



Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

B145/22

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution)

Subject:

Whether to agree to the implementation of the community school statutory proposals* for phase 2 of the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) strategy (from September 2023 unless stated otherwise). *- to open SRPs at Margaret Wix and Maple Grove primary schools (the latter from September 2024); - to close the SLCN bases at Central Primary, Chaulden Infants' and Hillshott Infant schools; - to re-designate the SLCN bases at Sauncey Wood, Cowley Hill and Downfield primary schools as SRPs; taking into consideration the outcome of the statutory notice period.

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): Yes

Executive Member: Terry Douris

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

Officer Contact: Samantha Young

Tel: 01992 555754

1. Decision

To agree to the implementation of the community school statutory proposals for phase 2 of the Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) strategy to open new SRPs at Margaret Wix Primary School and Maple Grove Primary School; to re-designate the Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) bases to SRPs at Sauncey Wood Primary School and Downfield Primary School; and to close the SLCN bases at Chaulden Nursery and Infants' School and Central Primary School.

It should be noted that the statutory notice for the closure of the SLCN base at Hillshott Infant School & Nursery in Letchworth was not published¹ and no decision needs to be made on that specific proposal.

The decision to re-designate the SLCN base at Cowley Hill Primary School will not be implemented, see reasons for decision below, and the SLCN base at the school will remain open.

2. Reasons for the decision

Hertfordshire County Council is developing a countywide pattern of SRPs in mainstream secondary and primary schools. The SRPs build on what is currently offered in SLCN bases, to accommodate a wider range of more complex social communication needs, including autism. Phase 2 of the SRP strategy requires the opening of new SRPs at Margaret Wix Primary School and Maple Grove Primary School; the re-designation of the SLCN bases to SRPs at Sauncey Wood Primary School and Downfield Primary School; and the closure of the SLCN bases at Chaulden Nursery and Infants' School and Central Primary School.

There were no objections to the statutory notices for the phase 2 SRP proposals.

However, the county council has since been notified by Cowley Hill Primary School that it no longer wishes to operate an SRP. As the proposal to open a new SRP in the area, at Warren Dell Primary School, has now been approved by the DfE Regional Director, the proposal to re-designate the SLCN base at Cowley Hill Primary School will not be implemented and the SLCN base at the school will remain open until an alternative SRP is identified in the area. At which point, Cabinet will be asked to consider a new proposal on the closure of the SLCN base at Cowley Hill Primary School and the opening of a new SRP at an alternative primary school.

The decision is to proceed with the proposed opening of new SRPs at Margaret Wix Primary School and Maple Grove Primary School; to re-designate the SLCN bases to SRPs at Sauncey Wood Primary School and Downfield Primary School; and to close the SLCN bases at Chaulden Nursery and Infants' School and Central Primary School.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected None

¹ [Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning Cabinet Panel 9 February 2023](#)

4. **Consultation**

Was any Councillor consulted? Yes

If yes:

(a) **Comments of Executive Member**

The Executive Member has 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 Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: Jo Fisher

Title: Executive Director of Children's Services

Date: 5 April 2023

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.