

RECORD OF DECISION BY CITY MAYOR OR INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER

1.	DECISION TITLE	Review of Ash Field Academy's Residential Provision funded from the Education budget
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	None
3.	DATE OF DECISION	28 September 2023
4.	DECISION MAKER	Assistant City Mayor for Education
5.	DECISION TAKEN	<p>1) To withdraw the funding for the Residential Provision at Ash Field Academy totalling over £400k per annum, with effect from 1 September 2024.</p> <p>2) To agree that officers will work in partnership with both special schools that have residential provision (Ashfield and Millgate), the NHS and Adult Social Care to look at sustainable options for the residential element in both schools.</p> <p>3) To ask that officers work alongside scrutiny to carry out some focussed work in respect of the high-needs block.</p>
6.	REASON FOR DECISION	<p>The Residential Provision at Ash Field Academy is funded from the High Needs Block grant. The grant is paid by the Department for Education for the provision of education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.</p> <p>The High Needs Block grant, cannot be used for non-educational activities, including residential schemes.</p> <p>The High Needs Block grant was overspent by £4.6m for 2022/23 and the Local Authority is required to bring the overspend back into budget.</p> <p>Whilst the Residential Provision is noted to be Outstanding by Ofsted and provides social learning benefits for children and young people with disabilities. The service is only available to 35 to 40 children and young people attending Ash Field Academy and these activities can be provided during the normal 25-hour school week.</p> <p>An extensive consultation exercise has taken place and details can be found in the associated report.</p>
7.	<p>a) KEY DECISION Y/N?</p> <p>b) If yes, was it published 5 clear days in advance? y/n</p>	No
8.	OPTIONS CONSIDERED	Option 1. Do nothing - The residential provision continues to put additional strain on the High Needs Block funding, at a time when the Council must develop a recovery plan, detailing how the local authority is going to bring the overspend back into

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		<p>budget. The continued funding of the provision is an inappropriate use of the High Needs Block funding. Also, only a small number of pupils attending Ash Field Academy can access the residential provision.</p> <p>Option 2. Continue to fund the Ash Field Academy Residential Provision, via the LA General Fund, and to widen access to pupils beyond the school - The Council's General Fund is overspent and cannot fund a non-statutory service. Concerns have also been raised that the option would reduce access to pupils attending Ash Field Academy and the school may not be able to support external pupils and there may be registration implications.</p> <p>Option 3. Remove the funding with effect from 1 September 2024 – This is the preferred option.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Members of a Scrutiny Commission or any 5 Councillors can ask for the decision to be called-in. • Notification of Call-In with reasons must be made to the Monitoring Officer 	<p>5 October 2023</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>SIGNATURE OF DECISION MAKER (City Mayor or where delegated by the City Mayor, name of Executive Member)</p>	<p><i>Via Dempster</i></p>