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**Subject:** KENT AND MEDWAY MEDICAL SCHOOL STUDENT SUPPORT

**Meeting and Date:** Cabinet – 6 July 2020

**Report of:** Helen Lamb, Head of Finance and Housing

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Trevor Bartlett, Leader of the Council

**Decision Type:** Non-Key Decision

**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Purpose of the report:** To support a student through 5 years at the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) from 2021-2026

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**Recommendation:** It is recommended that Cabinet agrees to support a student at the KMMS and includes the sum of £5,000 per annum for five years in the draft budget for 2021/2022 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 £5,000 per annum for five years would help support one student with maintenance: (rent, books, travel and equipment) throughout their five-year degree course (total: £25,000).

## 2. Background

- 2.1 Kent was, until now, the largest county in England without a medical school, with an acute shortage of doctors and significant problems in healthcare recruitment and retention. Public Health England also identifies that Kent and Medway have some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.
- 2.2 The KMMS is a collaboration between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, with the objective to open opportunities for talented students from all backgrounds to study medicine and help meet the future health needs of a large population.
- 2.3 The total start-up cost for this project is £52 million. Since January 2019 £31 million<sup>1</sup> of the £52 million start-up costs (both capital and revenue) has been raised, and 95 (Home/EU) confirmed first-year students have been signed up. The remainder of the funds needed is under-written by the universities. The medical school is currently recruiting the second cohort of 100 students, who will commence their studies in September 2021.
- 2.4 Across all medical schools, around 15% of entrants are from Widening Participation backgrounds<sup>2</sup>, however KMMS will aim for 22% to enable more students from

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<sup>1</sup> Of which over half the funds have been committed by the two universities, public sources and philanthropic funding. There is no funding from central government other than student fees. KMMS has also raised £4.2 million in philanthropic gifts including gifts from the people of Kent and Medway, gifts from retired and current medical consultants, and 5-6 figure gifts from individuals, local companies, Trusts and Foundations.

<sup>2</sup> "Widening Participation" aims to address the discrepancies in the take-up of higher education opportunities between different social groups. Every student who could study medicine will have the opportunity to do so regardless of their socio-economic circumstances or ability to pay. 22 of the 100 places per year will be offered to students from a Widening Participation (WP) background, alongside bursaries to support them in their studies.

disadvantaged areas to embark on a medical career. The KMMS proposal (see Annex 1) emphasises:

- (a) enabling more students from disadvantaged areas to embark on a medical career
- (b) supporting students who are first in their family to go to university or to become doctors

2.5 KMMS have secured scholarships and bursaries for students starting in the first cohort in 2020 and are looking for funding for our second cohort from September 2021. Some other Kent district councils have already committed to support the project and all others are being approached.

2.6 If DDC do support the project this would be recognised on the KMMS Donor Board and with a named scholarship for five years.

2.7 If Cabinet approves the recommendation then this will be implemented through an agreement with the KMMS and will include requirements to ensure that every effort is made to make the scholarship to local students who fit the "widening participation" criteria. Following discussions with the KMMS (and subject to minor amendment) the criteria to be applied by KMMS in awarding the "Dover District Council Scholarship" scholarship will reflect the following principles:

- Candidates must have accepted an unconditional, or firmly accepted a conditional, offer from the Kent and Medway Medical School to study Bachelor of Medicine or Bachelor of Surgery
- Priority will be given to candidates from the following areas in order of priority:
  - Dover District, or
  - East Kent District (including Dover, Thanet, Folkestone and Hythe and Canterbury), or
  - Kent
- Be the first person in the family to go to University.
- Provide evidence of financial hardship.
- Provide evidence of ongoing commitment to activities that benefit the community in Dover or Kent.

