

## Record of Officer Decision

### Further Allocation of Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation 2025/26 Combe Pafford School

#### Decision Taker and Date Decision Taken:

Director of Children's Services, in consultation with Divisional Director of Education and SEN and Head of Education on 29 April 2026

#### Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision:

The original decision was taken by the Director of Children's Services, in consultation with Strategic Head of Education and SEND and Head of Education, on 20 November 2025.

Approval was now required to allocate a further £220,000 to Combe Pafford School to support the redesignation of the school from Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) to Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC).

#### Decision Taken:

To approve an additional £220,000 bringing the total allocation to £920,000 from the Local Authority's Higher Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) for works at Combe Pafford School to address accommodation and site requirements to enhance the provision available and support the redesignation of the school from MLD to ASC.

#### Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken:

The Local Authority (LA) has a balance of approximately £2.1m uncommitted in its 5-year HNCPA allocation.

- The need for ASC places in Torbay is increasing with ASC at secondary age being the fastest growing area of need. The LA require new places for September 2026.
- Combe Pafford School is well established, with ASC pupils already in attendance. The school has the facilities, experience and expertise to meet the continuing demand for ASC provision in Torbay.
- The Education Act 1996 sets out a statutory duty on LAs to secure sufficient school places for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) as well as those requiring Alternative Provision (AP).
- To meet the capital costs associated with the provision of new places or improvement of existing provision for:
  - Children and young people with complex needs, who have Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs), and where appropriate other children and young people with SEND who do not have an EHCP.
  - Pupils who require alternative provision (including children in AP settings without an EHCP). - To mitigate against the ongoing costs and the needs of children and young people with EHCPs, SEND or requiring Alternative Provision.

The increase in the allocation is to cover the raising costs of the proposed works following a competitive tender. The increased costs are a direct result of the volatility in the construction industry due to the conflict overseas.

**Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected and Background Papers:**

Not proceeding – the LA has a to secure sufficient school places for children and young people with SEND as well as those requiring Alternative Provision.

There is not an option to spend this funding on any other Council priorities; the funding is ring fenced specially for developing SEND provision. If the funding is not utilised by the LA or is spent in a manner that does not meet the terms and conditions of the allocation, it would be clawed back by central Government.

**Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation:**

None

**Implementation:**

This decision will come into force immediately.

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be available for inspection by the public at the Council's offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring (01803) 207087 or email [governance.support@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:governance.support@torbay.gov.uk)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Children's Services