

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

Meeting: Devizes Area Board
Place: Devizes Hub and Library, Sheep Street, Devizes
Date: Monday 14 January 2019
Time: 6.30 pm

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 4 January 2019. Additional documents are now available and are attached to this Agenda Supplement.

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Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at www.wiltshire.gov.uk

5 **Chairman's Announcements (Pages 1 - 4)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 14 January 2019

Agenda Item 5

Chairman's Announcements

Subject:	Statutory Consultation opens on vision for special schools
Web contact:	specialschools@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council is welcoming the views of parents, carers, pupils, staff and the public on its vision to transform special needs education. The statutory consultation into the future vision for special schools in Wiltshire is now online. People are encouraged to send in their views on the council vision to transform special needs education.

The council proposes to invest £20m in a new centre of excellence for pupils with special needs and disabilities. It will be developed at Rowdeford near Devizes to match the excellent facilities at Exeter House, Salisbury. The vision means that the schools at Larkrise, Trowbridge, and St Nicholas, Chippenham and Rowdeford will close in 2023.

It is proposed that the three schools will be closed and replaced by a new special school which will be developed and established in accordance with Department for Education (DfE) Guidance "Opening and closing maintained schools: statutory guidance for proposers and decision-makers" (November 2018). All capital costs will be met by Wiltshire Council.

Consultation responses are invited until 1 March 2019, comments are invited via:

- [The Council's Consultation website](#)
- Email to specialschools@wiltshire.gov.uk
- At information surgeries in the schools
- At open meetings for parents/carers run by Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) which will be advertised on their [website](#)

The purpose-built and amply-equipped school will address the need for an additional 220 SEND places for Wiltshire while providing:

- Great teaching from well-trained, caring specialist dedicated staff
- The right facilities and support – hydro-pools, sensory rooms, physio, open outdoor space, speech and language therapy and family care
- Strong community links with cafes, community gardens and public playing Fields
- Closer links between SEND schools, and greater support for all mainstream Schools
- Links with specialist nurseries offering children with special needs seamless attention from very small to teenage years
- Good road routes to both sites which are central to the home locations of children and young people with SEND with space to expand

Chairman's Announcements

The final decision on the vision for SEND will be made at Wiltshire Council's cabinet meeting in March after completion of the consultation.

A Vision for Special Education in Wiltshire



Wiltshire Council is proud and pleased to announce a bright new future for children with special educational needs.

We propose a bold investment of around £20m in two new centres of excellence in the county – purpose-built and amply equipped, giving our children a better start in life than ever before.

The new and extended campuses are proposed for Rowdeford, near Devizes, and Exeter House, Salisbury.

The new direction for SEND in Wiltshire will mean keeping Rowdeford at Rowde, St Nicholas at Chippenham, and Larkrise, Trowbridge, open until the new schools are completed in autumn 2023.

All the pupils and staff teams from Larkrise and St

Nicholas will come together in the new, purpose-built modern school at Rowdeford, Rowde, from 2023.

The buildings at Larkrise and St Nicholas are past their prime, out of date and need replacing.

They no longer meet Department for Education guidelines on space.

They don't have enough outdoor green areas for children to play and learn in the fresh air.

We also need a new vision because the numbers of children we care for is rising, and the money we have to pay for it is falling.

But this is not about saving money.

The investment means we are committing more to special education needs.

Not less.

Our vision targets our budget to provide a better education and a better experience for our children.

This vision is based on three years of consultation with families, schools and communities. It offers a future where we concentrate the best facilities, the best teaching, and the best learning environment in specialist locations in the north and south of the county, rather than only being available in some parts of Wiltshire.

It means our expertise and experience can be applied in greater strength with greater purpose and greater focus across two centres, reaching out to all schools.

It might mean a little more travel time for some children.

For many it could mean less.

For all, it will promise a better education, better life chances, and better outcomes. It also assures:

- great teaching from well-trained, well-paid, caring, specialist and dedicated staff
- the right facilities and support: hydro-pools, sensory rooms, physio, open outdoor space, speech and language therapy, family care
- strong community links – with cafés, community gardens and public playing fields
- attractive, comfortable, child-scale buildings - safe, friendly, calm and engaging places with wide corridors and lots of natural light
- closer links between SEND schools and neighbouring mainstream schools. Each have resources the others can benefit from
- links with specialist nurseries, offering children with special needs seamless attention from the time they are tots to their teenage years
- both sites are on good road routes, central to the home locations of children and young people with SEND and with space to expand.

We look forward to discussing our vision with parents, families and schools.



