

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

B032/25

If not a Key Decision write n/a above

OFFICER DECISION RECORD ⁱ

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 agree to the proposal, following the statutory notice period, to enlarge Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College, Stanstead Abbots, by 100 places through the opening of a new satellite provision in Buntingford, from January 2028.

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision: Yes

Executive Member: Caroline Clapper

Portfolio: Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning

Officer Contact: Kate Leahy, Head of School Planning
Tel: 01992 555864

1. Decision

To agree to the proposal, following the statutory notice period, to enlarge Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College by 100 places through the opening of a new satellite provision in Buntingford, from January 2028.

The permanent enlargement of Amwell View School and Specialist Sports College, Station Road, Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8EH, through a 100 place satellite on the site adjacent to Freman College, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford, SG9 9BT, would create 100 Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD) places.

The school is a community special school for children aged 2-19 with SLD

2. Reasons for the decision

In December 2020, the Cabinet of Hertfordshire County Council (“the county council”) approved the Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023, 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 the majority of Hertfordshire’s special schools are now at capacity, the strategy sets out longer-term priorities which will deliver the additional school places required.

There is a current gap in provision and the delivery of 100 additional SLD places in this location will not only ease pressure to the east of the county, but also in Stevenage and North Herts.

Consultation

A consultation on the above proposal took place between 9 September – 6 October 2024. A total of 42 responses were received; 27 (64.3%) of which agreed with the proposal, 11 (26.2%) disagreed and 4 (9.5%) did not know.

Between 7 January – 3 February 2025, the county council published a statutory notice relating to the above proposal. The county council did not receive any responses to the proposal during the statutory notice period.

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 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: 17/03/2025

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- Electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.
