PROPOSAL TO MAKE PRESCRIBED ALTERATIONS TO HUGH CHRISTIE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE, WHITE COTTAGE ROAD, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN10 4PU

Introduction
Kent County Council is proposing to make a prescribed alteration to Hugh Christie Technology College, a Foundation School, White Cottage Road, Tonbridge TN10 4PU by creating a Specialist Resource Base Provision for up to 50 students with a statement of Special Education Needs (SEN) or Education Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) equivalent for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for September 2015. It is proposed that this would be accommodated through reconfiguration of the current school site.

Contact Details
The proposals to make a prescribed alteration to Hugh Christie Technology College are being published by Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ. Contact Name and Address: Jared Nehra, Area Education Officer (West Kent), Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ. Tel: 03000 412209.

School details and pupil numbers
The school opened in 1957 as a co-educational school for children of all needs and abilities. Based in Tonbridge with excellent transport links, the school is housed in new buildings on an attractive campus. At the time of analysis a breakdown of these pupils by age groups and gender is provided in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 13</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>886</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the time of publication there are 14 pupils with a statement of SEN or equivalent EHCP and 48 pupils with English with an additional language.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand
In accordance with section 19(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 Kent County Council intends to make the following prescribed alterations to Hugh Christie Technology College, a Foundation School, White Cottage Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4PU:

- To create a Specialist Resource Based Provision for 50 students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan equivalent for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) with effect from 1 September 2015.

It is proposed that Hugh Christie Technology College will reconfigure their existing rooms to make provision for specialist teaching spaces. Therefore, there is no capital cost associated with this proposal.
The proposed alteration will offer up to 50 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 2015-19, a copy of which is available at this link:

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’ Policy Framework available at this link:
http://www.kent.gov.uk/your_council/priorities,_policies_and_plans/priorities_and_plans/bo
dl_steps_for_kent.aspx

Objectives
As the strategic commissioner 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.

A number of students have Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) which are legal documents that describe the help given to students who have the greatest difficulty learning. These students require higher levels of support than can be provided in their local mainstream schools, but their needs are not so complex that Special School placements are needed. For these students we maintain a range of Specialist Resource Base Provisions (SRBP) which are based in mainstream schools with places reserved for students with statements of SEN or EHCP equivalent.

The number of pupils with ASD need type has increased significantly over recent years. From 2010 – 2014 numbers have increased by 65% and ASD remains the most prevalent need type in Kent. The Kent Commissioning Plan 2015-19 sets out our intention to create additional provision to support those students. We are providing additional Primary SRBPs in the six new Primary Schools that are proposed to open in September 2015.

National data shows boys are over-represented in ASD and girls under-represented. Creating this provision in a mixed school means KCC can cater for both well.

The effect on other schools, academies and educational institutions within the area
KCC is aware of some pressure at Secondary age within our Special Schools and the Secondary forecasts indicate that there will be significant pressure on Secondary school places generally from 2018/19 onwards. SEN pupils typically represent 2.8% of the wider population, although the percentage in mainstream schools is approximately 1.3%. We continue to monitor the growth in the Secondary age school population and respond accordingly with new SEN provision where required. We have already created additional provision at the Malling School and Holmesdale Technology College. We are also aware that Leigh Academy Trust propose to establish a Specialist Resource Based Provision for pupils with ASD, at Wilmington Academy, Common Lane, Wilmington, Dartford, Kent, DA2 7DR.

Current specialist provision is at capacity and no adverse impact is anticipated on neighbouring schools or the local community. Hugh Christie 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** - Additional funding will be allocated for an agreed number of commissioned places in accordance with the Place Plus High Needs funding methodology.

**Human** – Hugh Christie Technology College is happy to host the SRBP and is confident that staff have the relevant expertise and skills to meet the needs of these students. However, the school will appoint additional teachers, as the need arises.

