

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

Item	Outcome
Date Of Decision	Thursday 16 th August
Decision Maker	Catherine Driscoll – Director of Children Families and Communities
Brief Description Of Decision	Approval to increase the number of pupils at Rigby Hall (+14) and Wyre Forest (+30) Special Schools in September 2018 and to enlarge the premises and increase the number of pupils at Rigby Hall (+25) Special School in September 2019.
Reason(s) For Decision	<p>The 2017 High Needs Commissioning Review (HNCR) and SEND Sufficiency report detailed a need for more special school places in Worcestershire. The SEND Team currently have a list of 100+ pupils waiting for a special school place, most of whom are currently in Worcestershire mainstream schools or Alternative Provision. The Provision Planning team have also forecast an increased need for special school places based purely on demographic growth of 39 places (Reception – Year 14) for September 2018 and 54 places for September 2019. This does not take into account housing growth, any surplus needed or the pupils within other provision waiting for a special school places.</p> <p>The increases agreed for September 2018 – Rigby (+14) and Wyre Forest (+30) do not require any capital investment from the Local Authority.</p> <p>In March 2017 the Council was notified by the Department for Education (DfE) of additional funding available, the Special Provision Capital funding, provided to support Worcestershire County Council create new places for children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) between 2018-21. Worcestershire County Council has been allocated a total of £1,085,665 over the period of the three years (£361,888 each year) subject to certain conditions being met by the Council. To identify potential capital projects, the Council completed a bidding process open to all Special Schools to submit project concept briefs to increase special school places. The High Needs Implementation Group assessed all of the bids received against an agreed set of criteria including quality of provision, value for money, age range and timescales for delivery. The 2019 proposal from Rigby Hall School to enlarge the premises of the school and increase the number of pupils (+25) at the school scored the highest.</p>

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Alternative Options Considered And Rejected	<p>As part of the HNCR all Worcestershire special schools were asked to consider whether they could accommodate an increase in places for September 2018 with minimal or no accommodation changes. The proposals agreed above for September 2018 required the statutory process to be completed as they exceed increases of 10% and / or 20 pupils.</p> <p>The bidding round for the Special Provision Capital funding concluded that the proposal at Rigby Hall scored the highest due to cost per place, timescales, locality and age range of provision.</p>
Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None



Catherine Driscoll
16/08/18

March 2013
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