

# Portfolio Holder Decisions

Thursday 20 March 2025

## Minutes

### Attendance

#### Committee Members

Councillor Peter Butlin

Councillor Kam Kaur

### 1. Consultation on the Establishment of a SEND Resourced Provision

**Resolved** that the Portfolio Holder for Education agrees to the undertaking of a statutory process, including public consultation, as part of the proposed establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision to cater for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (Stratford upon Avon).

### 2. Debt Write Off Report

**Resolved** that the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property approves the exempt report.

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## Portfolio Holder Decision Consultation on the Establishment of a SEND Resourced Provision

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Education</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>20 March 2025</b>
	<b>Signed</b> 

### 1. Decision taken

That the Portfolio Holder for Education agrees to the undertaking of a statutory process, including public consultation, as part of the proposed establishment of Specialist Resourced Provision to cater for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) at Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (Stratford upon Avon).

### 2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The Council aims to ensure that there is sufficient representation of specialist resourced provision across all local area schools' consortium networks providing more opportunities for children to access quality education within their communities.
- 2.2 The Council are therefore looking to establish specialist provision at the Thomas Jolyffe Primary School (Stratford upon Avon): for up to 8 primary aged pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) whose primary needs are communication & interaction (C&I).
- 2.3 In line with the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Education and titled 'Making Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools', any proposals to establish, remove or alter SEN provision (including Resourced Provision) at a mainstream school requires the local authority to undertake a statutory process including a consultation period of at least 4 weeks.
- 2.4 Pursuant to the constitution of Warwickshire County Council (the Council) approval of the Portfolio Holder is required to commence a consultation exercise.
- 2.5 The proposed specialist resourced provision will meet the needs of pupils with an EHCP, who are cognitively able to access the curriculum and will benefit from being located within a mainstream school environment where their additional

needs can be met through a flexible approach, tailored and adapted to their needs. This is part of a wider county wide strategic ambition to develop different types of resourced provision across all areas of the county.

- 2.6 Admissions to the specialist resourced provision would follow a different process from that operating for the rest of the school. Admissions into the specialist resourced provision will be through the Council's panel process for specialist admissions. This will not impact on pupils who are in the mainstream setting at the school.
- 2.7 In order to ensure the capital works required to implement the provision are in place to accommodate new pupils from September 2025, it is important that the consultation is completed in sufficient time for approvals to undertake the works to be obtained and works carried out. The proposed consultation will, if approved, take place between 2 May 2025 and 30 May 2025. Parents will be consulted using the Primary School's established routes of communication, and alongside this the Council will ensure information is published on its "Ask Warwickshire" consultation platform.

### 3. Background information

- 3.1 In order to meet forecast demand and build on the local offer of specialist provision the local authority is continuing the development of specialist resourced provision across the county whereby pupils, who are cognitively able to access the curriculum, can have their needs met and benefit from being located on site within a mainstream school environment.
- 3.2 Warwickshire now has 25 specialist resourced provisions connected to mainstream primary schools, with ten in North Warwickshire (Atherstone, Nuneaton and Bedworth), six in East Warwickshire (Rugby), nine in South Warwickshire (Warwick, Leamington, Stratford Upon Avon and Shipston).
- 3.3 It is anticipated that the specialist resourced provision would open in September 2025.

### 4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no additional costs to the Council in undertaking this consultation.
- 4.2 If following the consultation, there is a decision to go ahead with the specified specialist resourced provision there will be capital cost incurred to create additional teaching and ancillary space to accommodate the learners attending the specialist resourced provision. The necessary accommodation can be achieved by remodelling and refurbishing existing space within the Primary School. It is intended that existing education capital funding will fund the required capital works, and this will be covered in a subsequent cabinet paper if required following the consultation.

- 4.3 The level of funding for each child is assessed by the SENDAR team using a banding system. A service level agreement between the Council and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.
- 4.4 The establishment of resourced provision is part of the Council's ongoing strategy to limit the overspend on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) through reducing the pressure on in county specialist provision, reducing the need to place learners in independent specialist provision, and focusing on effective provision for learners. The establishment of specialist resourced provision across the county increases the range of SEND provision available to meet the needs of children, particularly those children with significant additional needs but who are able to access a mainstream curriculum.

## 5. Environmental Implications

- 5.1 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the decision to consult. There will be environmental considerations to take into account if the capital works are approved given that such works utilise materials and technologies that are likely to have environmental and sustainability impacts. These issues will be considered in more detail in future reports approving any works, if it is decided to proceed following the consultation. However, it should be noted that the Council works to all current building regulations and will expect contractors to consider and explain how they approach sustainability when bidding to undertake works.
- 5.2 Further, any environmental impacts are anticipated to be minimal as the works in this case involve small scale internal alterations.
- 5.3 There is also potential for a positive environmental impact through reduced transport emissions as the increasing development of specialist resourced provision aims to provide more 'local' education provision and reduce journey times for the learner.

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<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	No

**Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?**

No

**List of background papers**

None

**Members and officers consulted and informed**

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Kam Kaur

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Guy Darvill

Finance – Liz Firmstone

Equality – Hannah Laurence

Democratic Services – Nic Conway, Amy Bridgewater-Carnall, Helen Barnsley

Councillors – Chair & Spokes of CYP OSC

Local Member(s): Councillor Tim Sinclair

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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