

West Sussex County Council

Proposed Executive Decision for **17 March 2021** call-in deadline **5 p.m. on 26 March 2021**

The following proposed decision has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Expansion of Oak Grove College, Worthing - ES17(20/21)
Cabinet Member Responsible for Decision	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Electoral Divisions	Northbrook
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>The County Council has a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places for all children who need a place.</p> <p>There is a need to reduce the number of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) moving from maintained schools and academies into costly education provision in the Independent and Non-Maintained Special School sector, often at schools not situated in West Sussex. Increasing provision for children and young people with SEND through the creation of additional places in County Council Special Schools will assist with the aim of enabling children to attend school locally.</p> <p>Oak Grove College in Worthing caters for a wide range of Special Educational Needs, for children aged between 11 and 19 with moderate, severe or profound learning needs.</p> <p>In March 2020 the Director of Property and Assets approved the budget required to develop the design for the expansion of Oak Grove College in accordance with capital governance processes. Following this the County Council's Multi-Disciplinary Consultant, Faithful+Gould Ltd. (MDC) were appointed to undertake the full design in accordance with the Royal Institute of British Architects recommended process stages 2-7.</p> <p>This report seeks approval for the allocation of funding from the Capital Programme to increase accommodation at the school in order to provide sufficient capacity for an increase of 15 planned places from 156 to 171, including all associated fees, ICT and furniture and equipment. The 4 additional classrooms will provide additional planned places and will enable reorganisation of existing accommodation to ensure appropriate provision for some pupils with very complex needs thereby maximising opportunities for future cost avoidance from expensive</p>

	placements in the independent sector. The new facilities will provide increased opportunities and resources for the complex young children attending Oak Grove. Without these facilities these young children will be at risk of attending independent provisions which typically cost four times as much (not including travel costs) and potentially move them further away from being educated locally.
Decision	<p>The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills has approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The allocation of £2.25m to fund four additional classrooms with ancillary accommodation to enable an increase in planned places of 15 from 156 to 171 at Oak Grove College, in Worthing; (2) The authorisation to commence a procurement process and delegation to the Director of Property and Assets to appoint contractors to fully design and cost the new accommodation; (3) The submission of a planning application for full planning permission and statutory consents; and (4) That subject to receipt of planning permission and statutory consents, the delegation of the authority to enter into a construction contract with the successful provider to the Director of Property and Assets
Interest and nature of interest declared	None
Service Contact	Leigh Hunnikin, Project Manager - Tel: 033 022 23051
Democratic Services Contact	Wendy Saunders Tel: 033 022 22553
Background Papers	See report for details