

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

BY CABINET

ITEM:	New Autism Special Free School
Cabinet Members Present:	Councillors Marcus Hart (Chairman), Marc Bayliss, Adrian Hardman, Adam Kent, Steve Mackay, Karen May, Richard Morris, Tracey Onslow, and Mike Rouse.
Date of Decision:	28 March 2024
Purpose:	To establish a new Autism Special Free School
DECISION:	Cabinet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Endorsed the work undertaken by Worcestershire Children First and the Department for Education in respect of the wave 14 process for establishing a Special free school in Worcestershire;b) Noted that a final decision on the choice of sponsor academy trust for the new school rests with the Secretary of State for Education and is due to be announced during 2024;c) Approved that the proposed location and site of the new school would be on the Poolbrook site in Malvern, agreed that the required land would be leased to the Secretary of State for Education to develop the new free school on a 125-year lease, and authorised the Strategic Director of Commercial and Change in consultation with the CMR to agree the details of the lease;d) Approved the revenue funding set out in the report for the school places following the DfE intention for the new free school to open from September 2027. This is subject to the signing of the funding agreement between the Secretary of State

	<p>for Education and the selected Academy Trust;</p> <p>e) Noted the responsibilities that fall to the Council to meet abnormal site development costs; and</p> <p>f) Noted that the statutory consultation under Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010 to enter into an agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to set up a free school rests with the chosen Academy Trust as part of the pre-opening phase.</p>
Reason(s) for the Decision:	To provide a sustainable mid to long term plan for addressing this particular need.
Alternative Options Considered:	As set out in the report.
Conflict of Interest (any declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/any dispensation granted)	None.
Date the decision is due to take effect:	8 April 2024

HAZEL BEST, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE