PROPOSAL TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO HOLMESDALE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, MALLING ROAD, SNODLAND, KENT, ME6 5HS

Introduction
Kent County Council is proposing to create Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS. The SRP will provide 12 places for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism with effect from 1 September 2014. It is proposed that this would be accommodated through improvements and reconfiguration of the current school site.

Contact Details
The proposals to make prescribed alteration to Holmesdale Technology School are being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer (West Kent), Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling ME19 4AE. Tel: 03000 412209

School details and pupil numbers
Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS, is a mainstream secondary foundation school with a published admissions number (PAN) of 180. The school currently caters for 903 pupils aged 11 to 19. A breakdown of these pupils by age groups is provided in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. on Roll</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>61</td>
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Holmesdale Technology College is part of the Malling Holmesdale Federation and the Mid Kent Learning Alliance. The Malling Holmesdale Federation also has trust partners; local, National and international employers and universities.

Holmesdale Technology College and The Malling School have been federated since 2007. Under the Malling Holmesdale Federation each school retains its own separate ethos and identity as an individual school whilst benefitting from the increased funding, including leading edge, specialised technology, facilities and equipment and highly trained, enthusiastic and innovative staff that close partnership working brings. The school ethos and Values are set out below:

- **Vision**: Unlocking potential and transforming lives through exceptional education
- **Mission**: To deliver innovative and inspirational learning, enabling high achievement for all

Description of alteration and evidence of demand
In accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alterations to Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS:

- To create a Specialist Resource Provision for 12 pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) for Autism.
It is proposed that this provision would be accommodated through reconfiguration of the current school site. It is anticipated that the provision will comprise of dedicated teaching space which will be the hub for the resource, and 2-3 smaller areas as required, which can be used flexibly to provide support e.g. individual sensory/therapy; a calm space for small groups and time out when necessary.

The proposed alteration will offer 12 additional SEN places in the area which reflects KCC’s aspirations to increase the number of SEN school places across the County, as set out in the Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2013-18, a copy of which is available at this link: https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Kent%20Education%20Commissioning%20Plan%202013%20-2018%20-160913%20Draft.pdf

These proposals will help to secure our ambition “to ensure every child will go to a good school where they make good progress and can have fair access to school places” as set out in ‘Bold Steps for Kent’.

**Objectives**

As the strategic commission of school provision, the Local Authority has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for the residents of Kent. This duty applies to special school provision, as well as mainstream settings.

KCC is proposing to create a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) at Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS in order to provide 12 places for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autistic with effect from 1 September 2014.

It is anticipated that Holmesdale Technology College will be expected to be fully inclusive and to educate children with SEN for whom mainstream education is considered appropriate.

It is proposed that Holmesdale Technology College will host a specialist resourced provision (SRP) for pupils who have greater difficulty learning as a result of autistic spectrum conditions. The objective of provision is to enable pupils to make progress in their learning, communication and social skills in an inclusive environment and to reduce their anxieties. The SRP will be inclusive provision for up to 12 pupils. The provision is expected to be a centre of excellence which helps other providers to increase their expertise in this area.

**The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area**

The Commissioning Plan outlines the requirement in Tonbridge and Malling for at least 12 additional places within specialist resourced provision for pupils with a statement for Special Educational Needs for Autism. Current provision is at capacity and no adverse impact is anticipated on neighbouring schools or the local community. As mentioned above, Holmesdale Technology College will continue to provide strong support for other educational establishments, parents and the community.
Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long term value for money will be achieved:

**Capital**  Programme – There are no capital costs associated with this proposal as accommodation will be provided by reconfiguration of existing buildings.

**Revenue**  - The schools delegated budget will be allocated on an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the High Needs funding methodology of Place Plus.

**Human**  – Holmesdale Technology College will appoint additional staff, as the SRP size increases and the need arises.

The proposal will ensure specialist places are available more local to children’s homes thereby reducing transport costs and journey time.

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**

Should the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform agree that the proposal can go ahead, the SRP provision for 12 pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for Autism will be established with effect from 1 September 2014.

**Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision**

It is proposed that 12 places be created within a specialist resourced provision (SRP) from September 2014 and reserved for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs for autism (ASD). Pupils admitted to the SRP will be registered to Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS.

The overarching aim of Kent’s SEND strategy is to improve the health, well-being, attainment and progress, and the quality of provision, for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities. An important aspect of this is to develop the capacity of special schools – defining their existing offer and building in capacity to respond to future need, ensuring that the needs of Kent children are able to be met within their locality. KCC’s SEND Strategy can be obtained from the following link: [http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/sen_and_disabilities/send_strategy.aspx](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/sen_and_disabilities/send_strategy.aspx)

This proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality, and range of the educational provision for SEN children. It is anticipated that this proposal will enhance the quality of education provided through the sharing of skills and expertise, enable the curriculum to be broadened and enhance the extra-curricular opportunities.

**Provision for 16-19 year olds**

This proposal will offer 12 SEN places in the area, some of which will be for 16-19 year olds, thus there will be a positive impact on provision for this age group in the area.

**Travel**

It is anticipated that there will be minimal impact on travel. Pupils admitted to the SRP will be registered to Holmesdale Technology College, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HS, therefore the overall number of pupils on roll at Holmesdale Technology College will remain unchanged.
Consultation
All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with. A public consultation was carried out by the Local Authority from 19 May 2014 to 23 June 2014. A consultation document was produced which included the dates of the public meetings. A copy of this document together with a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment can be obtained from KCC’s website:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx

The consultation document was distributed to statutory stakeholders, including but not limited to the following groups:
- The parents of all pupils attending Holmesdale Technology College via their pupil’s schools, staff and governors
- The Department for Education
- The Diocese of Rochester, Canterbury and Southwark
- Elected Members (Kent County Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council)
- Tonbridge & Malling Parish Councils
- Local MP
- Trade Unions
- Local Children’s Centres and pre-school providers
- Schools in Tonbridge and Malling (Kent and Medway)
- Local Libraries in the Tonbridge and Malling area
- All stakeholders were able to access copies of these documents on the KCC website.

The outcome of the consultation was reported to the Cabinet Member for Education, Health and Reform. A copy of the report can be found at the link below:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx

The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments
A public notice was published in a local newspaper on Friday, 4 July 2014. Each parent / carer of a child at Holmesdale Technology College has been provided with a copy. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the school, and has been sent to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council’s to be displayed in the reception area and to local libraries. The public notice is also available on KCC’s website:


Within four weeks from the date of publication, any person may send in a response supporting, objecting or commenting on the proposal to Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer (West Kent), Kent County Council, Worrall House, 30 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling ME19 4AE. Tel: 03000 412209; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 1 August 2014.