

## **Statement of Need:**

### **Planning permission for mobile classroom renewal at Rowan Gate Primary School, Finedon Road, Wellingborough NN8 4NS**

#### **Increasing demand for primary special need places**

There has been a significant increase in the number of children who require a special school place, especially in Reception year, for this academic year. There is no surplus capacity within Northamptonshire, therefore extra Special Educational Need (SEN) places are required to ensure children have access to an appropriate provision for their needs.

Discussions have been held with the SEN schools to ascertain where additional places can be secured across Northamptonshire. In the long term, three Free School proposals have been approved by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) for Corby, Daventry and Northampton to add permanent capacity to special school provision; however these will not deliver places this academic year.

Rowan Gate is the only special school in Wellingborough and East Northants for children aged 3 – 11 with significant learning and physical disabilities. It is situated in Wellingborough and was originally designed to hold 90 pupils. An additional 56 additional places opened earlier this year, in an annex at the former Hayway Infant School in Rushden; this site is already at capacity. Due to demand for special school places, the school was required to accept additional children in September and now have 153 pupils on roll across their two sites.

The mobile classroom, which was initially installed to provide temporary accommodation whilst the annex at Rushden was established, is now being used for basic need and needs to be retained to ensure the school have adequate teaching space for their numbers on roll.