



Decision Ref. No.

(Please enter)

B005/18

DECISION RECORD ¹

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

Subject: To go to public consultation on the future Children's Equipment offer	
Staff Contact: Oliver Barnes, Senior Commissioning Manager, 0-25 SEND Commissioning Tel: 01992 556309	Executive Member: Teresa Heritage Portfolio: Children's Services

1. **Decision**

To go out for a public consultation on a proposed equipment offer for Children and Young People in Hertfordshire.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

It is intended to establish a clear equipment offer to children and young people in Hertfordshire. This offer will inform families about what they are entitled to, and how they access support. The offer will also state criteria for accessing equipment support, so that all children and young people have equitable access to the service.

Implementing this clear policy framework will provide officers with greater assurance that resource invested in equipment provision is effectively meeting children and young people's needs, and will enable officers to plan for the future sustainability of equipment provision.

In order to institute an equipment offer, Hertfordshire County Council must conduct a full public consultation.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected ²**

Consultation with parent and carer representative groups suggests there is a need to develop a clear offer of equipment support. At present, there is no clear offer or policy in place, therefore implementing an equipment offer will amount to a policy change. The County Council is subject to a statutory duty to consult on proposed policy changes.

The County Council will determine a series of policy proposals which constitute the future equipment offer; these proposals will be subject to public consultation. The final offer will only be determined following the outcome of the consultation.

4. **Consultation**

(a) Comments of Executive Member ^{3 4}

DECISION RECORD

No comments.

(b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

5. **Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed:

Title: Date:

6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.