

## **NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION**

**DECISION OF:** SECTION 151 OFFICER

**IN CONSULTATION WITH:** ASSET MANAGER



**DECISION NO:** CSD053 2021-22

**SUBJECT: ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR SPECIAL FREE SCHOOL IN CHURCHILL**

**KEY DECISION:** YES

### **REASON:**

The decision affects the lives of vulnerable children across the district.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Approval was provided in an Executive Member decision dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018, (2018-19 P&C33) for officers to submit a bid for a Wave 13 Free School Bid to the Department of Education (DfE) to facilitate the establishment of a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Free School within the district. In addition, authority was provided to include a site in Churchill to be included within that bid.

Within the section 151 officer decision dated 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 (No. CSD 015), officers were authorised to negotiate and reach agreement regarding the adjoining northern and southern strips of land. Following decision with the Department of Education it was established that only the southern strip of land alongside the existing site would be required for the development. Attached is a plan showing the required land edged red, with the northern strip of land not being required edged blue. The land between these strips being in council ownership and identified for this free school.

Following negotiation with the landowner, Mr and Mrs S Schmollmann, the sum of £15,000 was agreed as the purchase price of the land edged red on the attached plan.

### **DECISION:**

Officers are authorised to conclude an agreement with the landowners for the acquisition of the red edged land at a price of £15,000.

### **REASONS:**

Site required to provide sufficient land for the establishment of this proposed special free school.

Although the agreed price is in excess of normal market values for agricultural land, the need for this land meant that it was, in effect, a ransom strip. In the circumstances, it is officer's opinion that price to be paid is reasonable.

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED:**

None

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Within the funding approved with the s151 officer decision CSD 015 of 2020/21

## **LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS**

Council has the powers to acquire land for the purposes of its obligations under the Local Government Act

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct climate or environmental implications in respect of this decision, but the development of the land for the free school will raise such implications and will be addressed during the planning process.

## **CONSULTATION**

With the Department of Education

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

As identified in S151 decision CSD 015

## **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out by the Education, Skills and Funding Agency as part of the planning and delivery of the new school.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

The Corporate Plan 2020-24 has a vision for openness, fairness and a green environment. In terms of the priority of a council which empowers and cares about people, this proposal seeks to priorities of

- A commitment to protect the most vulnerable people of our communities
- An approach which enable young people and adults to lead independent and fulfilling lives
- A focus on taking inequalities, improving outcomes.
- A collaborative way of working with partners and families to support children achieve their full potential
- Partnerships which enhance skills, learning and employment opportunities

## **APPENDICES**

Attached plan of site

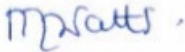
## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Executive Member's decision P&C33 of 2018/19

Section 151 officer decision CSD 015 of 2020/21 dated 13 July 2020

**SIGNATORY:**

**DECISION MAKER:**

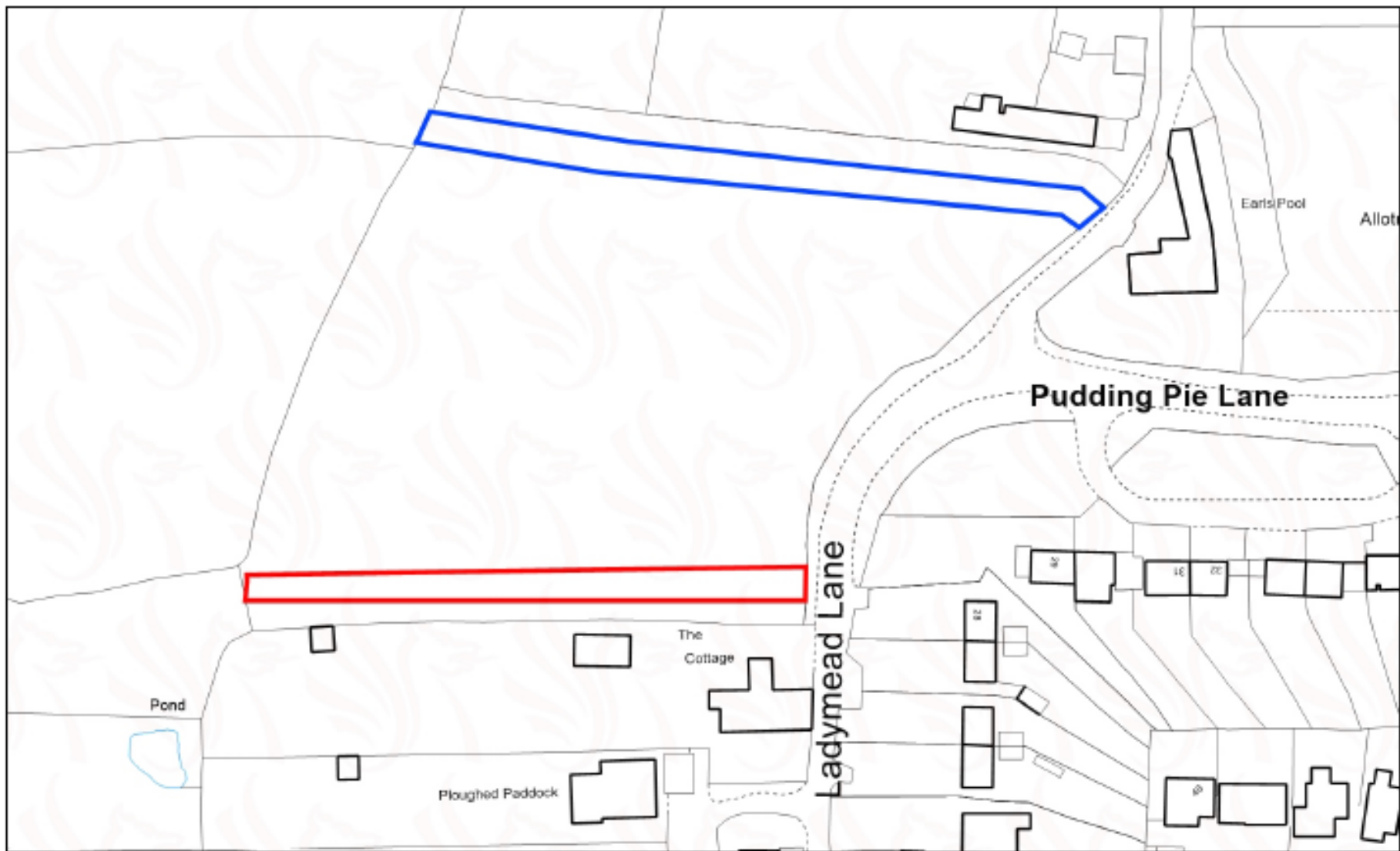


Signed: ..... Section 151 Officer. In accordance with paragraph 1.5 of the Council’s constitution (May 2018), officer authorisations and delegations

9 September 2021

Date: .....

In consultation with Geoff Brakspear



**ST298965: Land to be transferred**

Scale: 1:1000

Date: 09 June 2021



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