

DECISION RECORD

Decision Ref.
No. B053/23

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: Proposal to consult on the enlargement of Southfield Special School, Hatfield and Colnbrook Special School, Watford from 15 April 2024

Staff Contact: Phil Brunt, Senior Planning Officer
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Executive Member: Terry Douris

Portfolio: Executive Member for Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning

1. Decision

To initiate a public consultation on proposals to expand the following special schools from 15 April 2024: Southfield Special School, Hatfield, a community school, from 80 places to 100 places from 15 April 2024 and Colnbrook Special School, Watford a community school from 110 places to 130 places.

2. Reasons for the decision

In December 2020, Cabinet approved the Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023 ([Link to Cabinet Report](#)) which sets out that demand for special school places has grown sharply in recent years and is forecast to continue to grow at a rate that will exceed the current supply of places. As most of Hertfordshire's 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.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

None

4. Consultation

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

Signed: Jo Fisher

Title: Executive Director of Children's Services

Date: 4 May 2023

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- Elaine Shell, Democratic Services Manager, Room 213, Old Block, County Hall (signed paper original).
Electronic copy to: Democratic.Services@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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

- Executive Member - Councillor Terry Douris
- Local Members – County Councillor Christopher Alley and County Councillor Peter Hebden
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Chair County Councillor David Andrews, and Vice-Chairs, County Councillors Richard Butler and Sandy Walkington
- The governing boards of Southfield Special School and Colnbrook Special School - email to head teacher to forward to the Chair of Governors for distribution to governing board members
- The local Church of England diocese - Canon David Morton, Diocesan 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)