its "Vision for Kent 2011-21". The purpose of the Commissioning Plan is to be transparent about the future need for education provision in Kent, in order to enable parents and education providers to put forward proposals as to how these needs might best be met.

2.2 Statutory Duties

This Plan seeks to provide the framework within which we discharge the commissioning of future education provision. The Local Authority has duties to ensure:

- there are sufficient places for 3 and 4 year old children to be able to access their free early years entitlement (15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year); from September 2013, this duty will extend to providing free places to disadvantaged 2 year olds;
- all Kent residents of statutory school age (5 to 16 years old) have school places, if their families wish to take these up;
- it provides full-time education to children who are not in school for reasons of illness, exclusion or otherwise;
- that from September 2013 all 16/17 year olds are in full time education or employment with training; and from September 2015 all young people are in such provision up to their 18th birthday;
- that children and young people's learning needs are assessed, and statements of Special Educational Need (SEN) issued, where appropriate; this may require placement in special school provision in order to meet the child's needs. These responsibilities may extend to young people up to the age of 25;
- that it considers parental representations about the exercise of its functions in relation to the provision of primary and secondary school education.

2.3 Delivering Bold Steps – Vision for Education, Learning and Skills

"Our aim is to be the most forward looking area in England for education and learning so that we are the best place for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve. We want Kent to be a place where families thrive and all children learn and develop well from the earliest years so that they are ready for school, have excellent foundations for learning and are equipped for success in life, no matter what their background. We want every child to go to a good or outstanding school. We have the same expectations for every child and young person to make good progress in their learning, to achieve well at school and to have the best opportunities for an independent economic and social life as they become young adults."

- ### **2.4**
- In support of achieving this vision, by 2015 the Local Authority is planning to maintain a modest surplus of primary and secondary school places (between 5% and 7%); to increase the percentage of parents securing their preferred school(s) (at least 85% to secure their first preference, and 95% to secure either their first or second preference); to improve the quality of schools (at least 85% of primary and secondary schools, and all special schools, will be judged as good or better); and to further

develop in-County special education provision so as to reduce (by at least 10%) the number of out-County independent and non-state maintained special school places commissioned for Kent pupils.

2.5 Principles and Guidelines

It is important that the Local Authority is open about the principles and planning guidelines it will adhere to when making commissioning decisions or assessing the relative merits of any proposals it might receive. This Commissioning Plan sets these out.

2.6 Forecasting Future Education Provision Needs

The Local Authority uses data on births and pre-school population figures from the Health Authority to inform the forecasting of pre-school and primary school pupil rolls. Secondary school and post-16 education needs are calculated from primary school rolls and transfer rates to secondary schools. Migration in and out of different parts of Kent and housing developments are taken into account. The methodology for forecasting the future needs for special education provision is being developed further, alongside the Local Authority's SEN review, and will be incorporated into the next edition of this plan. Over the last five years, forecasting for primary and secondary pupils at County level has generally been accurate to within plus or minus 1%. As would be expected, local forecasting has a greater variance, largely due to migration and pupil mobility.

2.7 The increasing birth rate in Kent mirrors that of England and Wales. Since 2002, the birth rate has risen from 56 births per 1000 women aged 15-44 years, to a little over 65 in 2010. The birth rates and trends in individual Districts in Kent vary. Long term primary-aged population forecasts indicate primary school rolls will peak around the year 2016. Beyond this date, the growth in some Districts, such as Ashford and Dartford, offset the reducing population in other Districts. This data is used to ensure short and medium term planning decisions make sense in the long term context, with temporary and permanent accommodation solutions being used to meet changing demand.

2.8 The increasing Reception Year numbers are expected to plateau in 2012/13, although a spike is expected in 2015/16. The total pupil number attending primary schools will increase throughout the forecast period up to 2016/17. Secondary school rolls will continue to fall, until 2016/17 when the Year 7 pupil intake numbers begin to exceed the outgoing Year 11 pupil numbers. Year 7 rolls will begin to reduce again from 2020, and thus secondary school rolls will fall shortly after this time.

2.9 Commissioning Additional Temporary and Permanent Places

The Local Authority uses both temporary and permanent increases in school provision to help manage capacity. Where forecasts indicate fluctuating pressure on places, or where short term local demographic factors influence demand, a temporary solution might be sought as the most appropriate or cost effective option. Where forecasts indicate increases in demand caused by new housing development, rising indigenous population or longer term demographic factors, a permanent solution may be the more appropriate solution. Temporary solutions may also be established as a precursor to a permanent solution if rising trends continue.

4. Overview of Kent's Demographic Trends

4.1 Kent Birth Rates and Long Term Forecasts

Chart 1 shows the changing birth rate in England and Wales, and in Kent over the past 20 years. Chart 2 shows the number of births in Kent. These demonstrate that the upward trend we have seen in the number of Reception Year children entering our schools will continue for the next few years, and as from 2013 the pattern of declining numbers of Year 7 pupils entering our secondary schools will reverse. The trend for individual Districts¹ in Kent will vary, and will affect the District forecasts contained in Appendix 1.