**Implementation and any proposed stages for implementation**
This proposal will create an SRBP for up to 50 students by 1 September 2015. However, it is anticipated that the SRBP will initially open with up to 20 students. Those students attending the SRBP at Hugh Christie Technology College would be students who experience difficulty with communicating and interacting with other people but are suitable for a mainstream school and capable of achieving good GCSE grades. Students will be able to receive individual and small group teaching and support. They will not spend all of their time in the SRBP but will be integrated into mainstream classes during the school day, where suitable. The approach will be one which reflects the individual needs of each student.

**Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision**
It is proposed that up to 50 places be created within a SRBP from September 2015 and reserved for pupils with a statement of SEN or ECHP equivalent for ASD.

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)

Hugh Christie Technology College is recognised by Ofsted as a good school. Based in Tonbridge with excellent transport links, the school is housed in modern buildings on an attractive campus with excellent facilities for Sport, Performing Arts, Science, Design Technology and ICT. The school has been developing a highly personalised curriculum which aims to provide as much choice as possible over when, where, what and how students learn.

Hugh Christie Technology College has invested in developing its staff expertise in ASD to create an ASD friendly environment across the whole school. Therefore, the school would like to build upon the existing provision and the school’s inclusive approach by establishing a new SRBP provision.

It is anticipated that this proposal will lead to improvements in the standard, quality, and range of the educational provision for SEN children. We believe 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 up to 50 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**
 Whilst it is acknowledged that there is potential for an increase in transport it is anticipated that this proposal will ensure specialist places are available locally for students thereby reducing transport costs and journey time.

**Consultation**
All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to this proposal have been complied with. A public consultation was carried out by KCC from 4 February 2015 to 23 March 2015. A consultation document was produced together with an Equality Impact Assessment which can be obtained from KCC’s website by the link listed below: [http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx](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 Hugh Christie Technology College, staff and governors
- The Department for Education
- The Diocese of Rochester, Canterbury and Southwark
- Elected Members (Kent County Council, Tonbridge and Malling Borough and Parish Councils)
- Local MP
- Trade Unions
- Local Children’s Centres and pre-school providers
- Schools in Tonbridge and Malling and Sevenoaks area
- Local Libraries in the Tonbridge and Malling area
- All stakeholders were able to access copies of these documents on the KCC website

An opportunity to send in written responses using the response form, email and online was provided. An information drop-in session was also held for parents on 5 March from 5pm – 7pm at Hugh Christie Technology College. Local ‘feeder’ schools were also notified of this meeting. In total 9 responses to the consultation were received. 7 respondents supported the proposal; 2 objected to the proposal.

During the consultation period assumptions were tested out which potentially linked this proposal to the current proposal to discontinue Furness School, Rowhill Road, Swanley. However, additional SEN places are required within the West Kent area which is reflected in Kent Commissioning Plan for Education Provision in Kent 2015-19. It was on this basis that the Hugh Christie proposal to create an additional 50 SEN places should not be related or contingent upon the proposal to close Furness School.

The outcome of the Hugh Christie Technology College consultation was reported to the Education and Young People’s Services (EYPS) Cabinet Committee on 15 April 2015. A copy of the report can be found at the link below:
The proposal to close Furness School, Rowhill Road, Swanley was also reported to the EYPS Cabinet Committee on 15 April 2015. The recommendation was that the proposal to close Furness School is now supported by a proposal to expand Broomhill Bank School, Broomhill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0TB with satellite provision on the Furness School site, with no break in provision. A copy of the report can be found at the link below: http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/FurnessSchool/consultationHome

Therefore, this proposal to create up to 50 additional SEN places at Hugh Christie Technology College is no longer considered to be linked or related to the Furness School proposals.

**The procedure for responses: support; objections and comments**

A public notice was published in a local newspaper on Friday, 8 May 2015. The notice is displayed at all main entrances to the school. The public notice is also available on KCC’s website: http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/school_consultations.aspx.

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, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ. Tel: 03000 412209; or email school.consultations@kent.gov.uk. The final date for sending in written representations is 5 June 2015.