

Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

N/A

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Subject:

To authorise new capital projects to increase the capacity of Greenside and Amwell View special schools as satellite provisions at Ashtree Primary School and Arlesdene Nursery School respectively.

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): No

Executive Member: Caroline Clapper; Bob Deering

Portfolio (Executive Functions only): Caroline Clapper, Executive Member, Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning; Bob Deering, Executive Member, Resources & Performance.

Officer Contact: Samantha Young

Tel: 01992 555754

1. Decision

- (i) To approve the budget of £0.493m to fund a new satellite capital project at Ashtree Primary School to increase the capacity of Greenside Special School by 16 places from January 2025; and
- (ii) to approve the budget of £0.076m to fund a new satellite capital project at Arlesdene Nursery School to increase the capacity of Amwell View Special School by 4 places from September 2025.

2. Reasons for the decision

In December 2020, Cabinet approved the Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023 which articulates that demand for special school places has grown sharply in recent years and that demand is forecast to continue to exceed supply.

As most of our special schools are now at capacity, the strategy sets out longer term priorities which will deliver the additional school places required. In the short term, however, it identifies that additional capacity will be needed to meet the immediate demand for special school places (Priority 3 in the Strategy). Cabinet will be asked to consider a one-year extension to the Strategy later this month with a continued focus on meeting the immediate demand for places, supported through further capital funding agreed in the IP earlier this year.

This decision covers two new satellite projects which will increase capacity in the Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) sector by 20 places. These are as set out in section 1 above.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected** None

4. **Consultation**

Was any Councillor consulted? Yes

If yes:

(a) **Comments of Executive Member**

The Executive Members have no comments other than to concur with the Executive Director's intention to agree the proposal.

(b) **Comments of other consultees** None

5. **Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision**

None

6. **Following consultation with the Executive Members, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: Steven Pilsworth

Title: Director of Finance

Date: 6th May 2024

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.