

CABINET

23 July 2024

Title: Urgent Action - Barking and Dagenham College: New Post-16 SEND Provision	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Executive Team Director: Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive	
Summary: <p>Discussions took place with B&D Dagenham College senior management team to explore the possibility of expanding their existing provision for post-16 SEND students and, in particular, those 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Council has received High Needs Capital Grant from the Department for 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.</p> <p>In order for the additional SEND provision to be available for students for the new September 2024 term and as the Cabinet was not meeting until 23 July, the Chief Executive agreed that it would be in the Council's best interests to approve the proposals under the Urgent Action provisions of Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution, to enable the required works to commence without delay. The detailed report which formed the basis of the Chief Executive's decision is set out at Appendix A to this report.</p> <p>In line with the Urgent Action provisions, the Chair of the Cabinet and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were consulted prior to the Chief Executive taking the action on 1 July and the matter is being reported to this meeting for information.</p>	

Recommendation(s)

The Cabinet is asked to note the action taken by the Chief Executive, in accordance with the Urgent Action procedures set out in Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Council Constitution, in relation to:

- (i) Agreeing the allocation of £650,000 High Needs Capital Grant funding to support the conversion of an existing building at B&D College campus to create additional post-16 SEND places for Barking and Dagenham students; and
- (ii) Authorising the Strategic Director, Children and Adults, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Educational Attainment and School Improvement, the Strategic Director, Resources and the Head of Legal, to enter into all necessary or ancillary agreements to fully implement and effect the proposals.

Reasons

To accord with the requirements of the urgency procedures contained within the Council Constitution.

Public Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Letter signed by the Chief Executive dated 9 October 2023 entitled “Urgent Action under Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution – B&D College: New Post-16 SEND Provision”
(<https://modgov.lbbd.gov.uk/Internet/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=14772>)

List of appendices:

- **Appendix A** - Report entitled “Barking and Dagenham College: New Post-16 SEND Provision”