

CABINET SPOKESPERSON FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Record of a decision taken on 12 August 2022

Subject

SUFFICIENCY OF PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS: PROPOSED SATELLITE PROVISION AT THE ATHERSLEY / KNOW / CAN CENTRE

Detail of Decision Being Taken

The enclosed report outlines the reasons which underpin the proposal to convert the currently unused Athersley Youth or *I Know I Can* Centre into a satellite facility to commission up to 30 school places for children aged between 7 and 11 years who have been diagnosed with special needs including autism, communication and interaction difficulties.

The proposal accords with our ambitions to meet the education needs of these vulnerable groups of children via the expansion of in-borough provision; ensuring they have an enriching quality of experience closer to their families and prevent the alternative of costlier, independent placement provision outside of the Borough.

The proposal also supports our local SEND 'Offer' notably the SEND Improvement Plan and Written Statement of Action, following the joint inspection of local area services at the end of last year, together with the aims of the recently approved Barnsley Education Improvement Strategy, particularly the promotion of inclusivity in the local schools' system.

Key Risks Associated with the Proposed Action

The Athersley IKIC Centre is currently vacant and is not currently registered as an asset of community value, nor is the Council aware that a bid has been received to transform the Centre into such an asset. The Planning and Transportation Service has been consulted on the proposal to use the asset as a satellite facility of the Waterton Multi-Academy Trust who will directly support these children in accessing the specialist curriculum as part of meeting their education needs.

The Planning and Transportation Service considers that the parking courtesy extended to a neighbouring resident can continue and that any potential increase in traffic should not lead to any significant congestion or reduction in air quality. Elected Members for St Helen's Ward have also been directly consulted and are all supportive of the proposal.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. That approval be given to arrangements leading to the refurbishment of the Athersley 'I Know I Can' centre into a satellite facility for pupils with special educational needs as summarised in the enclosed report, with effect from the 2022/2023 school year
2. To approve the commissioning of up to 30 places for pupils with SEND including

complex needs at the Athersley IKIC Centre, as detailed in the enclosed report

3. The financial implications arising from this report, be included in the Capital Programme and released in accordance with the financial regulations code of practice C5.2(a)
4. That, as part of this report's proposals, approval be given for the granting of a new lease to the Waterton Academy Trust for up to 25 years at the Athersley IKIC Centre at nil rent.
5. That the Head of Property Services be authorised to finalise Heads of Terms for the new lease to the Waterton Academy Trust.
6. That the Service Director (Law and Governance) be authorised to complete the new lease to the Waterton Multi Academy Trust..

Certification by the Executive Director
Report cleared for consideration by Cabinet Spokesperson

Signed Date 12/09/2022

(Executive Director: Children's Services)

Decision/Comments of the Cabinet Spokesperson

Recommendation Approved by Cabinet Spokesperson
(*delete as appropriate)

Signed..... Date 12/09/2022

(Cabinet Spokesperson: Children's Services)