Chart 1 – Birth rates in England & Wales and Kent

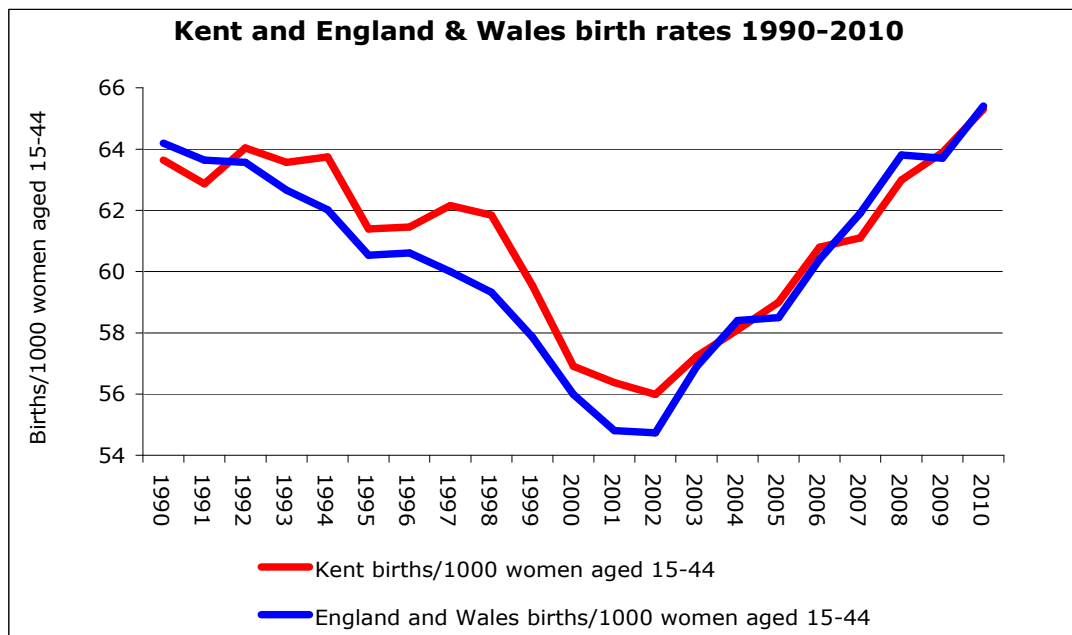
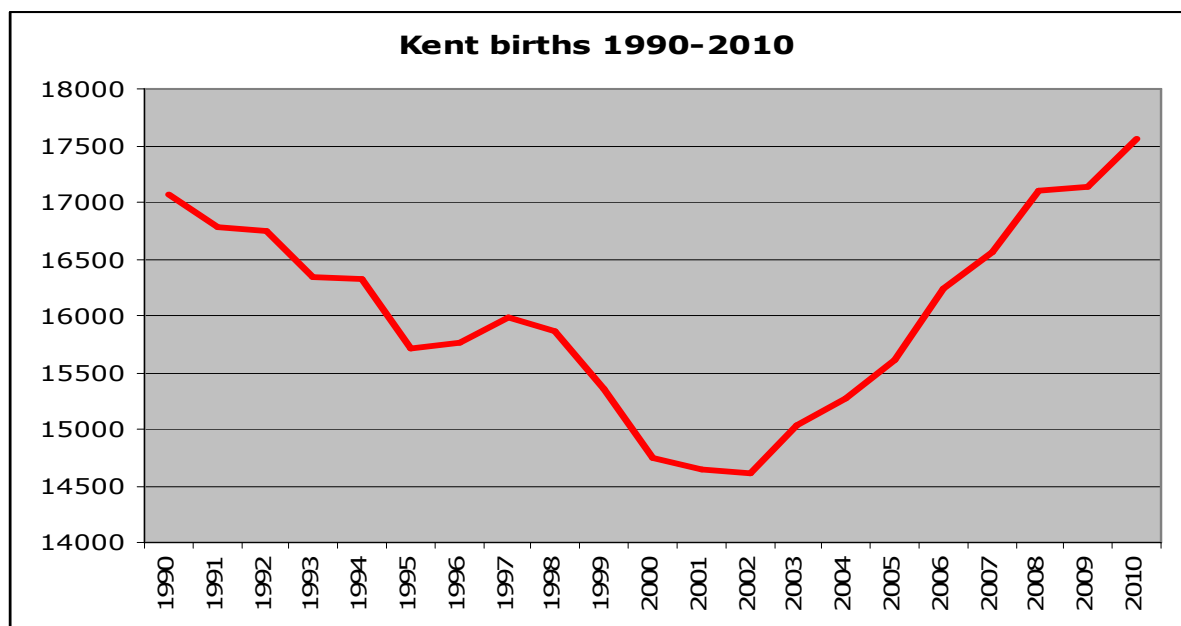


Chart 2 – Number of births in Kent



Notes: (1) Births data shown above is by calendar year from the Office for National Statistics release FM01

- 4.2 Chart 2 (above) indicates that the number of births in Kent has increased by in excess of 20% between the period 2002 and 2010.
- 4.3 Tables 3 and 4 below provide long term population forecasts. These allow for planned housing developments and expected in-migration to the County. In Kent there is a resident-based take-up of mainstream education of about 92% at the primary phase and 87% at the secondary phase (mid year population estimate 2010 compared with annual schools census January 2011). This ranges from 79% primary take-up and 68% secondary take-up of mainstream places in Tunbridge Wells to near 100% take-up in some eastern Kent areas. Those not attending maintained schools in Kent are instead educated at home (1,045 pupils), attend independent schools, special schools or alternative education provision.

Table 3
Long term primary-age population forecast by Kent District

District	2011	2016	2021	2026
Ashford	10700	12600	13600	14800
Canterbury	10500	10900	10900	10300
Dartford	8000	9400	10200	11200
Dover	8000	9100	9400	9900
Gravesham	8200	9400	9600	10100
Maidstone	11900	12600	11900	11700
Sevenoaks	9900	10400	9600	9300
Shepway	7500	8200	7700	7600
Swale	11300	12300	11700	11600
Thanet	10400	11400	11100	10600
Tonbridge & Malling	10700	10900	10200	10100
Tunbridge Wells	9500	10100	9100	8900
Kent	116600	127300	125000	126100

Notes:

- (1) KCC strategy forecast (October 2011), Research and Evaluation, KCC
(2) All figures have been individually rounded to the nearest one hundred and therefore may not sum

Table 4
Long term secondary-age population forecast by Kent District

District	2011	2016	2021	2026
Ashford	7500	8400	9800	10200
Canterbury	8500	7900	8300	8500
Dartford	5700	5800	6900	7400
Dover	6700	6100	7100	7200
Gravesham	6200	5800	6900	7000
Maidstone	8600	8400	9100	8700
Sevenoaks	7000	6900	7600	6900
Shepway	5800	5200	6000	5700
Swale	8600	8100	9200	8700
Thanet	8500	7500	8500	8300
Tonbridge & Malling	7800	7800	8200	7800
Tunbridge Wells	7700	7000	7800	7000
Kent	88600	84900	95400	93400

Notes:

- (1) KCC strategy forecast (October 2011), Research and Evaluation, KCC
(2) All figures have been individually rounded to the nearest one hundred and therefore may not sum

4.4 Table 3 indicates that the number of primary-aged children in Kent is expected to rise significantly from 116,600 in 2011, to 127,300 in 2016. Beyond this point the population remains comparatively stable, although increases in some Districts are off-set by reductions in others. This indicates there will be a need to continue to make new provision available in some Districts on a permanent basis, while in others, temporary solutions may represent better value for money.

