

Councillor D Rodwell, Chair of Cabinet  
Councillor G Paddle, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Barking Town Hall  
1 Town Square  
Barking  
IG11 7LU

01 July 2024

Dear Councillors

## **Urgent Action under Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution – B&D College: New Post-16 SEND Provision**

I am writing to you in your respective capacities to advise that I have taken urgent action under the provisions of Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution in order to approve the allocation of £650,000 High Needs grant to fund capital works at Barking and Dagenham College, Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Romford. The works relate to the conversion of an existing building at the College campus to create further post-16 Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) places for students.

As the attached report explains, discussions took place with B&D Dagenham College senior management team to explore the possibility of expanding their existing provision for post-16 and, in particular, for students with higher levels of SEND for which placements are difficult to find. The College has a good track record of supporting this cohort of Barking and Dagenham students and welcomed the opportunity to receive further students, subject to having the right type of accommodation.

The College came forward with a proposal to refurbish and convert an existing building on the College campus adjacent to its existing SEND provision which would contain the specialist facilities required by these students. The proposal presents an exciting opportunity to help support the Council in managing the demand arising for post-16 SEND students in the Borough.

The Council has received High Needs Capital Grant from the Department of Education (DfE) totalling £3.783m to support the creation of additional specialist places for pupils with SEND. Under the conditions of the grant, the Council can utilise this funding to support Further Education Colleges within its Borough to create local additional post-16 places.

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In order for the additional SEND provision to be available for students for the new September 2024 term, and as the next meeting of the Cabinet is not until 23 July, I have agreed that it is in the Council's best interests to deal with the matter under the Urgent Action provisions. In line with procedures, details of this urgent action will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Taylor', with a small dot at the end.

**Fiona Taylor**  
**Chief Executive**

cc: Cllr Kangethe, Jo Moore, Michael Bate, Jane Hargreaves, Andrew Carr and Deirdre Collins