



Democratic Services

Location: Phase II
Ext: 7655
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CMD No: 675

**To: COUNCILLOR MARTIN GODDARD
CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE**

**COUNCILLOR SUSAN O'BRIEN
CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
AND EDUCATION**

c.c. All Members of the Children, Families and
Education Select Committee
c.c. Babatunde Balogun - Education & SEND
Directorate
c.c. Vikram Hansrani – Executive Director,
Education & SEND
c.c. All Councillors

Date: 18 January 2023

Non-Key Decision request

Form D

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (January 2023)

DEPARTMENT: Education & SEND

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: School Place Planning - Wood End Park Academy

RELEASE NO: 1

Dear Cabinet Members,

Attached is a report requesting that a decision be made by you as an individual Cabinet Member. Democratic Services confirm that this is not a key decision, as such, the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 notice period does not apply.

You should take a decision **on or after Thursday 26 January 2023** in order to meet Constitutional requirements about publication of decisions that are to be made. You may wish to discuss the report with the Corporate Director before it is made. Please indicate your decision on the duplicate memo supplied, and return it to me when you have made your decision. I will then arrange for the formal notice of decision to be published.

Anisha Teji
Democratic Services Officer

Title of Report: School Place Planning – Wood End Park Academy RELEASE NO: 1

Decision made:

Reasons for your decision: (e.g. as stated in report)

Alternatives considered and rejected: (e.g. as stated in report)

Signed Date.....

Cabinet Member for Finance / Cabinet Member for Children, Families And Education

CAPITAL RELEASE REPORT (January 2023)

DEPARTMENT: Education & SEND

SERVICE AREA / PROGRAMME: School Place Planning – Wood End Park Academy

RELEASE NO: 1

Cabinet Members	Councillor Martin Goddard Councillor Susan O'Brien
Cabinet Portfolios	Cabinet Member for Finance Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Officer Contact	Babatunde Balogun, Education & SEND
Papers with report	N/A

HEADLINES

Summary	To seek Cabinet Member approval for the release of capital funds.
Putting our Residents First Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-2026	This report supports our ambition for residents / the Council of: An efficient, well-run, digital-enabled council working with partners to deliver services to improve the lives of all our residents This report supports our commitments to residents of: Safe and Strong Communities
Putting our Residents First	This report supports the Council objective of <i>strong financial management</i> .
Financial Cost	This report seeks the capital release of £116k from the 2022/23 Wood End SEND Places Budget of £1,337k for the pre-construction phase of the work to establish a new Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit at Wood End Park Academy.
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Wards affected	All

RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member for Finance and Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education agree to the following capital release request of £116,066 from the 2022/23 Schools SRP/SEND capital programme budget for the pre-construction phase of the work to establish a new Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit at Wood End Park Academy.

Reasons for recommendation

To ensure the continuation of the work to create a new ASD unit for 24 pupils at Wood End Park Academy. This capital release requests the release of funds for the pre-construction phase of the scheme.

Alternative options considered

The local authority agreed to provide funding for a scheme to create a 24 place ASD unit at Wood End Park Academy and the delivery of project will be managed by The Park Federation Academy Trust. The project is linked to the DSG Safety Valve Programme.

Select Committee comments

None at this stage.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Wood End Park Academy is one of the schools included in the DSG Safety Valve Programme; its objective is to increase the number of SEND places within the Borough. The Academy Trust and the Council have agreed to establish a 24 place ASD unit by adapting a standalone block on the school site. The project is fully funded by the local authority and the Academy Trust is responsible for delivering the project. The Academy Trust will incur the expenditure initially and will be reimbursed by the Council in phases as the scheme progresses.