4.5 Table 4 shows the secondary-aged population reducing between now and 2016, before rising through the latter part of this decade, and falling again in the first half of the 2020s.

4.6 Long Term Primary Forecasts

Our primary forecasts provide a medium term view of the need for primary school places. Long term primary forecasts, before children are born, are inherently difficult to produce. However, it is important to have a view of the longer term to avoid making poor short and medium term decisions. We are developing long term primary forecasts (Appendix 6) for each District using base data from the long term primary aged population data and historic uptake of places in each District. These help guide the decisions made in Section 11.

4.7 Housing

Table 5 provides an overview of completions and planned housing by District. The planned housing numbers are used as part of the forecasting process but the current volatility in the UK and global economies, and Kent housing market means that the eventual level of house completions may differ significantly from the planned level, and this will alter the need for school places. A comparison of historic actual and planned levels of housing completions by District has been completed². This information informs the District confidence levels referred to in Section 8.16 above. The number of planned house completions in the period 2011-16 is very high when compared to completion rates of the past, and in view of the current economic climate.

Table 5
Completions and future planned housing for Kent Districts

District	1996-2001	2001-06	2006-11	2011-16	2016-21	2021-26
Ashford	3236	4020	2653	7091	8274	1472
Canterbury	2775	2662	3651	1880	500	100
Dartford	1438	2839	2423	5081	5432	4165
Dover	937	1796	1507	1628	2411	1563
Gravesham	399	1283	1554	1633	1332	756
Maidstone	2275	3232	3629	2063	218	N/A
Sevenoaks	1370	1487	1363	1189	875	261
Shepway	1912	2451	1513	2109	3066	1823
Swale	2549	3196	3332	1607	2636	3296
Thanet	1461	2214	3773	3538	638	300
Tonbridge & Malling	1754	3169	3358	4011	1077	N/A
Tunbridge Wells	1457	1790	2031	916	N/A	N/A
Kent	21563	30139	30787	32746	26459	13736

Notes:

(1) Future planned housing from Kent Integrated Infrastructure and Finance Model (IIFM) April 2012

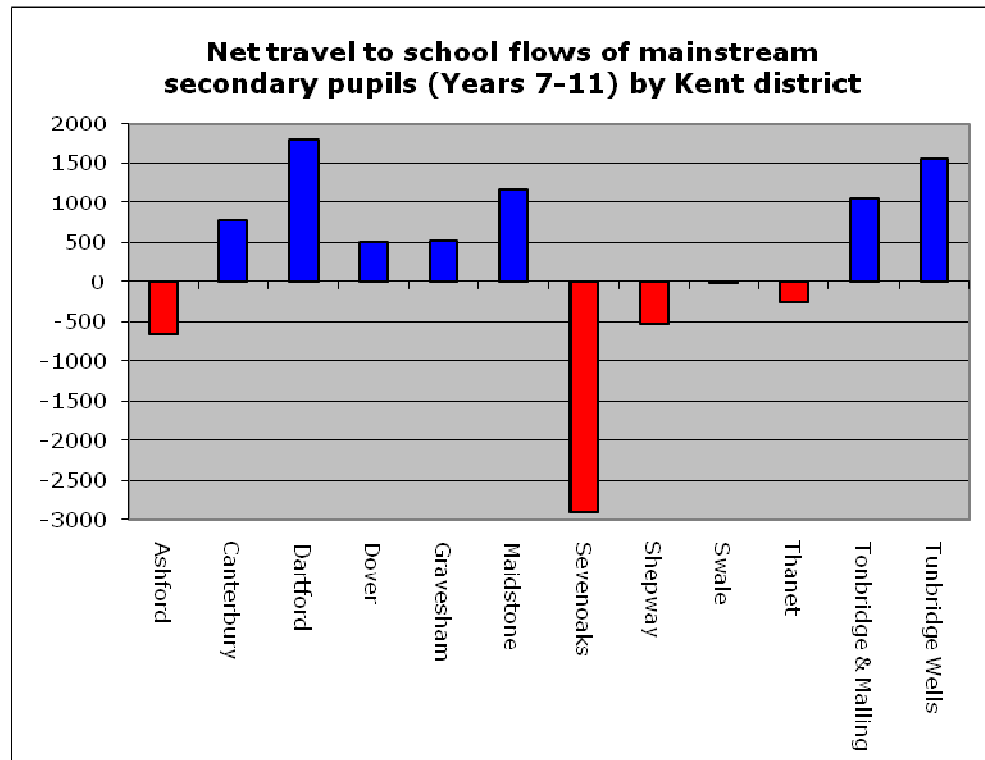
(2) It should be noted that where future planned housing looks very low it may be that Districts have yet to make housing allocations for those years

(3) Districts are no longer obliged to follow South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) housing allocation levels and are now to be determined locally

4.8 Travel to School Patterns (pupil migration)

Travel to school patterns from one District to another at the primary phase are relatively insignificant but the situation is very different at the secondary phase where there are some significant cross border flows (Chart 3), including into and out of the County as well as between Kent Districts.

