

DECISION RECORD ¹

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: To approve funding for a new Communication and Autism school at the former Sunnybank school site in Potters Bar to open from September 2023

Staff Contact: Samantha Young

Tel: 01992 555754

Executive Members :
Bob Deering

Portfolio: Executive Member for Resources & Performance

Terry Douris
Portfolio: Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning

1. **Decision**

To approve funding for a new Communication and Autism school at the former Sunnybank school site in Potters Bar to open from September 2023.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

In December 2020, Cabinet approved the Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023. The strategy sets out longer term priorities which will deliver the additional school places required. One of these priorities was the delivery of a new primary special school for children with communication and autism needs (priority 4 in the Strategy).

This decision is to approve the funding required to deliver the new school from September 2023.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected ²**

None

4. **Consultation**

(a) **Comments of Executive Members**

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

(b) **Comments of other consultees ³**

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None

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

Signed:

Title: Steven Pilsworth, Assistant Director Finance Date: 02/09/2021

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- Democratic Services, Room 213, County Hall (signed paper original).
Electronic copy to: Democratic.Services@hertfordshire.gov.uk
(for public inspection both at County Hall and on www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)

and following the expiry of the call-in period to:

- Executive Member – Councillor Terry Douris
- Local Member; John Graham, Potters Bar East
- Chair (Councillor David Andrews), and Vice-Chairs (Councillors Richard Butler and Sandy Walkington) of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Office of the Schools Adjudicator (osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk)
- The local Church of England diocese - Canon David Morton, Director of Education, Diocese of St Albans (dde@stalbans.anglican.org)
- The local Roman Catholic diocese - Mr Peter Sweeney, Director of Education, Diocese of Westminster (petersweeney@rcdow.org.uk;
education@rcdow.org.uk)
- For SEND-related proposals only: Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI);
Carol Kelsey (coordinator@hertsparentcarers.org.uk;
contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk)
- Any other body that is deemed appropriate (e.g. other relevant diocese or diocesan board, faith organisation and any affected educational institutions in the area)

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.