

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

**B071-25**

### OFFICER DECISION RECORD

**Subject:** *Replacement of existing mobile classrooms at Stevenage ESC (SESC) to facilitate additional SEND and future delivery of new secondary provision on adjacent land at Redwing Close (former Barnwell East School site).*

**Type of Decision:** Executive

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

**Executive Members:** Mark Watkin, Tim Williams deputising for Chris Lucas

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Mark Watkin, Executive Member, Education, SEND and Inclusion; Chris Lucas, Executive Member, Resources & Performance.

**Officer Contact:** Kate Ma

**Tel:** 01992 556669

#### 1. **Decision**

The Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Executive Member for Resources and Performance and the Executive Member of Education, SEND and Inclusion approved on 2 June 2025 the capital budget of £1.5m to demolish two existing double mobile classrooms and to relocate and re-provide a new six modular classroom block on a different part of the Stevenage Education Support Centre site.

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

There is town planning consent in place for new secondary school buildings on the Redwing Close site (former Barnwell East school site). This land is allocated in the Stevenage Borough Council Local Plan for education provision and is being held to meet future secondary needs in the town.

The Stevenage ESC (SESC) occupies a small part of the site, separated from the main school site by fencing and with a separate entrance. However, two of its double mobile classrooms will require relocating prior to the new secondary school provision being brought forward as it is proposed to realign the boundary between the two sites and the current location of the mobile classrooms is where the new boundary fencing is proposed.

The existing SESC mobiles are in very poor condition and there is a need for the ESC to offer additional capacity to meet the immediate need for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs. The proposal is to therefore replace the existing two double mobile classroom buildings with a new six classroom modular building located in an alternate position on the SESC site, allowing for a clear separation between the ESC and the adjacent future secondary school site. See site plans at Appendix 1. The new modular will re-provide 24 ESC places whilst also delivering an additional 16 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) places for young people with SEMH.

The existing two double mobile classrooms have a gross internal floor area of 260sqm. The replacement new six classroom modular building, including group rooms, toilets, storage, service/cleaners cupboards and circulation would total 322sqm gross internal floor area (GIFA). The additional GIFA is required to increase the ESC's capacity by 16 SEND places.

S106 funding has been secured from the Gresley Way housing development to support the delivery of additional secondary school provision at the Redwing Close site. The wording of the signed S106 agreement is ***towards the construction of a new secondary school at the former Barnwell East School site.***

The relocation and reprovision of the SESC's double mobile classrooms are considered to be enabling works required to make way for the future secondary provision. Works are proposed in advance of bringing forward the new secondary provision in order to address the condition and capacity issues of the SESC.

It is therefore proposed to allocate a portion of the S106 monies secured from the Gresley Way development to deliver these enabling works once they are received.

Budget of £1.5m was included in the 2025/26 – 2028/29 Integrated Plan that was approved by County Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025. This was funded by HCC borrowing in advance of the S106 receipt, with the S106 receipt assumed to be received in 2026/27 within the funding calculations. This request is in line with the assumptions made.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected** None

4. **Consultation**

**Was any Councillor consulted?** Yes

**If yes:**

**(a) Comments of Executive Member**

The Executive Members have no comments other than to concur with the Chief Finance Officers 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 Members**

Signed: Steven Pilsworth

Title: Director of Finance

Date: 27 June 2025

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.<sup>i</sup>

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