

## **DECISION RECORD**

To agree to a consultation on the relocation of the Park Education Support Centre, from its current

**Subject:** site to the former Southfield School site at Travellers Lane, Hatfield

**Staff Contact:** Jennie Newman

**Executive Member:** Terry Douris

**Tel:** 01992 588541

**Portfolio:** Executive Member for Education,  
Libraries & Localism

### **1. Decision**

The Director of Children's Services has decided to commence consultation on a proposal to relocate The Park Education Support Centre (ESC) from its current sites located at Field View Rd, Potters Bar, EN6 2NA and High St, Potters Bar, EN6 5AB, to the former Southfield School site, Travellers Lane, Hatfield, AL10 8TJ, from 1 August 2019.

It will continue to serve the towns of Welwyn Garden City, Hatfield, Potters Bar and surrounding areas.

### **2. Reasons for the decision**

The county council believes that the location of the ESC sites make it difficult for some pupils to get to school each day, or arrive on time and consequently attendance rates are significantly below average. Furthermore, the school was judged inadequate by Ofsted in January 2018 and the location of the ESC sites was identified as a contributing factor to the schools poor performance.

As a result of this Ofsted report, the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) has ordered the academisation of the ESC. The academy sponsor identified (The Links Academy Trust) has indicated that, in order for them to sponsor The Park ESC, a relocation to a more suitable location needs to be secured.

Following consultation with local referring schools, and an analysis of travel times for existing pupils, the county council has identified that a relocation to the Welwyn & Hatfield District would improve access to the ESC and will improve pupil attendance. It is felt that this would contribute towards the required school improvement of the ESC.

An opportunity has arisen to relocate the ESC to the former Southfield School site on Travellers Lane, Hatfield, as Southfield School has now moved permanently to another location in the town.

The school improvement benefits of the proposed relocation are that the ESC will be on a single site, leading to increased financial and operational efficiency. In addition, as the proposed location is more accessible for the pupils it serves, it will lead to improved pupil attendance.

### **3. Alternative options considered and rejected**

None

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### 4. Consultation

#### (a) Comments of Executive Member

The Executive Member was in agreement with the proposal to consult.

#### (b) Comments of other consultees

None

### 5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed:



Title: Director of Children's Services

Date: 08 May 2019

### 6. Copies of agreed document to:

- The Headteacher & Chair of Governors of Links Academy Trust
- The Headteacher & Chair of Governors of The Park ESC
- The Diocese of Westminster (John Paul (JP) Morrison: [jpmorrison@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:jpmorrison@rcdow.org.uk))
- The Diocese of St Albans (David Morton: [dde@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:dde@stalbans.anglican.org))
- Assistant Head of Member Services - Room 214 County Hall ([elaine.shell@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:elaine.shell@hertfordshire.gov.uk)) Hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect)