

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

**If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.**

**B 096 /21**

***If not a Key Decision write n/a above***

### OFFICER DECISION RECORD <sup>i</sup>

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:** Whether or not to initiate a public consultation on the relocation of Breakspeare School, Abbots Langley, WD5 0BU, to the Durrants School Former Playing Field site, Manor Green, Croxley Green, WD3 3LU and the permanent enlargement of the school from 97 to at least 200 places with effect from September 2023

**Type of Decision:** Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** Yes

**Executive Member/Committee Chairman:** Terri Douris

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Executive Member for Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning

**Officer Contact:** Samantha Young

**Tel:** 01992 555754

**April 2020**

## 1. **Decision**

Whether or not to initiate a public consultation on the relocation of Breakspeare School, Abbots Langley, WD5 0BU, to the Durrants School Former Playing Field site, Manor Green, Croxley Green, WD3 3LU and the permanent enlargement of the school from 97 to 210 places with effect from September 2023

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

The proposal will support an increase in places available at Breakspeare School (the School), a community special school for children with severe learning difficulties (SLD), by 113 places. The current capacity of the school is 97 and with the proposed relocation and rebuild the capacity will increase to 210 places.

The current school site does not have enough space to create the additional accommodation required to cater for an increase in capacity. Hertfordshire County Council (the county council) is therefore proposing to relocate the School to Croxley Green in new, purpose-built, accommodation which will fully meet the needs of both existing and new children.

New special school places are urgently required to meet the demand for children, aged 2yrs to 19yrs with severe learning difficulties. All existing SLD schools are full and there is no remaining expansion potential. The School has been chosen for enlargement as it is the SLD school with the most unmet demand for places across the county.

The School is a community special school for children with SLD needs aged 2-19 yrs. It currently has 97 pupils on roll. The School is now at full capacity and there is no further expansion potential on the site. All other SLD schools are also full and have no enlargement potential.

The School was last inspected by Ofsted in 2017, when it was rated Outstanding.

The existing School was built in 1947, originally as an infant mainstream school and therefore lacks many specialist and design features that the county council we would look for to meet the needs of pupils with SLD needs. It is not possible to improve the functionality of the buildings: due to the layout of the main building, lack of space, old infrastructure and cost efficiency.

The county council is proposing to relocate the School from its existing site in Abbots Langley to the Durrants School Former Playing Field, Manor Green,

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Croxley Green, WD3 3L (the Durrants site), a straight-line distance of 3.3 miles.

The new school building, at the Durrants site, would be a purpose-built special school, designed to current DfE standards for special schools<sup>1</sup> to meet the needs of pupils with severe learning difficulties. It will accommodate up to 210 pupils in vastly improved accommodation and would significantly improve the educational offer for children attending the school.

The proposed new site and building would offer a positive opportunity for the School to operate in new, purpose-built accommodation that is better suited to meet the needs of children and young people with severe learning difficulties. It will create places in an area of high demand meaning that new pupils will be able to secure a school place that is closer to home.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected**

None

4. **Consultation** (*see Summary of Requirements below*)

**Was any Councillor consulted?      Yes**

**If yes:**

(a)    Comments of Executive Member

The Executive Member has no comments other than to concur with the 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**

No

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<sup>1</sup> [Department for Education \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

*(If a Councillor declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from Democratic Services or Legal Services).*

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

Signed: Jo Fisher  
Title: Director of Children's Services

Date: 6 October 2021

Copies of record to:

- Executive Member – Councillors Terry Douris
- Local Member; Sara Bedford, Chris Lloyd
- 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](mailto:osa.team@osa.gsi.gov.uk))
- The governing body / proposers (as appropriate) – email to school head teacher to forward to the governing body
- The trustees of the school (if any)
- The local Church of England diocese - Canon David Morton, Director of Education, Diocese of St Albans ([dde@stalbans.anglican.org](mailto:dde@stalbans.anglican.org))
- The local Roman Catholic diocese - Mr Peter Sweeney, Director of Education, Diocese of Westminster ([petersweeney@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:petersweeney@rcdow.org.uk); [education@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:education@rcdow.org.uk))
- For certain types of statutory proposal only: Department for Education (DfE) ([SchoolOrganisation.NOTIFICATIONS@education.gov.uk](mailto:SchoolOrganisation.NOTIFICATIONS@education.gov.uk))
- For special school proposals only: The parents/carers of every registered pupil at the school
- The parents/carers of Little Green Junior School
- For SEND-related proposals only: Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI); [coordinator@hertsparentcarers.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@hertsparentcarers.org.uk); [contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk](mailto: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)
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.<sup>ii</sup>

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**Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors**

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<b>Significance of Proposed Action</b>	<b>Controversial</b>	<b>Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted</b>
Technical/Professional/ Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors
Technical/Professional/ Routine	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor
Local	No	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Inform Local Councillor
Local	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult Local Councillor
General or County-wide	No	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman
General or County-wide	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups

