



**Reading**  
Borough Council

Working better with you

## DECISION BOOK

**Issue: 572      Date: 17 May 2019**

Decisions set out in the book have been made under delegated powers by the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors or the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, in consultation either with the relevant committee or Lead Councillor.

This issue of the decision book will be in public circulation up until **Monday 27 May 2019**. During that period three Councillors may request in writing to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services that a decision should be referred either to a committee, or to the Council (as appropriate) for formal resolution.

The decision book is open to public inspection at the Civic Offices between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays and can be accessed on the Council's website - [www.reading.gov.uk/decisionbooks](http://www.reading.gov.uk/decisionbooks).

The officer reports accompanying the decisions are attached.

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## DECISION BOOK - ISSUE 572 - 17 MAY 2019

### 1. EXPANSION OF THE AVENUE SCHOOL

<u>DECISION</u>	<u>LEAD COUNCILLOR(S)</u>	<u>WARDS AFFECTED</u>	<u>PAGE NO.</u>
1. EXPANSION OF THE AVENUE SCHOOL	COUNCILLOR PEARCE	BOROUGHWIDE	1

This report sets out the decision to enter into a contract and commit spending of £200k to complete the expansion of The Avenue School to create additional places for 30 pupils.

It is the decision of the Director of Economic Development, Growth and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education, to:

- (a) Release the approved capital funding of £200k designated for the expansion of the Avenue School;
- (b) Approve the award of the contract to carry out the works;
- (c) To enter into a lease with The Avenue School for their occupation of part of The Avenue Centre.

## READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR ASHLEY PEARCE		
DATE:	17 MAY 2019		
TITLE:	EXPANSION OF THE AVENUE SCHOOL		
SERVICE:	EDUCATION ASSET MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT	WARDS:	ALL
AUTHOR:	LINDA CHURCH	TEL:	0118 9373860
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#### 1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the decision to enter into a contract and commit spending of £200k to complete the expansion of The Avenue School to create additional places for 30 pupils.

#### 2. DECISION

- 2.1 It is the decision of the Director of Economic Development, Growth and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Education, to:
- (a) Release the approved capital funding of £200k designated for the expansion of the Avenue School;
  - (b) Approve the award of the contract to carry out the works;
  - (c) To enter into a lease with The Avenue School for their occupation of part of The Avenue Centre.

#### 3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 At Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019, the Capital Programme, detailing the planned expenditure on Education projects was approved, including £200k assigned to the expansion of The Avenue School.

## 4. DECISION

### 4.1 Current Position

- (i) There is a demand for more SEND places within the borough to meet a growing number of pupils and a shortage of places, both within the borough and within neighbouring schools out of borough.

### 4.2 Option Proposed

- (i) It is proposed to expand The Avenue School to provide three additional classrooms, with associated group space and toilet facilities. This will provide an additional 30 places.
- ii) The works have been tendered through the Council's INTEND process and officers are now in a position to award the contract to Modus Construction Ltd.
- (iii) The works need to commence by 1<sup>st</sup> June in order to meet a 1<sup>st</sup> September completion deadline ahead of 25 new pupils starting at the School for the new 19/20 academic year.

### 4.2 Other Options Considered

- (i) No other options have been considered. The only alternative would be to seek further places at out of borough schools. There is limited capacity in neighbouring boroughs but, even were this not the case, placing children out of borough would result in increased costs to the Council.

## 5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The development of additional SEN places would help to deliver the following Corporate Plan Service Priorities:

*'Promoting great education, leisure and cultural opportunities for people in Reading'*

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Planning consultation is not required as the expansion will be in the form of an internal remodelling of existing rooms. No further consultation has been undertaken. The provision of additional SEN spaces is supported by Brighter Future for Children.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A lease will be required for the schools occupation of the building, this delegation is exercised under the provisions of Minute 149 agreed at Council on 25 May 2016.

7.2 The Council's Legal and Democratic Services will review and issue the required legal documentation.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The approved capital budget for the works including design fees is £261k and associated project management costs. The project costs of £200k are within the approved budget.

## **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 The project is included within the Capital Programme 2019-2022, which was presented to Full Council and approved on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019.