

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a **Cabinet Member**




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L53 24/25

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Riverside School Phase 2 – Provision of additional Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) capacity
2	Decision maker: Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)
3	Report author and contact details: Nathan Sanders, Programme Manager, 01752 307780; Nathan.sanders@plymouth.gov.uk
4	Decision to be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To approve the Business Case Change Request To add £161,000 to the Capital Programme, funded from the SEN / High Needs Grant
5	Reasons for decision: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal will enable the creation of 30 new SEND places at Riverside School, together with making an existing 20 additional temporary places permanent, resulting in 50 additional places in total. The additional 50 places that will be created addresses the Council's commitment to increasing SEND capacity within Plymouth, as set out in the Send Sufficiency Plan, endorsed by Cabinet on 9/9/24.
6	Alternative options considered and rejected: Not proceed with project: Rejected because this would not increase SEND capacity. Create additional places at Marlborough and Weston Mill schools (as per the original business case approval): This was rejected as there were health, safety and welfare considerations at both schools which presented considerable challenges to expanding capacity.
7	Financial implications and risk: This addition of £161,000 to the capital programme will supplement an existing approval of £150,000 of which £143,000 is remaining. The total project cost is £304,000, all of which is to be funded from the SEN / High Needs Grant. Risks of the project identified are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to complete the works by September 2025, meaning that SEND places will be limited for the 25/26 intake. Mitigation: proceed with project as soon as possible upon approval Project costs exceed budget. Mitigation: contingency included within budget
8	Legal Implications The works are being undertaken under the existing PFI Contract.

An agreement between the governing body of Mill Ford school and the Council has already been entered into in respect of the initial spaces in the nursery to ensure compliance with the PFI contract. A further agreement will be required for the additional space.				
9a	Is the decision a Key Decision? (Please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million
			X	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.
If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions		N/A		
10	Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:	This proposal supports the Send Sufficiency Plan and the Corporate Plan priorities of: Keeping Children, Adults and Communities Safe; Green Investment, Jobs, Skills, and Better Education; Spending Money Wisely.		
11	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	A Climate Impact Assessment is attached		
Urgent decisions				
12	Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	Reason for urgency:			
12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				

I3a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes	X				
		No		(If no go to section I4)			
I3b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?	Councillor Sally Cresswell (Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and Apprenticeships)					
I3c	Date Cabinet member consulted	19/3/25					
I4	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer			
		No	X				
I5	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	David Haley				
		Job title	Director of Children's Services				
		Date consulted	19/3/25				
Sign-off							
I6	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	JS128 24/25				
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.24.25.187				
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/18/3/25				
		Human Resources (if applicable)	n/a				
		Corporate property (if applicable)	n/a				
		Procurement (if applicable)	n/a				
Appendices							
I7	Ref.	Title of appendix					
	A	Briefing report					
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment					
	C	Climate Impact Assessment					
Confidential/exempt information							
I8a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes	X	If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for			

		No	publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title: Business case change request – Riverside Phase 2			X				
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature				Date of decision		28.03.2025		
Print Name		Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)						