

## **SEN CAPITAL PLACE PLANNING UPDATE** **JANUARY 2021**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In 2018, Devon County Council's Cabinet approved a Strategic SEND Review which can be viewed at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/archives/6396>

The plan was submitted to the Department for Education and resulted in a capital allocation of £3.4m. The plan made several recommendations including the delivery of additional pupil places.

- 1.2 In February 2020, Devon County Council's Cabinet approved a further £15m corporate funding to support the delivery of Special School places supported by an additional £5m from Basic Need Grant funding, a total investment of £20m to deliver a further 300 school places.

### **2. Programme Update**

- 2.1 The original capital allocation of £3.4m was supported by additional basic need funding to provide a total pot of £7.2m. In addition, colleagues from Strategic Planning have worked collaboratively with local providers which has resulted in a successful direct bid to the DfE Free School Programme. A summary of the programme of work which has been delivered is below:

<b>School</b>	<b>Additional Places</b>	<b>Cost £m</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Marland Day	30	0.3	Additional Primary Provision – Bideford, <b>SEMH</b>
Ellen Tinkham	89	2.6	Expansion into Bodley House, <b>PMLD</b>
Ace Tiverton	70	4.3	New School, <b>ASC</b>
Glendinning Free School*	120	0	Opened in Sept 2020 in temporary accommodation (54 places) Estimated cost £7m - £10m, <b>ASC</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>7.2</b>	

All proposals have benefitted from securing Devon County assets which were or were due to be declared surplus to requirements, representing a further capital investment due to the loss of potential capital receipts.

2.2 The second phase of the programme funded from the £20m is still being developed with a number of proposals on site, others in design and some in negotiation. A number of proposals are at various stages of delivery; however, the majority now have clear timelines for delivery with a number of risks and barriers mitigated in the Autumn including planning permission. Statutory consultations, where possible, have either been completed or are in the latter phases of approval. A contingency of circa £1m remains in the programme.

2.3 The summary position is:

School	Additional Places	Estimated Cost £m	Notes
Orchard Manor Special School	54	3.4	Planning secured, due to commence in Spring/Summer 2021. ASC.
Bidwell Brook Special School	30	2.0	Project on site due to complete in 2021. PMLD.
Pathfield Special School	49	0.7	Project on site due to complete in 2021. PMLD.
Lampard	60	2.5	Project in design, start on site late 2021. ASC.
Marland Day	10	0.6	Project in design. Site due to complete Autumn. SEMH.
Marland Day	40	1.5	Negotiating purchase of site in Bideford, current estimate is delivery by Sept 2022. SEMH.
New Special School Okehampton	80	8.0	Planning approved and sponsor process commenced. Minimum 80 places. Current proposal is to open Sept 2022. SEMH.
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>18.7</b>	

In addition to the above, negotiations are ongoing regarding an opportunity to purchase a site adjacent to Ace Tiverton which could result in up to an additional 20 places (ASC).

### **3. Other**

- 3.1 Devon has reviewed its Section 106 policy and added an additional requirement for developers to make contributions towards SEN School Places. Due to the relatively small numbers, this can only be sought on larger developments.
- 3.2 Through the Local Planning process, the principle of housing development providing special school sites and provision has been established in Cranbrook, East Devon and the Garden Village, Cullompton, Mid Devon. Pre-application discussions have commenced with landowners regarding one of these sites. These proposals are considered medium to long term (5 – 10 years) and are subject to change.
- 3.3 Opportunities to benefit from current and future Free School rounds are being pursued including the search for new school sites, underpinned by a detailed analysis of SEN home to school transport.
- 3.4 An update to our SEN Strategic Capital review is being planned for later this year.

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