

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Expansion of Longspee Special School at the Bournemouth Learning Centre</b>
Meeting date	8 June 2021
Status	Internal Report
Executive summary	Update on Capital project.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b>  The Board note the contents of the report
Reason for recommendations	This is an information report
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Public Health and Education
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding - Interim Corporate Director, Children's Services
Report Authors	Kim Burton, School Estate Development Team Leader
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Update

## Background

A project to remodel/repurpose the former Bournemouth Learning Centre to facilitate a new SEND school which will become the Longspee Ensburry Park Campus, part of Ambitions Academy Trust.

## Options Appraisal

For the purpose of this report there are no options to be considered.

### **Summary of financial implications.**

1. The initial £500k of funding was approved by Cabinet in May 2020. A further £750K was approved by Cabinet on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
2. The creation of special school places at Longspee Ensbury Campus forms part of the SEND Capital Strategy adopted in May 2020 to address the pressure on the High Needs Budget.

### **Summary of legal implications**

3. Councils have a statutory duty to ensure there are sufficient school places available for children in their area. The Children and Families Act 2014 requires councils to keep provision for children and young people with SEND under review including its sufficiency.

### **Background papers**

4. Cabinet Report 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
Special Educational Needs and Disability Capital Investment– Expansion of Longspee Special School at the Bournemouth Learning Centre

### **Project Status Update**

An area of the new facility was completed and opened to 12 pupils on 12<sup>th</sup> April. The works are progressing well in the remaining, older part of the building. The project progress is in accordance with programme and due to be handed over to the school team for setting up on 21<sup>st</sup> July. A copy of the programme is attached as an appendix.

Planning consent for the installation of a secure boundary fence, compliant with DfE guidance, was granted on 6<sup>th</sup> May but conditioned to the retention of grass and shrub beds within the site. This restricts team games and hard play activities for the students and will be dealt with under a post occupation planning application for a multi use games area.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> application for payment has been submitted by the Academy Trust to the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> May. Project claims to date total £394,528.83.

### **Appendices**

The project construction programme is attached as appendix 1