Chart 3



Notes: (1) Management Information Unit, KCC, based in analysis of District of home address against District of school location, Annual Schools Census (ASC) 2011

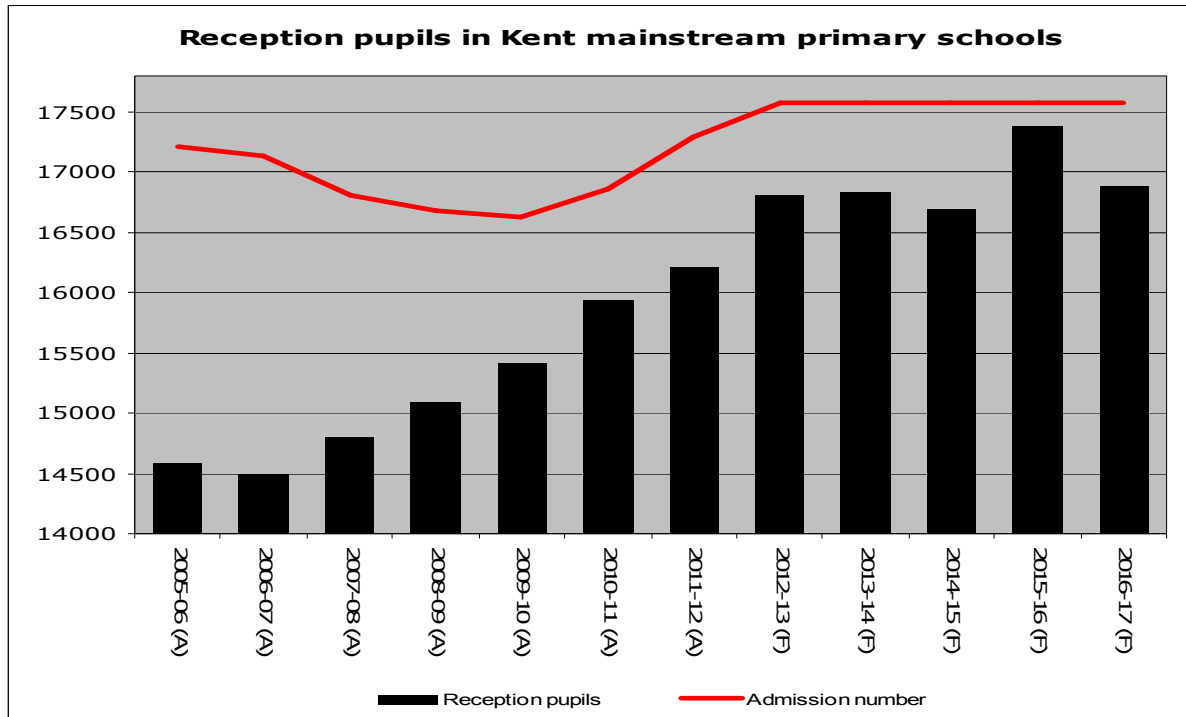
4.9 The headlines for secondary travel to school patterns are as follows:

- Pupils often travel significant distances, especially in the west of the County to grammar school and denominational provision
- 3000 out of County children travel into Kent secondary schools (predominantly grammar schools). This figure includes: 700 Medway children, 1,200 children travel into Dartford from London Boroughs (mainly Bexley Borough), 270 travel into Tonbridge and 500+ into Tunbridge Wells
- Only around 25% of children resident in Sevenoaks attend mainstream secondary provision within Sevenoaks District; 1,000 travel to Dartford, 1,300 to Tonbridge and 700+ to Tunbridge Wells

4.10 Current and Forecast Pupils in Mainstream Primary Education

Chart 4 (below) shows that the number of Reception pupils in Kent schools has risen from 14,498 in 2006-07 to 16,209 in 2011-12. This is an increase of almost 12%. In 2006-07 Reception year groups at Kent primary schools operated with over 15% surplus capacity. This has reduced to 6% in 2011-12. The number of Reception pupils is forecast to be around 16,600 to 16,800 over the next five years, apart from in 2015-16 where there is expected to be a peak of about 17,200 pupils.

Chart 4
Forecast reception pupil numbers



Notes: (1) KCC pupil forecasts (2011-based), Provision Planning and Operations, KCC

4.11 Table 6 presents Reception Year group data at District level. It shows that the growth in pupil numbers is not uniform across the County, nor is the level of surplus capacity. The current surplus capacity for Reception year groups varies from 2% in Swale to 15% in Sevenoaks. If no further action is taken (apart from the completion of projects already planned and proposed) by the end of the forecasting period (2016-17) there will be 4% surplus capacity in Reception year groups across the county. Action will be taken in those Districts where surplus capacity will fall below 5% to provide additional places. Solutions will vary from brand new provision to expansion of existing facilities through permanent or temporary means.

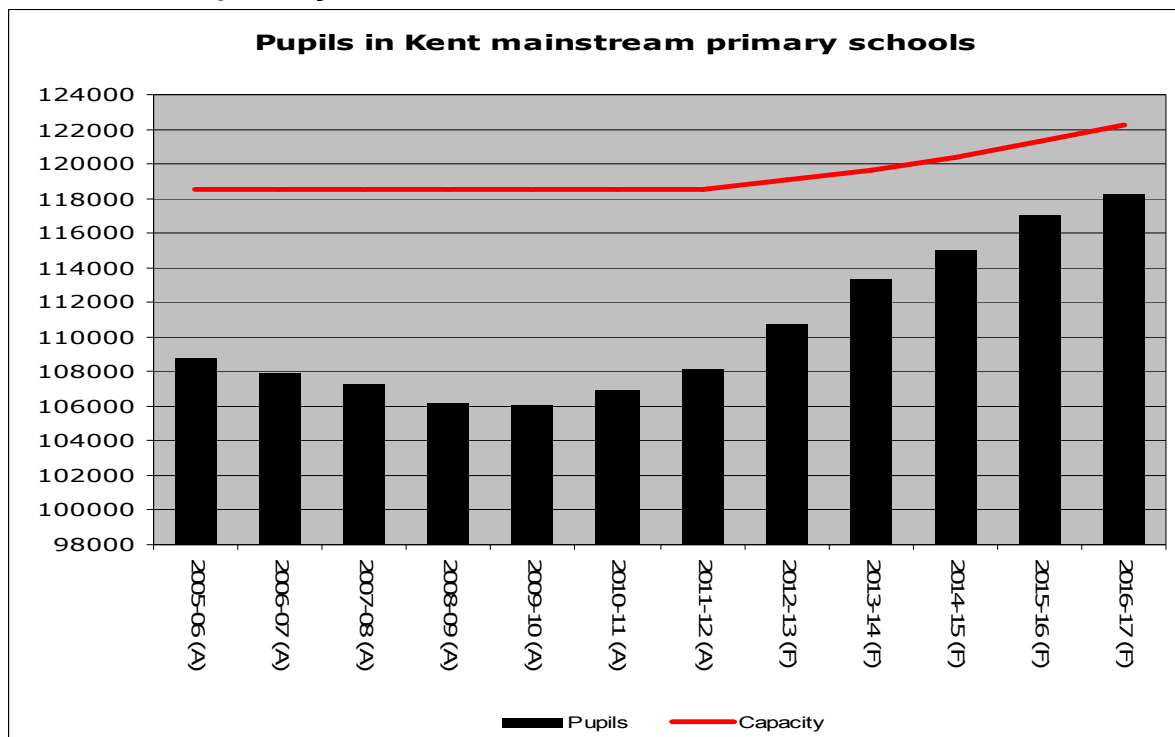
Table 6
Current and forecast Reception Year pupils in mainstream schools by Kent District

District	Admission numbers		Pupil roll 2011-12	Surplus places 2011-12	Surplus capacity 2011-12 (%)	Pupil roll 2016-17	Surplus places 2016-17	Surplus capacity 2016-17 (%)
	2011-12	2016-17						
Ashford	1456	1559	1415	41	2.8	1540	19	1.2
Canterbury	1510	1506	1361	149	9.9	1435	71	4.7
Dartford	1275	1380	1210	65	5.1	1299	81	5.9
Dover	1297	1260	1201	96	7.4	1202	58	4.6
Gravesham	1304	1346	1242	62	4.8	1301	45	3.3
Maidstone	1736	1800	1622	114	6.6	1718	82	4.6
Sevenoaks	1436	1366	1220	216	15.0	1252	114	8.3
Shepway	1201	1210	1128	73	6.1	1150	60	5.0
Swale	1696	1719	1662	34	2.0	1724	-5	-0.3
Thanet	1498	1560	1459	39	2.6	1595	-35	-2.2
T&M	1561	1566	1479	82	5.3	1394	172	11.0
T Wells	1321	1311	1210	111	8.4	1276	35	2.7
Kent	17291	17583	16209	1082	6.3	16886	697	4.0

Notes: (1) Provision Planning and Operations, KCC (December 2011)
(2) 2011-12 (A) pupil roll data from Schools Census (Autumn term), October 2011

4.12 Chart 5 and Table 7 (below) show that the number of primary pupils in Kent schools is forecast to rise from 106,097 in 2009-10 to around 118,000 in 2016-17. This is an increase of 11.2%. Kent primary schools currently operate with almost 9% surplus capacity but this is forecast to decrease over the coming years to a little over 3% by 2016/17 (taking into account the planned capacity changes (see Section 11)).

Chart 5
Forecast total primary school rolls



Notes: (1) KCC pupil forecasts (2011-based), Provision Planning and Operations, KCC

Table 7
Current and forecast primary pupils in mainstream schools by Kent District

District	Capacity 2011-12	Pupil roll 2011-12	Surplus places 2011-12	Surplus capacity 2011-12 (%)	Capacity 2016-17	Pupil roll 2016-17	Surplus places 2016-17	Surplus capacity 2016-17 (%)
Ashford	10011	9522	489	4.9	10757	10751	6	0.1
Canterbury	10895	9534	1361	12.5	10592	9861	731	6.9
Dartford	8504	7925	579	6.8	9380	9348	32	0.3
Dover	9100	7688	1412	15.5	8913	8459	454	5.1
Gravesham	8631	8228	403	4.7	9304	9059	245	2.6
Maidstone	11969	10902	1067	8.9	12442	11894	548	4.4
Sevenoaks	9302	8327	975	10.5	9661	8892	769	8.0
Shepway	8633	7636	997	11.5	8461	8245	216	2.6
Swale	11791	11022	769	6.5	11929	11937	-8	-0.1
Thanet	10545	9910	635	6.0	10799	11056	-257	-2.4
T&M	10772	9770	1002	9.3	10972	10154	818	7.5
T Wells	8329	7639	690	8.3	9059	8614	445	4.9
Kent	118482	108103	10379	8.8	122269	118270	3999	3.3

Notes: (1) Provision Planning and Operations, KCC (December 2011)

