

### Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Provision of Audio Media Facility at The Royal National College for the Blind
<b>Date of decision:</b>	17 February 2022
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Corporate Director Children and Young People
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The authority for the specified officer to take this decision is set out in the cabinet member report approved 17 December 2018 ( <a href="http://hc-modgov:9070/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5545">http://hc-modgov:9070/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5545</a> )
<b>Ward:</b>	College, Holmer
<b>Consultation:</b>	The executive principal and Royal National College Board have all been involved in, and consulted upon, the plans.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To fund £262,574, for the provision of an audio media facility at The Royal National College for the Blind.  Funding to be provided from Section 106 receipts from various housing developments, Royal National College capital and fundraising, donations and grant applications.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Royal National College for the Blind is a popular college and the only one in Herefordshire dedicated to educating students with visual impairments. Student numbers have increased in recent years.</p> <p>Students study Audio Media Production leading to qualifications in Media Technology and Radio Production. These are recognized qualifications within the industry and give students a good path to higher education and / or straight to employment.</p> <p>The college is currently delivering audio media from office spaces that have temporarily been converted into classrooms. This has been manageable as they have been able to adapt the course schedule for the short-term. The planned reconfiguration of the proposed space into an audio media facility has been impacted by the onset of COVID.</p> <p>The space will also be available to the student body to use recreationally which the students are currently missing out on. As a residential provider they put on a range of activities for students out of hours, some of which are student-led.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	S106 contributions have been secured towards youth and special educational needs provision in Herefordshire. Some of these contributions along with the colleges own capital funding and fundraising, donations and other grants secured by the college will be made available to deliver the necessary works required.

	<p>Costs for the works have been calculated as £262,574</p> <p>The work will be funded from:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="694 322 1217 472"> <tr> <td>S106: Youth</td> <td>£50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S106: SEN</td> <td>£25,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>College funding:</td> <td>£187,574</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>£262,574</td> </tr> </table> <p>If the proposed works are not undertaken there is a risk that there will be continued limited audio media facilities at the college and the wellbeing of students will be affected.</p>	S106: Youth	£50,000	S106: SEN	£25,000	College funding:	£187,574	Total:	£262,574
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<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Consideration was given to the use of other spaces within the college. These were ruled out due to the need to ensure the acoustic integrity of the recording space and to minimize noise disruption to other areas of the college and to the neighbours.</p> <p>The option of hiring space from local providers who have similar facilities was also explored. These were not possible as they did not have the spare capacity during core teaching hours to accommodate the college and they would have been unable to offer the recreational benefits which will be available to the students if they were reliant on off-site resources.</p>								
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>								

Signed  
Corporate Director Children and Young People

Date: 17 February 2022