

## Appendix 1

### Factors which the Lead Member should consider before reaching a decision on the proposal.

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| 1.1 | Is the proposal related to other published proposals?                         | The proposal to establish a specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School is not related to other published proposals.   |
| 1.2 | Is conditional approval being sought for the proposal?                        | No  |
| 1.3 | Was a statutory consultation carried out prior to the publication of notices? | <p>Consultation was carried out between 13 January and 10 February 2023.</p> <p>By the close of the consultation period 20 responses had been received. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the proposal, as can be seen in the breakdown below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 (85%) supported the proposal</li> <li>• 3 (15%) did not support the proposal</li> </ul> <p>In summary, those in favour of the proposal recognise the need for a facility in the area, and that a facility would promote an inclusive and enabling environment, but asked whether more than eight places should be provided. Those that do not support the proposal suggested that money should be spent on resources for all children to access and that a facility should not be located at the school.</p>  |
| 1.4 | Did the published notice comply with statutory requirements?                  | The notice was published in accordance with Section 19 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended) and the School Organisation (Prescribed Alternations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.   |
| 1.5 | How will the proposal affect education standards and diversity of provision?  | <p>In East Sussex specialist facilities promote an ethos of inclusion across the school and help integrate their pupils into the mainstream school for as much of their learning time as their needs allow. Facilities also provide access to a base within the school for more intensive support when required.</p> <p>The primary objectives of establishing a new specialist facility at Meridian Community Primary School are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to provide sufficient places for pupils with ASD</li> <li>• to improve the attainment and progress of pupils with SEND</li> <li>• to provide more local options for pupils to attend schools within their local community.</li> </ul> <p>The expertise of staff within the facility would provide significant benefits to the rest of the school and other schools in the local area to support all</p> |

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|      |  | pupils with SEND and create a fully inclusive learning environment.   |
| 1.6  | How will the proposal affect the proposed admission arrangements for the school?   | Pupils within the facility would be on the roll of the school and would be in addition to the published admission number. Placements are determined by the Local Authority according to clear criteria.   |
| 1.7  | Has due regard under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) been given to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations? | <p>An equality impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken. No potential equality barriers were identified by stakeholders during either the initial consultation or the subsequent representation period following the publication of the statutory proposal.</p> <p>The local authority believes the proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school. Specialist staff would work with pupils in the facility and also work with teaching staff across the school to develop skills and expertise in responding to SEND needs and creating an inclusive environment.</p> <p>The local authority believes that the facility would be well placed to support children with ASD in the local area.</p>   |
| 1.8  | Will the proposal have an impact on community cohesion?  | <p>Across East Sussex there are five primary specialist facilities in mainstream schools for pupils aged 4-11 with ASD and associated needs: All Saints CE Primary School in Bexhill, Churchwood Primary Academy in Hastings, Grovelands Primary School in Hailsham, Manor Primary School in Uckfield and Wallands Primary School in Lewes. The local authority SEND forecasts provide clear evidence that we will continue to see an increase in the number of pupils with SEND over the next 10-15 years. The primary need group with the largest increase continues to be ASD.</p> <p>The proposal would have a positive impact on provision at the school and the wider community as it would be able to meet the needs of local pupils with ASD.</p> <p>No potential community impacts were identified by respondents to the consultation.</p> |
| 1.9  | Will the proposal have an impact on travel and accessibility?  | Although children attending the new facility might be expected to travel from a wider geographical area than the school's immediate community area, it is not believed that this would have a significant impact on travel and accessibility as the new facility would cater for up to eight children at a time, an increase of less than 2% on the school's current capacity of 420 places.  |
| 1.10 | Has capital funding been identified and secured to enable the proposals to be implemented?   | Capital funding is required to implement the proposal and has been identified in the Council's approved capital programme.  |

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| 1.11 | Have any particular issues or objections been raised during the representation period which could directly affect the proposal? | By the close of the representation period no comments or objections had been received. |
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