

August 2023

Dear Local Resident

Proposal to establish a new special school on land at Wheatridge East, Abbeydale, Gloucester

On 19 July Gloucestershire County Council's Cabinet approved a proposal to establish a new special school to make sure there are enough special school places to meet current and future demand. We are planning to use a parcel of land which is accessed from Wheatridge East. This site is already owned by Gloucestershire County Council and is subject to a long-standing education covenant – meaning it is intended to be used for education purposes.

We are writing to you as a nearby resident to let you know where you can find out more information about the council's plans and how we will keep you updated as the project develops.

Subject to planning approval, our aim is to build a thoughtfully designed 200 place special school to meet the needs of children and young people aged 4-16 years with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD) to open in 2026. A competition will be launched later this year to identify an academy trust to run the school.

Non-intrusive initial surveys will start shortly to build a picture of the site before more detailed designs are developed and ahead of a planning application being submitted next year. We will arrange opportunities for local residents and other interested parties to review and comment on the plans as they are developed and before a planning application is submitted, and it is our intention to keep you updated at all stages of the project.

Further information can be viewed on the council's website www.goucestershire.gov.uk/new-special-school-gloucester, where there is also a Frequently Asked Questions document. We will keep these updated as the project develops. Please get in touch using the details below if you would like to receive a paper copy of the information.

We wanted to provide you with information at this early stage and give you an opportunity to learn more about the plans and answer any initial questions you may have. Officers will continue to work closely with the County Councillor for the area (Cllr Andrew Gravells andrew.gravells@goucestershire.gov.uk) to help make sure residents are kept informed.

Any comments or questions can be raised by e-mailing: universalcommissioning@goucestershire.gov.uk or by calling Nathan Roe, Education Planning Manager, on 01452 427262