



**School Planning
Hertfordshire County Council
Postal Point CHO134
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DF**

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Tel: 0300 123
4043**

Email: Education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 09 September 2024

Dear Consultee

Consultation on the proposal to enlarge Amwell View School, a community special school in Stanstead Abbots for children aged 2 – 19 years old with Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), by 100 places through the opening of a satellite provision in Buntingford from January 2028.

What is the proposal?

Hertfordshire County Council is writing to consult on the proposal to enlarge Amwell View School and Specialist Sport College, Station Road, Stanstead Abbots, SG12 8EH by 100 places via a satellite provision adjacent to Freman College, Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford, SG9 9BT, from January 2028. The proposal will enlarge Amwell View School from 168 to 268 special school places for children and young people with SLD.

The new 100-place satellite provision would be designed to meet the needs of Amwell View School's older pupils (Key Stage 3, 4 and post-16), whilst lower age ranges and those with more complex needs would be educated at the school's existing site. All pupils would be on the roll of Amwell View School, which would be responsible for delivering the provision and for the safeguarding of the pupils across the two sites.

Why is this being proposed?

In December 2020, Cabinet¹ approved the Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023² which articulates that demand for special school places is growing sharply and that demand continues to exceed supply.

Priority 1 of the Strategy is building capacity in SLD/Physical and Neurological Impairment (PNI) sectors. Since 2018/19, 270 additional places have been made available across these two sectors, however, there remains a growing deficit of places, particularly in the SLD sector. These children and young people generally have complex needs and therefore require a specialist placement. All of Hertfordshire's existing SLD schools are full, meaning children and young people either remain unplaced or are being placed in costly independent schools often at a significant distance from their homes.

Why has Amwell View School been chosen for an increase in pupils?

Amwell View School is rated as Outstanding³ (April 2024) and has a strong leadership team along with skilled staff. The school provides high quality provision for pupils with SLD. With the demand for local SLD places continuing to grow, there is a need to create additional high-quality places within the SLD sector. The county council has worked closely with the school's management to ensure that it has the capacity to make provisions across the two sites, whilst maintaining its high standards and ethos.

The majority of pupils will arrive by minibus, minimising the number of journeys to the new site. Pupils would be eligible for transport support to Amwell View School if they meet the criteria, as set out in Hertfordshire's statutory school transport policy⁴.

What will be the impact on existing pupils?

Additional accommodation and revenue funding would be provided to support the enlargement of Amwell View School through the provision of new, fit for purpose buildings on this new site. The building will be designed for SLD pupils in Key Stage 3, 4 and post-16. Once the works are complete, some of the existing older pupils will transition into the satellite site. Lower age ranges and those with more complex needs will remain at the existing site. The school will work closely with families and the county council to ensure a smooth transition for existing pupils.

What will be the impact on staff?

Additional staff would be employed to support this proposal. The additional school places would not be made available until sufficient staffing is in place.

¹ [Agenda for Cabinet on Monday, 14 December 2020, 2.00 pm | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

² [SEND Special School Place Planning Strategy 2020-2023 \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

³ [Amwell View School - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

⁴ [hometoschooltransportpolicy \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

How will this proposal be funded?

If a decision is made to enlarge Amwell View School, additional accommodation would be provided by the county council and would be designed to meet the needs of the pupils. The capital cost of the enlargement would be met by the county council. The school would also receive additional revenue funding to support the enlargement.

Have your say.

You have until **6 October 2024** to let the county council know your views on the proposal. The easiest way you can do this is by completing the online form at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/consultations>

If you do not have access to the internet, you can visit your local library where free access is available to all Hertfordshire residents. Should you wish to request a hard copy of the response form or need help understanding this information you can email education.planning@hertfordshire.gov.uk or alternatively please call the number above. An interpreting service is available for those who need it.

Your response must be received by **6 October 2024**. The county council will not be able to acknowledge or respond individually to your comments but they will be taken into account, as explained below.

How the decision will be taken.

This is a consultation and no decision has been made yet. All responses received will be made available to elected members who will make the final decision. All responses may be made available in public reports, although personal details will be removed to respect individual privacy.

The following timetable outlines the decision-making process. Please note that meetings marked with * will be open to the public. Although it will not be possible to inform everyone individually of the decisions made, you will be able to access this information throughout the process at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/committees

Process	Date
Public consultation (4 weeks)	09 September – 06 October 2024
Education, Libraries & Lifelong Learning Cabinet Panel*	06 November 2024
Cabinet*	02 December 2024
Subject to approval:	
Statutory notice period (6 weeks)	18 December 2024 – 28 January 2025
Delegated decision (for final approval if no objections are received)	February 2025

Process	Date
Cabinet* (for final approval if any objections are received)	17 March 2025
Implementation	01 January 2028

This is a consultation on the proposal to enlarge Amwell View School through the opening of a satellite provision on a site adjacent to Freman College in Buntingford. Should this proposal be approved by the county council, there would be a separate town planning consultation in advance of a planning application being made.

Yours faithfully



Jo Fisher,
Executive Director of Children's Services