



Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

The Delivering Better Value Programme (DBV) provided a ring fenced grant funding of £1 million from Department for Education (DfE) to improve Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) services and support sustainability in North East Lincolnshire. The initial government DBV diagnostic identified key themes to address issues identified and an action plan and various strands of activity were developed to address these key themes identified. DfE agreed the action plan and grant approval of the funding bid in February 2022. Acceptance of the funding and programme was approved by cabinet following a brought forward agenda item CB 03/23/04 - considered under the general exception on 15th February 2023

DN.98 Cabinet decision:

RESOLVED –

1. That the acceptance of the DfE Delivering Better Value in SEND services grant of £1,000,000 be authorised.

2. That the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, be authorised to ensure that all necessary actions are carried out in order to co-ordinate and implement the Delivering Better Value programme.

3. That the Assistant Director Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer) be authorised to complete all requisite legal documentation arising

To support the SEND Service Capacity workstream within the DBV Programme, an 18 month contract for SEND Outreach Provision for Children with Autism or Communication and Interaction Needs in North East Lincolnshire (maximum value £140k) has been developed . A CPR exception has been approved (NELC580027414) to direct award this to Cambridge Park Academy, as the NEL Autism Education Trust licenced delivery provider.

2. Decision being taken

To enter into an 18 month services contract with Cambridge Park Academy, Humber Education Trust to deliver SEND Outreach Provision for Children with Autism or Communication and Interaction Needs in North East Lincolnshire to schools (maximum value £140k).

3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

The following outcomes are identified:

Improved positive outcomes for children with SEND.

Increasing sustainability across the SEND Partnership by developing the workforce.

Increased confidence and skill delivery of staff to support children and young people with ASD.

Improved value for money on the High Needs Block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Improved confidence by parents/carers children and families in education settings.

4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision

Alternative options considered and rejected

a) Do Nothing – this would not achieve the outcomes for children and young People with SEND, inclusion in mainstream settings, the workforce development and would impact on delivery of DBV programme and allocated grant funding leading to reputational risks.

b) Not to award and consider an open procurement , however accredited training from the Autism Education Trust, only enable one license holder per Local Authority, and in North East Lincolnshire this is Cambridge Park Academy. The model and the training are also part funded and endorsed by the Department for Education as well as being endorsed by National Health Service England through their Autism in Schools project.

5. Background documents considered (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

Delivering Better Value Cabinet Decision 15th February 2023.

10.-Cabinet-Report-D12.-Decision-Notice-1
elivering-Better-Value5th-February-2023-PD

[Cabinet | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk/Cabinet-Democracy)

[12.-Decision-Notice-15th-February-2023-PDF-214KB.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons

No, not applicable

7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)

No conflicts identified

8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The decision is consistent with the will and expectation of Cabinet in terms of the overall grant and project. The award of the contract is an operational matter for the service, with the exception having been supported by relevant officers.

9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)

The costs of the contract will be met from the Delivering Better Value grant and support the long term financial sustainability of SEND services.

10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)

There are no direct HR implications.

11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)

There are significant financial risks along with delays to improved outcomes for children and young people if we don't enter into contract and deliver quickly. There are performance and financial implications arising from the DfE contract (Memorandum of Understanding) and impact on NELC budgets longer term should DfE grant funding is not spent accordingly. There are currently no identifiable environmental sustainability implications as a result of the proposal.

12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?

Not applicable

13. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Ann-Marie Matson

Title: Director Childrens Services

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: **04.04.24**

14. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):

Name: Councillor Margaret Cracknell

Title: Portfolio Holder Children and Education

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 4th April 2024