

# Delegated Decisions report



8 June 2021

## MANOR ROAD RELOCATIONS CAPITAL PROJECT

Name of Cabinet Member	<b>Councillor Zoe Nolan</b> (Cabinet member for Children and Families)
Report sponsor	<b>Caroline Marriott</b> Head of Delivery - SEN and Disability
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>5.6 To increase the number of high-quality local placements for children and young people</b>
Wards affected	<b>Bletchley West</b>

### Executive Summary

This report is seeking resource and spend approval for a capital project at the Manor Road site in Bletchley to facilitate the relocation of The Bridge Academy (Medical and Primary PRU) as part of the Asset Rationalisation programme. This project will involve adaptations to the Manor Road buildings and external areas to make them fit for purpose. The purpose of these adaptations will allow the alternative provision system to be managed more efficiently overall, enabling additional places at Romans Field and The Walnuts Schools

#### 1. Decision to be Made

- 1.1 That the resource allocation and spend approval in 2021/22 capital programme for £825,000, funded from the Special Provision Fund (Grant funding from Central Government), to undertake capital works at the Manor Road site in Bletchley, be approved.

1.2 That the capital project be managed by the school who have already taken the project to the procurement stage.

## 2. Why is the Decision Needed?

2.1 The purpose of this decision is to allow a capital project to commence to create suitable accommodation at the Manor Road site to house the relocated Bridge Academy (Medical and Primary PRU services). This proposed relocation forms part of the Council's Asset Rationalisation programme. The relocation of these services allows the special schools which share their original sites (Romans Field and The Walnuts) to expand into the now vacant accommodation, thus providing additional special school places to meet the high demand for these places.

2.2 The capital works need to be complete asap to ensure the accommodation is fit for purpose to facilitate the relocation, and to assist with meeting the demand for special school places.

2.3 The need for this proposed project at Manor Road was set out in the paper entitled: *Short Term Place Planning Priorities for Pupils with EHCP's* which has been approved at Children's Services Infrastructure Board (CSIB), Strategic Property Board (SPB) and CLT and forms part of the overall Asset Rationalisation Programme.

## 3. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	N
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	N	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	N	Workforce	N

### (a) Financial Implications

Resource and spend approval for £825k is being requested via this Delegated Decision. This budget resource is to cover the construction costs, contingency and all professional fees and surveys. The budget breakdown is £445k of unallocated grant funding and £380k of underspend from completed projects in the SEND Capital Programme. The funding source is the Special Provision Fund, which is grant funding allocated to the Council directly from Central Government.

The escalation of this project, which has come about due to the Asset Rationalisation Programme, means that the funding is not yet set aside in the 2021/22 capital programme. In light of this, budget approval is sought via this Delegated Decision to ensure the programme of delivery can be met.

(b) Legal Implications

This is a key decision which has been recorded on the Council's Forward Plan dated 7 May 2021 onwards, to be decided by way of Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places in Milton Keynes. This report requests approval to use funding from the Special Provision (SP) Fund to undertake the capital works which shall ensure the Manor Road buildings and external areas are adapted to meet the needs of the Bridge Academy (Medical and Primary PRU) upon its relocation to that site. The capital works shall also enable the provision of additional special school places at Romans Field and The Walnuts Schools

The Department for Education's (DfE's) Special Provision Capital Fund guidance confirms local authorities are permitted to use the SP funding for capital transactions which create new additional places at a good or outstanding provision and/or improves facilities or develops new facilities. Local authorities are also permitted to combine the SP funding with other capital funding. The Bridge Academy has a good Ofsted rating.

In contrast, Local authorities are not permitted to use the SP funding:

- to expand provision to create additional places for pupils who do not have education, health and care plans;
- to make reasonable adjustments that schools are required to fund as part of accessibility requirements (e.g. ramps or widening doorways);
- for revenue expenditure such as training or staff costs; and / or
- for maintenance work.

The DfE's Special Provision Capital Fund guidance also stipulates local authorities are required to plan how they invest their allocation of the SP funding which includes consulting with parents and carers, schools, FE colleges and other institutions which offer special educational provision.

Any contracts for completion of the capital works shall need to be procured in compliance with procurement rules and legislation. This project will be a school managed project and the Academy will be required to comply with their relevant procurement regulations.

## 4. Alternatives

- 4.1 **Do Nothing** - there will not be sufficient special school places available to meet the increasing need for specialist school provision in Milton Keynes.
- 4.2 **Approval at Cabinet** - there will not be sufficient time to procure and undertake the works to meet the demand for pupil places.

## 5. Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 Budget Approval - June 2021
  - 5.2 Contract awarded - July 2021
  - 5.3 Works undertaken - July 2021 - February 2022
  - 5.4 Operational - February / March 2022
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### List of Annexes

None.

### List of Background Papers

None.