

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	16-19 LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMISSIONED SPECIAL SCHOOL
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, D Harlow, J Lester, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), PD Price, P Rone, N Shaw.
Date of Decision:	22 June 2017
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.	
Notice has been served in accordance with Part 3, Section 11 (Cases of Special Urgency) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	Yes
Purpose:	To seek approval to enable the local authority to develop a proposal to commission a special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) free school for young people aged 16-19 years old; and to recommend that approval be given to use an existing site within Hereford to accommodate the new school proposed.
Decision:	<p>THAT:</p> <p>(a) approval is given to progress to the next stage of the DfE Free School Special School initiative following the success of Herefordshire's expression of interest to commission a 16-19 SEND free school in accordance with the specification in appendix 1;</p> <p>(b) approval in principle is given to the allocation of the former Broadlands School site for the development of the 16-19 SEND free school subject to a satisfactory business case being approved and planning consent being obtained; and</p> <p>(c) necessary feasibility works to further develop the business case and scheme to a maximum of £250k be approved and authority delegated to the director of children's wellbeing to take operational decisions necessary to inform a further decision.</p>
Reasons for the Decision:	There is a need to provide places for pupils with SEND and current projects indicate that further places are required for 16-19 year olds by 2020.

	<p>The council has an approved school capital investment strategy (SCIS) which, under principle 10, has an objective of leveraging in funding from a variety of sources. Local authorities were asked to submit expressions of interest to a national pilot project for run by the department for education to develop free special school provision in November 2016. Herefordshire was well placed to make a submission following the SCIS consultative work and the EFA approved progression to the next stage for a very limited number of schemes nationally in April 2017 (20 local authorities in total). Further progress with the opportunity requires approval from cabinet and agreement to the use of a suitable site.</p>
<p>Options Considered:</p>	<p>Declining the offer from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) of commissioning a new 16-19 free school would forfeit opportunity to bring in additional funding for special school facilities to Herefordshire. Set against this the site would then be available for disposal or alternative developments.</p> <p>Not retaining the former Broadlands school site, which was identified for disposal by cabinet at their meeting on 13 November 2014, would require an alternative site to be identified by the council for the EFA opportunity to continue. Through initial analysis of council owned sites in Hereford there are no suitable alternative sites available in the council ownership and a new site would require further council investment.</p>
<p>Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):</p>	
<p>Date the key decision is due to take effect:</p>	<p>22 June 2017</p> <p>This decision is to be taken under the special urgency provisions as set out in paragraphs 4.2.52-54 of the constitution of Herefordshire Council. It will not be subject to call in</p>

<p>COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSON</p> <p>LEADER OF THE COUNCIL</p>	<p>Date: 22 June 2017</p>
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

And

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.