

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I121482
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1. **TITLE:** Strategic Procurement Plan SEMH Academy Trust

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

Report outlining the strategic procurement plan for identifying an Academy Trust provider for the new social emotional mental health (SEMH) free school.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Executive approves this Strategic Procurement Plan to review and recommend an academy trust, with the Department of Education (DFE), to run the SEMH (Social Emotional Mental Health) school on the All-Saints Warfield site. The recommendation will then be considered by the Secretary of State for them to enter into a funding agreement with the recommended trust.
- ii. the Executive delegate authority to the Executive Director: People and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning for the contract award decision.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

1. Academies are state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government. Schools established through the presumption process are not required to use the term 'free school' in their name: this follows practice within the DFE's free school programme.
2. It is a requirement of the contract standing orders, that the Executive approve any strategic procurement plan with a value more than £1m. The SEMH School will provide 50 places of which 41 are expected to be used by pupil's resident in BF and for which the council will be financially responsible. The cost to the council is therefore estimated at £10k for the core cost of each place commissioned, plus another circa £34k "top up" payment for each BF pupil on roll, at an estimated annual cost of £1.8m and circa £7.2m over 4 years if at full capacity. This decision seeks approval for the procurement process as the cost per student per year would be over the threshold. The contract value is based on a four-year period, but the contract period is indefinite.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

1. Framework agreements - We are not aware of any DfE (or other) frameworks to appoint a trust. There are likely to be a limited number of trusts who meet the

specifications and are able to bid for this tender, so using a framework agreement, (if there was one), would have less benefit.

2. The presumption process is the main route by which local authorities bring about the establishment of new schools to meet the need for additional places.
9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People
10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
16 July 2024	24 July 2024