

# Portfolio Holder Decision

## Capital Project at Shipston Primary School

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>16 February 2024</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

### 1. Decision taken

1.1 That the Portfolio holder for Finance and Property approves the addition to the capital programme of the scheme to create an 8-place specialist resourced provision at Shipston Primary School at an estimated cost of £0.127 million to be funded from S106 receipts and the High Needs Blockheader.

### 2. Reasons for decisions

2.1 The Portfolio holder has delegated authority to add schemes to the Capital Programme where the value is less than £2,000,000 and the scheme is fully funded from external grants, developer contributions or from revenue. Funding from developer contributions can only be used for a limited range of purposes specified in the relevant agreement. The Infrastructure Team has confirmed the availability and use of the funding.

2.2 Warwickshire County Council remains committed to the strategy of developing Specialist Resourced Provision as a bridge between specialist and mainstream. The opening of this type of provision is a feature of the SEND & Inclusion Change Programme.

### 3. Background information

3.1 There is significant pressure on places at Warwickshire's 11 state funded special schools, forcing the use of expensive independent specialist provision. Earlier intervention at primary for learners with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) will minimise the need for these pupils to be excluded or to be educated in independent specialist provision.

3.2 Shipston on Stour Primary specialist resourced provision will provide quality education, serving the local population centre of Shipston on Stour and other villages and towns which are within reasonable reach of its location.

3.3 The proposed work would convert the existing large classroom and storage space, which currently have good access to suitable outdoor areas, into a self-contained provision. This will be achieved by redesigning the current layout to include a small kitchenette / nurture area, calm room, a small staff office and two sets of toilets.

3.4 The intention is to deliver this project over Easter and May 2024 school holidays.

## 4. Financial implications

4.1 The capital works outlined in section 3 are estimated to cost £0.127 million and will be funded from £0.116 million developer contributions and £0.011 million from the high needs block header (this blockheader to fund small scale SEND projects received member approval in 2017).

4.2 Pupil places in the specialist resourced provisions are funded at a higher rate so that the additional learning needs of those pupils can be met. The level of funding will be broadly in line with how pupils are funded in the County's special schools. A service level agreement between WCC and the school will confirm the exact arrangements and expectations.

4.3 Increasing the number of SEND resourced provision places available in the County has been longstanding ambition of the County Council and is a key element of the Dedicated Schools Grant recovery plan.

## 5. Environmental implications

5.1 The changes to Building Regulations in June 2022 have significantly strengthened sustainable construction methods and whilst not solely changed for environmental purpose, they ensure that future construction recognises environmental challenges.

5.2 The associated capital works are anticipated to be minimal with the additional accommodation requirements involving small scale internal alterations and refurbishment.

5.3 It is anticipated that there will be a positive impact on air quality and carbon emissions with the increasing development of specialist resourced provision aiming to provide more 'local' education provision reducing travel distance and journey times for the learner.

### Report Author

Emma Basden-Smith, Dale Bromfield, Claire Thornicroft  
emmabasdensmith@warwickshire.gov.uk,

	dalebromfield@warwickshire.gov.uk, clairethornicroft@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Director</b>	Johnny Kyriacou, Director of Education
<b>Executive Director</b>	Nigel Minns, Executive Director for Children and Young People
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Peter Butlin, Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	No
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

<b>List of background papers</b>
None

<b>Members and officers consulted and informed</b>
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Peter Butlin
Corporate Board – Nigel Minns
Legal – Guy Darvill
Finance – Brian Smith
Equality – Delroy Madden
Democratic Services – Nicole Conway
Councillors – Marian Humphreys, Jerry Roodhouse and Barbara Brown
Local Member(s) - Cllr Jo Barker