



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. Cabinet date and copy resolution this key decision relates to

This request will be captured within the next round of Schools Capital Programme 26/27 and beyond, a programme which will be funded by the LA's already secured 25/26 Basic Need Government Grant allocation. But due to the expedite successful bid requirements as explained below, officers and the School Capital and Inclusion Board are pursuing a request to enable the site to utilise £300k of the LA's 25/26 Basic Need allocation for the scheme.

2. Subject and details of the matter

Healing Academy have been successful in a Football Association bid securing a sum of £500k for 3G pitch provision for its site and use by the wider community. The total cost of the pitch scheme is £800k and the trust are currently negotiating with other organisations to secure the remaining required £300k to fund the pitch delivery. This pitch will be utilised by pupils during the school day, but also the wider community through lettings, offering Football and Hockey to organisations and groups.

The conditions of the bid stipulated that the site must have fit for purpose FA standard associated changing rooms for school and community use for the pitch provision. The cost of new changing facilities are circa £600k. The site's current school changing rooms are housed in a mobile which is wholly unsuitable for school use and the temporary structure is at its end of life. The Trust have confirmed to officers that it will allocate £300k of its own monies to replace the changing rooms

and is asking the LA to assist it with the remaining £300k. It should be noted that officers are currently looking at the 26/27 and beyond, Schools Capital Programme of which Healing Academy is already an identified site for a feasibility to be undertaken for the future programme and replacement of the current changing rooms would have formed part of the priorities for this site.

Due to the risk of the Academy losing the bid monies this ODR and the board seeks to obtain approval to assist the Academy with its request and acknowledge the wider benefits a G4 pitch and enhanced changing facilities would bring to the pupils of the school, the wider community, and supports the LA in its Playing Pitch Strategy as there is an identified borough shortfall in pitches, particularly pertaining to hockey provision.

3. Decision being taken

That the Director for Children's Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education, approves the request to assist Healing Academy with ensuring that the 3G pitch scheme can be achieved, and that an Asset Management Plan priority of currently unsuitable changing rooms can be addressed through the early utilisation of £300k of the LA's Government Basic Need allocation 25/26.

4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency. **Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.**

No

5. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

The borough and the Academy benefit from a new 3G pitch and associated changing rooms facility and an identified suitability issue on the site's Asset Management Plan is addressed.

6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision (this should be similar to original cabinet decision)

There are no alternative options to present for consideration.

7. Background documents considered (web links to be included and copies of documents provided for publishing)

Please see attached Briefing Paper, which has been circulated to the Director of Children's Services and the Portfolio Holder. The decision to approve the request was taken at the Schools Capital and Inclusion Board.

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

no

9. 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

10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The decision is consistent with the Schools Capital Programme and the Playing Pitch Strategy. The decision is an operational decision and one which is within the constitutional remit of the named Director and Portfolio Holder.

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

The cost of the scheme, which will form part of the Schools Capital Programme will be met from grant funding and match funding from the Academy Trust with no call on core council funding

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

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

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

Risk assessment is identified as a part of the council's risk process under the Basic Need programme.

14. Has the Cabinet Tracker been updated with details of this decision?

Name: Ann-Marie Matson

15. Decision Maker(s):

Title : Director of Children's Services

Signed: REDACTED

Dated:27.05.25

**16. Consultation carried out with
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr Margaret Cracknell

Title: Portfolio Holder for Children and
Education

Signed REDACTED

Dated : 27th May 2025