

Statement of Common Ground

Between: Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council Education (KCC Education)

Relating to: Education infrastructure requirements to support the Sevenoaks District Local Plan and supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan

1. Purpose of this Statement

- 1.1 This Statement of Common Ground records the shared understanding between Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) and Kent County Council Education (KCC Education) regarding the education infrastructure required to support the level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan. It provides evidence on ongoing engagement and collaboration and supports the Infrastructure Delivery Plan by confirming areas of agreement and identifying any matters where further work is required.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 SDC is responsible for preparing the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan, identifying infrastructure needs arising from growth, and securing delivery through planning policy and developer contributions.
- 2.2 KCC Education is the statutory education authority responsible for planning, commissioning and delivering sufficient school places, assessing capacity, and advising on education requirements linked to planned development.

3. Evidence Considered

- 3.1 Both parties have considered the following evidence in forming this Statement:
- The scale and distribution of growth set out in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan;
 - The Infrastructure Delivery Plan;
 - KCC Education's pupil forecasting and capacity assessments;
 - National and local policy, including Department for Education (DfE) guidance on school place planning;
 - Site-specific assessments and discussions between SDC and KCC Education; and
 - Information on existing and planned education provision across the District.

4. Areas of Agreement

- 4.1 SDC and KCC Education agree that:

1. The level and distribution of growth proposed in the Sevenoaks District Local Plan has been reviewed and understood, and its implications for early years, primary, secondary and Special Education Needs (SEN) provision have been assessed.
2. The education projects identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan are necessary, proportionate and based on the best available evidence, including KCC's pupil forecasts and capacity assessments.
3. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan correctly identifies where additional capacity and school enhancements are required, including:
 - Expansion of existing schools;
 - Provision of new schools including Post-16 provision where appropriate;
 - Provision of early years and childcare provision; and
 - Special education needs and specialist resource provision.
4. Delivery of education infrastructure will require Section 106 contributions in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and KCC's Developer Contributions Guide.
5. Both authorities are committed to ongoing engagement throughout the plan period, including regular review and updating of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to ensure it remains accurate, up to date and reflective of emerging evidence.
6. The projects identified are deliverable in principle, subject to detailed design, feasibility, land availability and funding.
7. SDC and KCC Education will continue to work collaboratively on planning applications to secure appropriate developer contributions and ensure timely delivery of required education infrastructure.

5. Areas of Ongoing Work / Matters Not Yet Agreed

5.1 The following matters require further work or clarification:

1. Detailed feasibility and costings for specific school expansions, including site constraints and delivery sequencing.
2. Clarifying the expected commencement of each project, recognising that delivery timing is dependent on when associated development comes forward and the resulting phasing of pupil yield.

5.2 Both parties are committed to resolving these matters through continued engagement.

6. Delivery and Phasing

6.1 SDC and KCC Education acknowledge that the delivery of education infrastructure will depend on:

- The timing and phasing of development;
- Availability of land;
- Availability of sufficient capital funding;
- Statutory processes for school expansion or establishment; and
- Coordination with wider infrastructure programmes.

6.2 Indicative delivery timescales are set out in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and will be refined as further information becomes available in due course.

7. Signatures

Signed on behalf of Sevenoaks District Council	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	

Signed on behalf of Kent County Council Education	
Name:	
Role:	
Date:	