

CHIEF EXECUTIVES OFFICE

06 NOV 2012

Mike Whiting - Member for Swale Central
Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills



Clr Peter Fleming
Leader
Sevenoaks District Council
Council Offices
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
TN13 1HG

Sessions House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ
Fax: (01622) 694305

Direct Dial/Ext: (01622) 694296
E-Mail: Mike.Whiting@kent.gov.uk
Ask For: Mr Mike Whiting.
Date: 1st November 2012

Further to the recent discussions between Sevenoaks District and Kent County Council, I write to invite you and your Locality Board to take an active interest and be the lead group in reviewing that part of Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision that pertains to Sevenoaks District.

You will be aware that Kent County Council (KCC) has recently published the first iteration of Kent's Commissioning Plan for Education Provision. It is intended that the plan is reviewed every six months by the Education Cabinet Committee at KCC and updated fully and reissued each October. Thank you to you, your colleagues and officers in assisting in formulating the plan during the first part of this year. Your assistance was much appreciated, and contributed greatly to the accuracy of the forecast numbers within the plan.

As discussed, KCC has a duty to ensure and commission adequate supply of school places, including early years, primary, secondary and special school provision. While the duty clearly lies with KCC, I am firmly of the belief that local knowledge in these issues is vital if we are to ensure that education provision really takes account of and meets local need and reflects parents' preferences. My request is for your Board, or a sub-committee of it, to acquaint itself fully with the current requirements, as set out in the Plan, and to review them against local pressures such as new housing developments, changes to the migrant population, etc. I would ask that your Board makes recommendations to me, to be reported to the Education Cabinet Committee at KCC in April, and again in September. Those recommendations would form the basis of any revised numbers in the Commissioning Plan to be re-published in October. Officer support for the review process will be provided by Simon Webb (Area Education Officer for West Kent), and Nigel Smith (KCC's Head of Development) or a member of Nigel's team in KCC's regeneration department.

I would welcome the opportunity to attend your next Locality Board meeting, if you think it would be useful, to take say half an hour to introduce your Members to the plan and the revision process. I look forward to working with you and thank you for your interest in this vital matter.

With best wishes

Mike Whiting
Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills