

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Allocation of wraparound and capital funding and issuing of grant agreements to the Authority's schools and childcare providers.

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director of Children's Services

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary (taken from written report)

The Authority has received grant funding from the Department for Education (DfE) under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to fund a Wraparound Childcare Programme and to allocate Childcare Capital Expansion grants to schools and childcare providers in the Borough. The Authority has received this funding as part of the national programme to expand childcare for working parents and carers.

The Authority will allocate grants to Ofsted registered childcare providers in the Borough to deliver additional childcare places. This will cover two financial years, ending 31 March 2026. The grant agreements will set out the responsibilities of providers in delivering the childcare provision alongside the funding they will receive for delivering the programme. The childcare capital expansion grant is for schools and childcare providers to increase their capacity to offer additional, high quality, childcare places.

This report seeks approval from the Director of Children's Services to allocate funding and issue grant agreements to the Authority's schools and childcare providers.

5. Alternative Options considered

Not to approve the recommendation to allocate grant funding and request additional information.

6. Decision(s)

To approve the allocation of funding to schools and childcare providers and to the issuing of grant agreements for the Wraparound Childcare Programme and Childcare Expansion Capital Grant for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

To enable the Authority to allocate the grant funding for 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years in accordance with the DfE grant conditions for the programme. This will increase access by families to additional childcare places and thereby support the Authority to fulfil its statutory duties regarding childcare sufficiency.

8. Date Decision Made

28 June 2024

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the Call-in period expires at 5.00pm on 5 July 2024

10. Date of Publication

28 June 2024

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on 5 July 2024