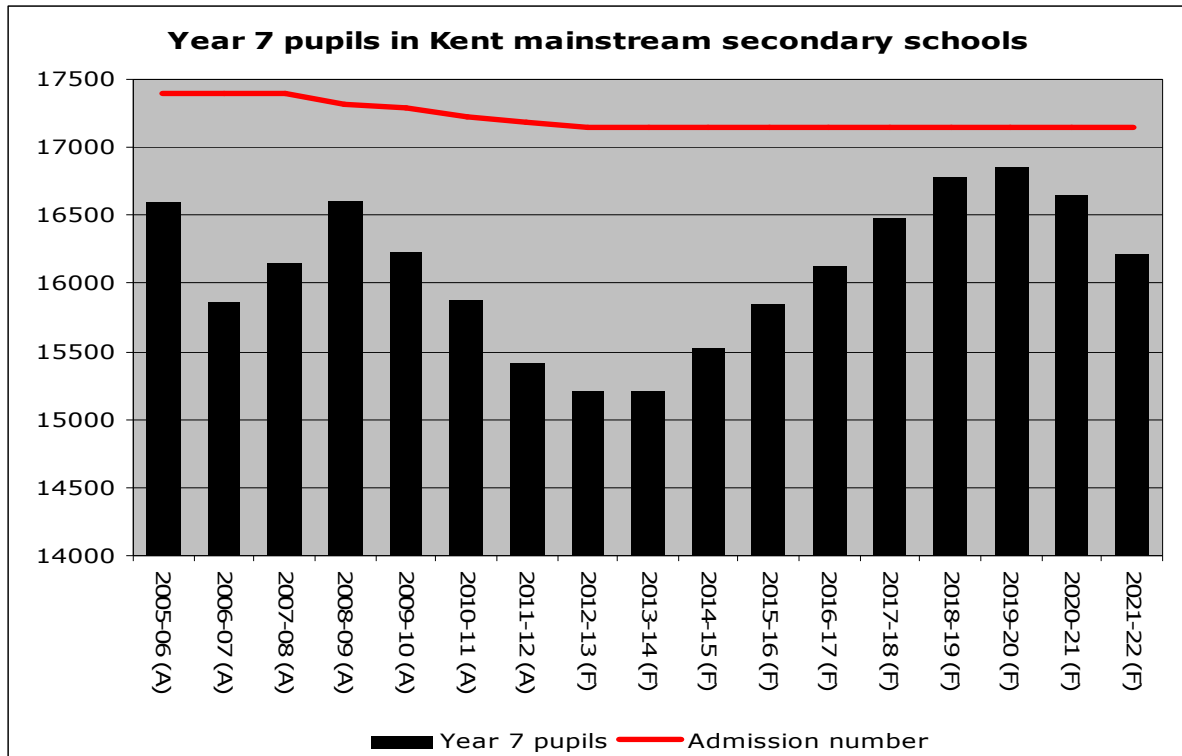
(2) 2011-12 (A) pupil roll data from Schools Census (Autumn term), October 2011

4.13 Table 7 shows that current surplus capacity for primary year groups (Reception - Year 6) varies across the County; from 5% in Gravesham to 16% in Dover.

4.14 Current and Forecast Pupils in Mainstream Secondary Education

Chart 6 indicates how Year 7 pupil numbers in Kent schools are forecast to rise up to 2019-20 before falling again. Table 8 below provides an overview of this at District level. Chart 7 and Table 9 below provide similar information but for pupil numbers of Years 7 – 11.

Chart 6
Forecast Year 7 pupil numbers



Notes: (1) KCC pupil forecasts (2011-based), Provision Planning and Operations, KCC

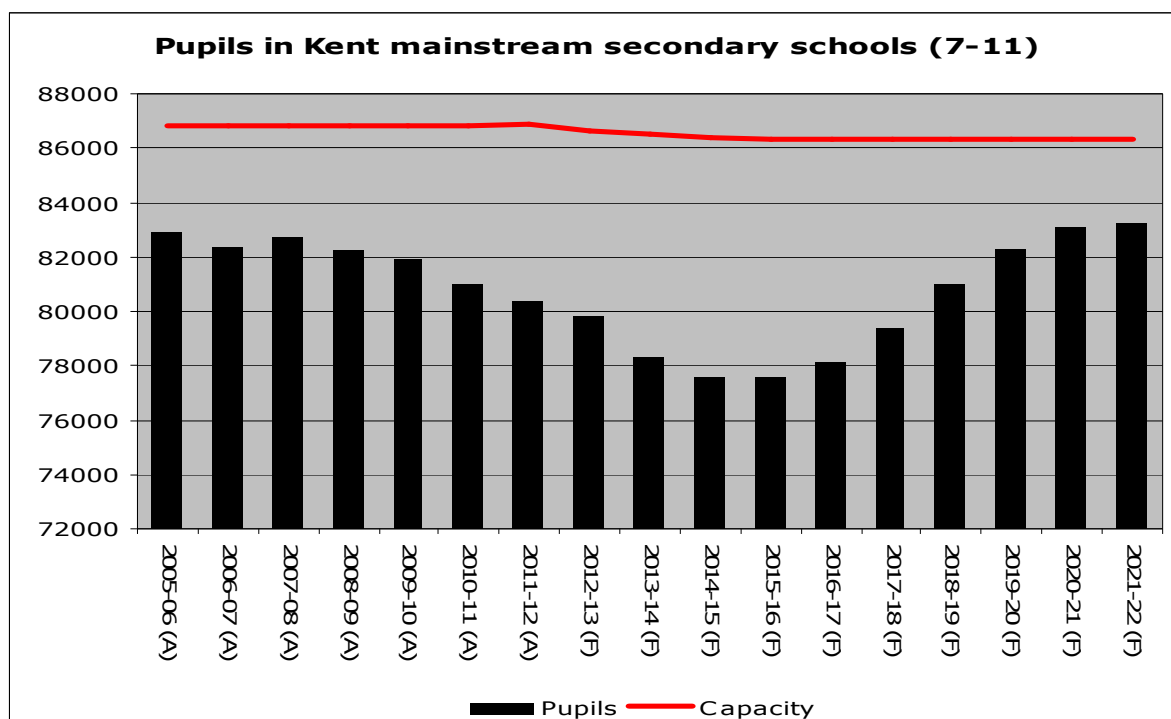
- 4.15** The number of Year 7 pupils in Kent schools has fallen for three consecutive years from 16,605 in 2008-09 to 15,421 in 2011-12 and is expected to continue falling to around 15,200 in 2013-14. Thereafter, Year 7 rolls are forecast to rise to a peak of around 16,900 in 2019-20, a growth of 9% on current numbers, before declining once again.
- 4.16** Table 8 (below) shows that current surplus capacity for Year 7 is 10% across Kent, but the figure varies from District to District with the extremes being from 3% in Dartford to 27% in Sevenoaks. By the end of the forecasting period (2021-22) there will be 5% surplus capacity in Year 7 across the County, an improvement in the situation two years prior when only 2% surplus capacity is forecast.

