

### Motion – Insufficient Provision of Secondary School places for Children residing on the Isle of Sheppey

This Council expresses its serious concern regarding the insufficient provision of secondary school places for children residing on the Isle of Sheppey.

On National Offer Day, more than 50 children were allocated school places in Faversham, Maidstone, or Canterbury-locations that are not reasonably accessible for families in the eastern end of the island. Despite the creation of additional school places on the island, very few, if any, of these have been offered to children from the eastern end of the island. Consequently, many families have been allocated places at schools approximately 27 miles from Leysdown, imposing significant travel burdens.

Parents have engaged in dialogue with Kent County Council councillors and the local Member of Parliament; however, these efforts have yet to yield satisfactory resolutions. Although successful appeals have marginally reduced the number of children without reasonable school offers, a substantial number remain affected. This situation not only disrupts the education of these children but is poised to deteriorate further due to ongoing housing developments, contrary to the sustainable development principles outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework.

This Council therefore calls upon Kent County Council, the Secretary of State for Education, and the Secretary of State for Housing to:

1. Undertake an urgent review and introduce a resolution to increase the capacity of secondary school provision on the Isle of Sheppey, prioritising accessibility for children living in the eastern parts of the island.
2. Ensure that school place allocations align with the National Planning Policy Framework's requirements for sustainable development, thereby mitigating undue travel burdens on students and families.
3. Collaborate with local stakeholders, including parents and community representatives, to develop a clear, long-term plan addressing current and projected educational infrastructure needs in the area.

Proposed: Councillor Lee-Anne Moore

Seconded: Councillor Tara Noe