

Medlock Valley Primary – Specialist Satellite Provision

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Education and Early Years

Directorate: Children's Services

Report Author: Jason Hudson

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Date of Decision:

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

This report seeks approval to allocate capital funding of £376,530, funded from the Basic Need Grant / High Needs Provision Capital Allocation, to establish specialist satellite provision operated by Kingfisher Learning Trust at Medlock Valley Primary School. The proposal will create 12 additional specialist places for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans. The proposal also requires approval for the associated resource funding from the High Needs Block, estimated at £251,000 per annum, split between base and high needs top-up funding.

3. Reason for urgency

The proposal is a key decision which would ordinarily require Cabinet approval. Approval is required so that the project can continue to progress and the Council can secure additional local specialist capacity. Demand for specialist provision has increased significantly, placing pressure on local capacity and increasing reliance on independent and out-of-borough placements. The project will contribute to local sufficiency by creating 12 additional specialist places and enabling children and young people with SEND to access appropriate provision closer to home.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

If the decision is not taken, the project cannot progress to the next stage of delivery and the Council will lose the opportunity to increase local specialist capacity through the proposed satellite provision at Medlock Valley Primary School. This would add to existing sufficiency pressures and may result in continued or increased reliance on higher-cost independent and out-of-borough placements where needs could otherwise be met within Oldham. Delay would also affect the ability to confirm funding, complete the necessary governance requirements and progress the delivery arrangements with Kingfisher Learning Trust.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

If the project is not approved, the Council will not be able to use the identified capital funding to create the 12 additional specialist places. This could limit the Council's ability to reduce reliance on high-cost placements outside of the borough and may affect the long-term sustainability of the High Needs Block. The proposed resource funding is estimated at £251,000 per annum from the High Needs Block and is expected to be offset, in part, by savings where pupils may otherwise require alternative higher-cost provision.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name James Postle

Date 19/08/2026

Comments

The costs of the works will be capital expenditure and can be fully financed from within the existing Basic Need/High Needs Provision Capital Allocations.

The proposed ongoing revenue funding is estimated at £251,000 per annum from the High Needs Block and is expected to be offset, in part, by savings where pupils may otherwise would have required alternative higher-cost provision.

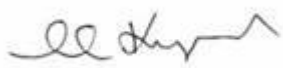
b. Monitoring Officer

Name Alan Evans (Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Date 4 August 2026

Comments

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year so it is not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed, as the Council has failed at three successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report an urgent decision relating to the report is required and it cannot await the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.

Approved by the Chief Executive following consultation with the political group leaders. Decision made under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions.	
Signed:  Shelley Kipling, Chief Executive	Dated: 8 th September 2026
Date of Group Leaders meeting	7 th September 2026