Table 8
Current and forecast Year 7 pupils in mainstream schools by Kent District

District	Admission numbers		Pupil roll 2011-12	Surplus places 2011-12	Surplus capacity 2011-12 (%)	Pupil roll 2021-22	Surplus places 2021-22	Surplus capacity 2021-22 (%)
	2011-12	2021-22						
Ashford	1351	1361	1258	93	6.9	1345	16	1.2
Canterbury	1718	1724	1481	237	13.8	1401	323	18.7
Dartford	1405	1435	1366	39	2.8	1664	-229	-16.0
Dover	1418	1393	1183	235	16.6	1358	35	2.5
Gravesham	1284	1284	1160	124	9.7	1257	27	2.1
Maidstone	1965	1965	1805	160	8.1	1817	148	7.5
Sevenoaks	510	510	372	138	27.1	410	100	19.6
Shepway	1210	1210	1022	188	15.5	961	249	20.6
Swale	1642	1657	1571	71	4.3	1661	-4	-0.2
Thanet	1544	1544	1460	84	5.4	1487	57	3.7
T&M	1642	1649	1544	98	6.0	1564	85	5.2
T Wells	1499	1409	1199	300	20.0	1292	117	8.3
Kent	17188	17141	15421	1767	10.3	16217	924	5.4

Notes: (1) Provision Planning and Operations, KCC (December 2011)
(2) 2011-12 (A) pupil roll data from Schools Census (Autumn term), October 2011

Chart 7
Forecast total secondary school rolls



Notes: KCC pupil forecasts (2011-based), Provision Planning and Operations, KCC

4.17 Chart 7 shows that the number of Year 7-11 pupils in Kent schools has been declining over the previous six years from 82,934 in 2005-06 to 80,372 in 2011-12 and is expected to continue falling to around 77,600 in 2015-16. Thereafter it is forecast to rise to a peak of around 83,200 in 2021-22 – a growth of just over 4% on current roll numbers.

Table 9
Current and forecast secondary pupils (Years 7-11) in mainstream schools by
Kent District

District	Capacity 2011-12	Pupil roll 2011-12	Surplus places 2011-12	Surplus capacity 2011-12 (%)	Capacity 2021-22	Pupil roll 2021-22	Surplus places 2021-22	Surplus capacity 2021-22 (%)
Ashford	6755	6343	412	6.1	6805	7038	-233	-3.4
Canterbury	8590	7901	689	8.0	8620	7433	1187	13.8
Dartford	7025	6840	185	2.6	7175	8157	-982	-13.7
Dover	7055	6361	694	9.8	6965	6952	13	0.2
Gravesham	6574	6203	371	5.6	6420	6453	-33	-0.5
Maidstone	9930	9119	811	8.2	9930	9276	654	6.6
Sevenoaks	2550	2029	521	20.4	2550	2045	505	19.8
Shepway	6050	5340	710	11.7	6050	4908	1142	18.9
Swale	8285	7998	287	3.5	8346	7953	393	4.7
Thanet	8008	7591	417	5.2	7720	7560	160	2.1
T&M	8210	7760	450	5.5	8245	8171	74	0.9
T Wells	7871	6887	984	12.5	7480	7270	210	2.8
Kent	86903	80372	6531	7.5	86306	83216	3090	3.6

Notes: (1) Provision Planning and Operations, KCC (December 2011)

(2) 2011-12 (A) pupil roll data from Schools Census (Autumn term), October 2011

4.18 Table 9 shows that current surplus capacity for secondary year groups (Years 7-11) is 7% across Kent, with the extreme ranges being 3% surplus in Dartford to 20% in Sevenoaks. This is forecast to decrease over the coming years, such that by the end of the forecasting period (2021-22) there will be 4% surplus capacity in secondary schools across the County. While these figures indicate that across Kent there will be sufficient places for all children, this will not be true for all Districts (for example Ashford, Dartford and Gravesham). The different demographic trends resulting from house building and inward migration will require additional capacity to be added to meet localised demand at times when rolls are falling in other parts of the County. The District level data in Appendix 1 highlights these differences, and are reflected in the commissioning plans in Section 11.

5. Analysis and Forward Plan for Maidstone District

District Analysis – Primary

There are currently 47 primary schools in the Maidstone District and a total of 1736 places available annually in Reception Year. The District has sufficient capacity to accommodate pupil numbers throughout the forecast period, with the exception of Reception Year places in 2015, when a forecast bulge may result in a deficit of around 47 places. A new free school, The Tiger School, opens in September 2012. Initially it will provide up to 60 Reception Year places, and ultimately provide 420 places across all year groups. With this additional capacity, we anticipate 3.5% of Year R places to be vacant in September 2012 in Maidstone Town.

The forecasts for the Maidstone North planning area indicate a large cohort is expected to enter the schools in Reception Year in 2014, resulting in a deficit of over 30 places. However, the intake numbers forecast for the Bearsted area reduce. Historic parental preference data suggests these forecast differences will in fact balance out. In terms of total pupil numbers the schools will be full in 2014. In 2012, a small number of families did not receive places in their local schools in the Bearsted planning area, resulting in a local petition calling for increased provision. In line with our duty to consider parental representations, We have sought agreement by St John's CEPS to enlarge by 1 form of entry.

The forecasts for the Tonbridge Road planning area indicate there will be a deficit of up to 50 Reception Year pupils throughout the forecast period, and a shortfall of places across all year groups. For the past two years St Francis Roman Catholic Primary School has admitted beyond its PAN of 49, and accommodation is being provided to enable this to continue, thereby providing a 2FE intake and adding 77 places overall. Schools in this planning area have, in the past, attracted pupils from adjoining planning areas. Surplus capacity in these areas is sufficient to accommodate any displaced pupils.

The long term population forecast is for the primary school numbers to increase to 12600 in 2016 before falling back to 11700 in 2026. The long term Reception Year forecasts are relatively stable.

The need for new local provision will be driven by housing. Maidstone Borough Council is continuing to work on its Local Development Framework, and future needs will be driven by this.

Accuracy of forecasts – primary forecasts have been consistently accurate.

District Analysis – Secondary

Intake numbers into Year 7 in secondary schools are forecast to fall until 2013, followed by a rise peaking in 2019, before falling again. Total school numbers mirror this cycle, except with a one year lag. Both forecast intake numbers and total pupil numbers remain below the current capacities of the schools, although for a three year period (2018-21) surplus capacity in Year 7 will be below the operating guideline of 5%. In 2014 the surplus capacity for pupils aged 11-16 years is expected to reach its maximum at 11%. Sixth form rolls are forecast to rise up to the year 2014 before beginning to fall.