### 3. Identification of Options

3.1 There are two options:

- (a) Decline to support the KMMS
- (b) Agree to support the KMMS

### 4. Evaluation of Options

- (a) By declining the opportunity to support KMMS the council would not be contributing to increased capacity within the NHS at a time of significant pressure and would not be pro-active in addressing inequalities in medical training opportunities.
- (b) By agreeing to support the KMMS the council would be making a positive contribution to future NHS capacity at a relatively modest cost and would also contribute towards increased diversity and training opportunities. For these reasons this is the preferred option.

### 5. Resource Implications

5.1 Supporting KMMS will cost £5,000 per annum for 5 years so a total of £25,000. If approved this will be incorporated into the 2021/22 budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan. The KMMS needs certainty of funding and therefore this report has been produced now to make a formal commitment, rather than waiting until the 2021/22 budget is set in February/March 2021.

6. **Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

6.1 None.

7. **Corporate Implications**

7.1 Comment from the Director of Finance (linked to the MTFP): Finance has been consulted on this report and has no further comments to add (SG)

7.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

7.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>.

8. **Appendices**

Annex 1 – Proposal from Kent and Medway Medical School

9. **Background Papers**

None.

Contact Officer: Helen Lamb, Head of Finance and Housing

## Proposal from Kent and Medway Medical School

Dear Mike,

### Re Kent and Medway Medical School

As you know, in September 2020, the new Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS) will be opening its doors. KMMS have made a pledge that of each yearly cohort of 100 students, 22 will come from disadvantaged (“widening participation”) backgrounds. Never before has the need for doctors been more apparent and we feel proud to be at the heart of this major provision for our community’s future.

### The Kent and Medway Medical School

Kent was, until now, the largest county in England without a medical school, with an acute shortage of doctors and significant problems in healthcare recruitment and retention. Public Health England also identifies that Kent and Medway have some of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

A much-needed collaboration between the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University, KMMS will open up opportunities for talented students from all backgrounds to study medicine and help meet the future health needs of a large and under-served population.

The total start-up cost for this project is £52m of which over half the funds have been committed by the two universities, public sources and philanthropic funding. There is no funding from central government other than student fees. We have so far raised £4.2 million in philanthropic gifts including gifts from the people of Kent and Medway, gifts from retired and current medical Consultants, and 5-6 figure gifts from individuals, local companies, Trusts and Foundations.

We have also formed partnerships with local NHS trusts and regional healthcare providers to offer placements within primary, secondary and community care, ensuring students will be embedded into our communities and encouraged to remain in the area to serve local needs. These placements will cover all Trusts and general practices throughout Kent and Medway. It is well recognised that the presence of a medical school is important in ensuring a supply of homegrown doctors, strengthening local clinical delivery and attracting consultants to local hospitals.

### Widening Participation

KMMS’ unique vision is to make medical education fully inclusive and accessible to students from non-traditional or disadvantaged backgrounds. KMMS will be a place where barriers to

learning are overcome and every student who has the ability to study medicine has the opportunity to do so regardless of their socio-economic circumstances or ability to pay.

Across all medical schools, around 15% of entrants are from widening participation backgrounds however at KMMS we aim for 22% to enable more students from disadvantaged areas to embark on a medical career. We are also actively supporting students who are first in their family to go to university or to become doctors. Our Founding Dean, Professor Chris Holland, is himself first in his family to become a doctor and believes very strongly in this vision.

We have now secured scholarships and bursaries for students starting in the first cohort in 2020, but are looking for funding for our second cohort from September 2021. We would therefore be very pleased if you would kindly consider offering support in one of the following ways:

- £9,250 per annum for five years would pay for a student to cover their full course tuition fees (total: £46,250). or
- £5,000 per annum for five years would help support one student with maintenance: (rent, books, travel and equipment) throughout their five year degree course (total: £25,000).

Your support would enable students to mitigate the financial hurdles that would otherwise prevent them from accessing and completing a medical education and create future medical practitioners who are more representative of the local community they will serve, whilst ensuring future supply to healthcare in our local region.

We hope very much that Dover District Council will consider supporting our vision and we look forward to forming a partnership with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Senior Development Officer