



## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

N/A

### OFFICER DECISION RECORD

**Subject:**

To seek approval for a capital allocation of £360k to support Barnwell School offering additional Year 7 places in September 2023.

**Type of Decision:** Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** No

**Executive Members:** Caroline Clapper; Bob Deering

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Caroline Clapper, Executive Member, Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning; Bob Deering, Executive Member, Resources & Performance.

**Officer Contact:** Kate Ma

**Tel:** 01992 556669

1. **Decision**

Agreement to support Barnwell School with a capital allocation of £360k to support the offer of 25 additional Year 7 places for September 2023.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

The county council has asked Barnwell School to offer additional Year 7 places for September 2023 in order to ensure that sufficient local school places are available for the number of pupils applying for Year 7 for September 2023. Actual demand for places aligns with a large primary cohort working its way through to secondary transfer and is in line with forecast peak demand for Year 7 places in Stevenage. Forecasts suggest 2023 is a peak year for Year 7 places with demand falling in following years.

The school has advised that in order to support these additional pupils, it will need to undertake some capital works; which include refurbishments of toilets, a new dining canopy and outside catering pod and conversion of an existing space within the school to provide a space for student welfare and pastoral support.

In order to support the school in offering over its Published Admission Number (PAN) we are seeking approval to support the school with a capital allocation of £360k. This amount is proportionate, based on other secondary schools which have accommodated 1 form of entry (fe) of pupils on a temporary basis and been provided with a capital allocation of £435k.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected** None

4. **Consultation**

**Was any Councillor consulted?** Yes

**If yes:**

(a) **Comments of Executive Members**

The Executive Members have no comments other than to concur with the Executive Director's intention to agree the proposal.

(b) **Comments of other consultees** None

5. **Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision**

None

6. **Following consultation with the Executive Members, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**



Signed:

Name: Steven Pilsworth

Title: Director of Finance

Date: 9 November 2023

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.