

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Officer Decision Record

(Executive Decision)

Decision Maker	Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Hampshire 2050
Title	Public consultation and decision-making process relating to a new specialist secure welfare children's home
Date	13 January 2025
Report from:	Assistant Director (Culture, Communities, Land and Assets)
	(Summary of an Exempt Decision)

Contact:

Emma Noyce
Natalie Smith

Email: emma.noyce@hants.gov.uk

Email: natalie.smith@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision

That the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Hampshire 2050, having consulted with the Director of Children's Services, agrees:

- 1.1. To engage in a public consultation with targeted stakeholder engagement relating to the proposed closure of Stubbington Study Centre as the site is needed for an alternative purpose.
- 1.2. To agree in principle the decision-making approach and associated timescales as set out in the exempt report dated 13 January 2025.
- 1.3. To confirm approval of all critical documentation as set out in the exempt report dated 13 January 2025.
- 1.4. To note risks and benefits associated with the project and endorse the proposed approach to key issues as set out in the exempt report dated 13 January 2025.

2. Reason(s) for the decision

- 2.1. Hampshire County Council has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a new specialist secure welfare children's home. This opportunity would enable compliance with statutory duties and, moreover, have profound and positive impacts on some of our most vulnerable children and young people.
- 2.2. The preferred site is currently occupied by a discretionary service and therefore a public consultation and associated engagement exercise is required in order to enable Members to make an informed decision on the merits of a proposal to close Stubbington Study Centre so that it can be repurposed for use as a specialist secure children's welfare home.

3. Other options considered and rejected

- 3.1. A range of alternative options have been considered. These are set out in full in the exempt report dated 13 January 2025.

4. Conflicts of interest:

None.

5. Dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service

Not applicable.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent

Not applicable

Approved by:

Gary Westbrook
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Hampshire 2050

13 January 2025