

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Children's Services
<b>Date:</b>	28 February 2022
<b>Title:</b>	Enlargement of Mark Way School
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Children's Services

**Contact name:** Bernadette Dawes, Inclusion Commissioning Manager

**Tel:** 07523 937841

**Email:** [bernadette.dawes@hants.gov.uk](mailto:bernadette.dawes@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback on the statutory public notice period in relation to the proposed expansion of Mark Way School, Andover and to obtain final approval for this project to proceed.
2. **Recommendations**
3. To make a prescribed alteration to Mark Way School, Batchelors Barn Road, Andover SP10 1HR, (category of school: Special) to expand from 82 places to 102 places, with effect from 1 September 2023.
4. That approval be given to the following proposal: published by Hampshire County Council under Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006: to make a prescribed alteration to the Mark Way School.
5. **Executive Summary**
6. Hampshire County Council has a statutory duty to provide school places for all children including those who have special educational needs and/or a disability. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision to meet this demand within the Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) sector.
7. The proposed additional SEND provision outlined within this report will help manage some of the school place pressures generated by the increase in the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) maintained by the Local Authority. Since 2015-16 the number of pupils in Hampshire with EHCPs has

increased from 5,558 to 12,456 in November 2021 (an increase of 124%) with approximately 33% of pupils with an EHCP in a specialist placement. This has resulted in a corresponding pressure for places in special schools and resourced provision. The County Council is committed to further developing successful provision or creating new provision where possible to meet demand for places.

8. The lack of sufficient provision within Hampshire Schools has resulted in increased placements within the independent and non-maintained sector (INMSS). The proposals contained within this report aim to build on the good quality Hampshire school provision and meet the needs of children and young people within their settings. This will reduce the Local Authority's dependence upon independent and non-maintained provision (INMSS) and will aim to keep pupils as close to their home community as possible.

## 9. **Contextual information**

### The Mark Way School, Andover

10. The Mark Way School is designated for children aged 11-16 with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASC). The enlargement will allow the school to increase its capacity by up to 20 additional places. The works will substantially improve the existing internal environment and provide two new classrooms to enable additional children to attend the school and improve the overall learning environment for all pupils. The proposal is to enlarge the school with effect from 1 September 2023.
11. The current capacity of The Mark Way School is 82 places. The enlarged accommodation will be provided with effect from 1 September 2023. From that date the school will have capacity for 102 pupils. The current admission number for the school is 82 and this will increase to 102 on the implementation of this proposal.
12. The capital cost of this project is £2.2m and was included in the Children's Services Capital Programme report approved by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 7 July 2021 and 14 January 2022. This funding provides for two new classrooms and two new group rooms along with significant internal refurbishment to accommodate the increased pupil numbers.
13. **Finance**
14. Creating additional specialist places in Hampshire schools has both revenue and capital finance implications. Revenue funding is provided through the Dedicated Schools Grant, with funding coming from the High Needs Block.

15. From a revenue perspective, it is more cost effective to increase in-house provision, rather than place children in expensive independent provision as shown in the following table:

16. **Table 1 – cost comparison**

Type of provision	Average revenue cost per place
Special school	£15,200
Independent and non-maintained special school place	£61,700

17. Funding from the High Needs Block is calculated by the government using a national funding formula, which includes population and proxy factors of need based on children living in Hampshire and a basic entitlement factor.

18. The annual revenue cost of the proposed additional places has been calculated based on the average funding rates for the schools that are expanding:

19. **Table 2 -Additional annual revenue cost**

Name of school	Number of new places being created	Average cost per place	Estimated Revenue Cost
Mark Way School	20	£13,200	£264,000

20. The total revenue cost of £264,000 for the in-house places compares to an estimated £1.23m for the same number of places in independent and non-maintained special schools using the average cost of an SEN only funded day placement. This equates to approximately £970,000 of cost avoidance on the High Needs Block.

21. There could be some additional revenue costs required to support the setting up of new provisions and to ensure viability as the provisions build up to capacity. This is dependent on if the SEN Service expect to fill the provision straight away.

22. Estimated capital costs for the proposed projects are outlined below:

<b>Name of school</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Number of new places being created</b>	<b>Estimated Capital Cost</b>
Mark Way School	Internal works and two new classrooms	20	£2,180,000
<b>Total</b>		20	£2,180,000

23. **Performance Impact – none**

24. **Consultations and Equalities**

25. The Statutory Public Notice period for Mark Way School took place between 19 November and 17 December 2021. A copy of the Mark Way Public Notice is attached at Appendix 1.

26. The Notice was displayed at the school, circulated to stakeholders, and published in the Hampshire Independent and on Hampshire County Council’s public notice portal:

27. Public notices | Hampshire County Council ([hants.gov.uk](https://hants.gov.uk))

28. Consultation Responses Received – Mark Way School

29. One, supportive response was received during the Public Notice period about the proposed expansion of Mark Way School.

30. **Climate Change and Impact Assessment**

31. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council’s climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

32. The carbon mitigation tool and the climate change adaption tool were not applicable because this is a strategic report. The Climate Change Impact Assessment will be undertaken in conjunction with colleagues in Culture, Community and Business Services as individual projects are developed and brought to future Decision Days

33. **Conclusions**

34. In considering all the responses received, the County Council believes that the enlargement of Mark Way School, as detailed above, is necessary to meet the County Council's statutory duty for children with SEND.

35. Approval is sought to agree and progress the expansion of Mark Way School.



### **MARK WAY SCHOOL, ANDOVER – ENLARGEMENT**

1. Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, that Hampshire County Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to **MARK WAY SCHOOL**, Batchelors Barn Road, Andover SP10 1HR (category of school – Special) with effect from 1 September 2023.
2. The Mark Way School is designated for children aged 11-16 with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) or Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD). The enlargement will allow the school to increase the capacity by up to 20 additional places. Internal works will provide changes to the infrastructure and two new classrooms to enable more children to attend the school and improve the overall learning environment for all pupils. The proposal is to enlarge the school with effect from **1 September 2023**.
3. The current capacity of Mark Way School is for 82 places. The enlarged accommodation will be provided with effect from 1 September 2023. From that date the school will have a total capacity for 102 pupils. The current admission number for the school is 82 and this will increase to 102 on the implementation of this proposal.
4. The capital cost of this project is £1.604m and was included in the Children's Services Capital Programme report approved by Executive Lead Member for Children's Services on 7 July 2021. This funding provides for two new classrooms and two new group rooms along with extensive internal refurbishment to accommodate the increased pupil numbers.
5. This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal may be obtained from Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)
6. Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Claire Campling, Assistant SEN Service Manager, Children's Services Department, EII Court North, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UG; by phone on: 03707 795312 or e-mail: [strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk](mailto:strategicplanningunit@hants.gov.uk)