Accuracy of forecasts - Secondary forecasts have been accurate over the past three years.

At the time of writing, six of the eleven secondary schools in Maidstone are academies, with a seventh in the process of converting.

Maidstone Primary School Commissioning Position

Planning Area or Group of Planning Areas	Short Term Commissioning Position (by 2013)	Medium Tem Commission Position (by 2016)	Longer Term Commissioning (>2016)
Maidstone North and Bearsted	Further analysis of pressure on places in Maidstone North 2014/15 to determine whether demand is local or in-migration; and travel to school patterns of residents of new housing. Undertake significant enlargement proposal for St John's CEPS by 1FE for 2013.		
Tonbridge Road	Analysis of pressures in 2013/14 to establish details of migration flows. We have commissioned 11 additional Year R places at St Francis RC School.		
Across Maidstone	Review of PANs to determine whether adjustments can be made which would facilitate single year group teaching. Continue to model future needs as the core strategy for Maidstone develops.	We will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyse 2015/16 "spike" in Reception Year numbers. commission 30 places in Maidstone Town to accommodate the spike in 2015/16. propose commissioning a new 2FE primary school (subject to development of core strategy and housing building). 	We will propose commissioning two new 2FE primary schools (subject to development of core strategy and house building)

Maidstone Secondary School Commissioning Position

Short Term Commissioning Position (by 2013)	Medium Tem Commission Position (by 2016)	Longer Term Commissioning (>2016)
		For 2018/19 and 2019/20 possibly commission one off additional 1FE admission into one or two schools.

Maidstone primary schools planning areas	Year R admission number (September 2011)	Year R roll (Autumn 2011)	Year R surplus / deficit capacity (%) (Autumn 2011)	Total capacity 2011-12	Total roll (Autumn 2011)	Total surplus / deficit capacity (%) (Autumn 2011)	Year R 2012-13 (F)	Year R 2013-14 (F)	Year R 2014-15 (F)	Year R 2015-16 (F)	Year R 2016-17 (F)	Total roll 2012-13 (F)	Total roll 2013-14 (F)	Total roll 2014-15 (F)	Total roll 2015-16 (F)	Total roll 2016-17 (F)
Maidstone North	210	188	10.5	1395	1278	8.4	201	204	242	225	209	1319	1330	1398	1365	1368
Maidstone Town	75	68	9.3	525	383	27.0	61	70	70	71	66	383	402	430	399	400
London Road	180	175	2.8	1260	1218	3.3	177	152	177	179	167	1196	1179	1178	1235	1238
Bearsted	210	207	1.4	1509	1543	-2.3	220	206	176	215	200	1536	1535	1497	1580	1583
Tonbridge Road	209	205	1.9	1483	1354	8.7	257	253	233	253	235	1483	1571	1610	1542	1546
Shepway & Park Wood	267	246	7.9	1844	1483	19.6	232	245	233	247	230	1518	1569	1579	1570	1574
Loose	120	118	1.7	840	836	0.5	137	105	103	127	118	865	852	836	879	881
Coxheath	102	94	7.8	564	530	6.0	89	72	72	85	79	541	541	541	550	552
Maidstone Rural South East	75	63	16.0	540	437	19.1	60	61	64	71	66	450	460	468	469	470
Hollingbourne North Downs	15	15	0.0	105	103	1.9	16	13	17	17	16	106	108	110	110	111
Harrietsham	20	15	25.0	140	145	-3.6	25	30	19	25	23	132	139	140	143	144
Lenham	43	39	9.3	301	256	15.0	30	31	34	36	33	253	248	241	256	256
Headcorn	30	30	0.0	210	195	7.1	28	34	24	32	30	205	211	207	211	212
Marden	57	56	1.8	395	354	10.4	57	41	43	51	47	331	326	320	342	343
Bredhurst	15	16	-6.7	105	117	-11.4	14	15	14	16	15	110	109	104	115	115
Yalding	33	33	0.0	228	230	-0.9	22	38	28	34	32	225	230	230	239	239
Staplehurst	75	54	28.0	525	440	16.2	60	51	48	60	56	451	449	434	463	464
District pupil product adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
District pre-school migration	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	60	80	103	96	60	120	199	302	398
Total	1736	1622	6.6	11969	10902	8.9	1726	1681	1677	1847	1718	11164	11379	11522	11770	11894
Forecast Year R admission number / Total capacity	-	-	-	-	-	-	1797	1800	1800	1800	1800	12032	12113	12222	12342	12442
Forecast surplus / deficit places	-	-	-	-	-	-	71	119	123	-47	82	868	734	700	572	548
Forecast surplus / deficit capacity (%)	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.0	6.6	6.8	-2.6	4.6	7.2	6.1	5.7	4.6	4.4

Maidstone secondary schools	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Year 7 admission number	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965	1965
Year 7 roll	1805	1745	1737	1794	1823	1826	1827	1901	1942	1885	1817
Year 7 surplus / deficit places	160	220	228	171	142	139	138	64	23	80	148
Year 7 surplus / deficit capacity (%)	8.1	11.2	11.6	8.7	7.2	7.1	7.0	3.3	1.2	4.1	7.5
Total capacity (Years 7-11)	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930	9930
Total roll (Years 7-11)	9119	8959	8856	8803	8816	8829	8911	9075	9223	9285	9276
Total surplus / deficit places (Years 7-11)	811	971	1074	1127	1114	1101	1019	855	707	645	654
Total surplus / deficit capacity (Years 7-11) (%)	8.2	9.8	10.8	11.3	11.2	11.1	10.3	8.6	7.1	6.5	6.6
Post 16 roll	2312	2389	2454	2464	2452	2441	2406	2366	2390	2434	2457
Total roll (including Post-16)	11431	11348	11310	11267	11268	11270	11317	11441	11613	11719	11733