

## **CABINET MEMBER DECISION**

### **Decision:**

Proposal to open a specialist centre at the Orchard School

#### **(i) Details of decision**

The Cabinet Member for All Age Learning determined the statutory notice thereby bringing into effect the formal commencement of a Specialist Centre with 6 places for pupils from Year R to Year 2 with Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

#### **(ii) Reasons for decision**

Demand for specialist centre provision in the north east area for pupils with Special Educational needs is high. The provision of a specialist Speech Language and Communication (SLCN) centre will help support local families who would otherwise have to travel further afield. This will not only enable local provision for local children, but also decrease home to school journey times and associated costs.

Pupils attending the centre would be in addition to the mainstream Planned Admission Number (PAN) of the school. The school would manage meaningful inclusion into the mainstream classes which is wholly individualised to the needs of the child. Some pupils would spend more time in the centre than others and it would be the responsibility of the school to manage the specialist offer and inclusion levels in partnership with the parents and LA officers.

The Orchard School is using existing space within the current building to run a temporary centre environment. It is proposed that this space is permanently used for the new provision, therefore there is no capital investment and additional building needed.

For these reasons, it is recommended that the Cabinet Member for All Age Learning determines the Statutory Notice, to bring the creation of the specialist centre into effect from 1 September 2021.

*This decision can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning and Culture Select Committee.*

#### **(iii) Details of any alternative options considered and rejected - N/A**

#### **(iv) Details of any consultation and representations received not included in the published report. None**

### **Conflicts of Interest and any Dispensations Granted**

**(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded and any dispensations granted by the Audit and Governance Committee)**

None.

**Decision taken by:**

(i) **Name: Mrs Julie Iles**

(ii) **Portfolio: Cabinet Member for All Age Learning**

**Date of Decision:** 9 March 2021

**Date of Publication of Record of Decision:** 9 March 2021

**Date decision effective (i.e. 5 working days after date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Environment and Transport Select Committee):** 16 March 2021