

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Education and Skills
Date:	10 July 2019
Title:	Austen Academy
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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1. **The Decision:**

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Education and Skills, grants spend approval to the project proposals for Austen Academy at the total cost of £10,030,000

2. **Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1 Austen Academy is a new special needs school that will cater for 125 children aged 5-16 years who have social and communication difficulties. The school is being procured and delivered by Hampshire County Council on behalf of the Department for Education (DfE) as part of the national Free Schools programme. The County Council has been commissioned by the DfE to oversee the design and delivery of a number of central government funded Free School projects through an arrangement referred to as "Local Delivery". This enables the County Council to retain a lead role in the planning and implementation of these schools and exercise control over key design decisions which will be of benefit to the pupils and staff who occupy these schools.
- 2.2 The school is required to meet the future demand for places for pupils with a social communication need or autistic spectrum disorder in this area of Hampshire. This facility will reduce the need to place pupils in non-county establishments and avoid transport costs by providing the places close to the area of need. A planning application was submitted in May 2019 and the school is planned to open in Spring 2021.
- 2.3 The new school is to be located on land owned by the County Council at the site of the former Chineham Park Primary School in Basingstoke. The site

will be leased to Catch 22 Academy Trust for 125 years, as required by the DfE.

- 2.4 The new school project is being funded by the DfE, and the estimated cost of the new school is £10,030,000. Once planning permission is obtained, a Works Funding Agreement and a Development Agreement will be entered into with the DfE confirming their formal approval. This will confirm their funding and granting authority to the County Council to let the construction contract.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Alternative bids were received and evaluated but were unsuccessful.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: None

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: Not applicable

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

**Executive Member for Education and Skills
Councillor Roz Chadd**

10 July 2019