The new ASD unit will open at the start of September 2023 Autumn term. The pre-construction phase of the scheme commenced in September 2022 and the building works is estimated to complete in August 2023. The pre-construction cost is estimated as £116,066 and includes the following costs:

Pre-construction phase	Cost (£)
Architect	19,000
Contract Administration	11,000
Principal Designer	4,288
Structural Engineer	6,982
Mechanical and Electrical	7,076
Education Specialist	2,720
Asbestos Removal	35,000
Main water pipe replacement	30,000
Total	116,066

Wood End Park Academy Budget	Cost Estimate (£)	Previously Requested (£)	New Request (£)
Fees & Surveys	126,427	0	51,066
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	47,500	0	0
Construction & enabling works	1,011,420	0	65,000
Contingency	151,713	0	0
Total	1,337,060	0	116,066

The new Unit will include specialist classrooms, therapy spaces, sensory and calming room, group rooms, staff room and an outdoor play space. There will be 24 places for pupils with ASD; the students within the Unit will access all teaching sessions in the Unit to meet needs outlined in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Financial Implications

Wood End Park Academy SEND Revised Budget £1,337k, Previously Released £0k, Capital Release Requested £116k – Appendix A

Including prior years, the Schools SRP capital programme amounts to £25,331k confirmed grant funding from 2018/19 to 2023/24, financed by Special Provision Capital Fund and High Needs Provision Capital grants. This is inclusive of confirmation earlier this year from the Department for Education (DfE) that the Council's bid was successful for £6,962k additional High Needs capital funding linked to the DSG deficit recovery safety valve agreement. The programme consists of nine schemes to deliver an additional 416 places in the Borough inclusive of 24 places at Wood End Park Academy.

Within the overall funding envelope, there is an allocation of £1,337k in the SEND Places Budget for the expansion of Wood End Park Academy to provide 24 places for pupils with ASD. This is

a school led project and the Council will be reimbursing the school in stages on receipt of invoices. This report is seeking release of £116k for pre-construction phase costs such as design and engineering fees and enabling works. The cost estimate has been supplied by the school. Further release approval will be sought for the main construction works with the project expected to be completed and places ready by September 2023.

The creation of new SEND provision in the Borough is critical to the delivery of the DSG Safety Valve Agreement and DSG revenue savings through reducing out of borough special placements and transport costs.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities?

The 24 places created in the ASD unit are critical in supporting the London Borough of Hillingdon's DSG safety valve agreement with the Department for Education (DfE) where there is a significant focus on the development of local, specialist places.

Consultation carried out or required

Wood End Park Academy carried out a public consultation about establishing a new ASD unit on school site from 9 September to 7 October 2022. The outcome of the consultation was positive.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance concurs with the above financial implications, confirming that the proposed works to provide 24 ASD places at Wood End Park Academy will be funded from the approved Schools SEND/SRP capital programme, financed by Government grant with no impact on Council resources. The Council has secured a Safety Valve agreement with the DfE which secures Government support for the delivery of the Council's DSG Recovery Programme and financial support towards the elimination of the cumulative deficit. This project supports the recovery programme.

Legal

Legal Services confirms that the Council is responsible for carrying out this function pursuant to section 16 of the Education Act 1996. There are no legal impediments to the Council authorising the capital release, although any contract awarded must comply with the Council's Procurement standing orders.

Infrastructure / Asset Management

The Estates Department confirms that progressing with the release of these funds to move forward with this development does not conflict with any asset management plans nor impede on any work that we are proposing to take place.

Capital Release Protocol

The release of all capital funds, and certain revenue funds, held by the Council is to be made by a formal democratic decision. No expenditure can be placed or committed by officers until this formal approval is given by Democratic Services. Release of funds must be for identified projects only and strictly not for the general release of funds for projects to be identified at a later date. No block releases of capital or funding will be allowed, except if authorised by the Leader of the Council in advance to Corporate Finance. The release of funds will only be made if previous Council, Cabinet or Cabinet Member agreement has been given to the project and only if there is an approved budget.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.

APPENDIX A

SEND Places Expansion / Wood End Park Academy / Budget £1,337k (2022/23 to 2023/24)

Location	Project / Expenditure Title	Information	Funds Release Sought £000's	Approve	Hold	More Information Required
Wood End Park Academy	SEND Places Expansion	Preconstruction phase	116			
Total seeking release			116			
Previously released			0			
Budget			1,337			
Remaining budget			1,221			