

**Written statement of a key decision
Leader of the Council (Section 9E)**

Title	Local authority schools building, maintenance programme and accessibility improvement works 2020 -2021
Decision maker	Leader of the Council (Section 9E) Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	3 April 2020
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	<p>To approve the proposed expenditure of capital grants for schools building, maintenance and accessibility improvement works.</p> <p>The Department for Education provides capital funding to local authorities responsible for schools. This funding includes the schools condition allocations which is intended for the maintenance of community and voluntary controlled schools, and basic need allocation which is intended for the provision of additional school places to meet the needs of growing populations. An individual pupil needs budget is intended for any accessibility improvement works identified to enable children with special educational needs</p>

	<p>to attend schools.</p> <p>The distribution of this funding is determined in accordance with the principles set out in the schools capital investments strategy and is based on regular condition surveys and assessments of current and forecast demand for places.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provides the details of the schemes being proposed as part of this programme of works.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>That:</p> <p>(a) The school capital and maintenance schemes as set out in appendix 1 be approved for implementation in 2020/21;</p> <p>(b) The Assistant Director Education Development and Skills be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the approved schemes within the approved budget of £1.447m for maintenance and £43k for individual pupil needs; and</p> <p>(c) The Assistant Director Education Development and Skills be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to vary the approved schemes should the amount of funding received from the Department for Education differ from that used to determine the proposed schemes.</p>
<p>Reason for the decision</p>	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50033133</p>
<p>Options considered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The capital and maintenance grants supporting building works in schools could be profiled differently. The schemes have been determined from the last condition reports produced for each school. The profile has been considered extensively by the schools capital investment strategy team, the council's property services section and the capital strategy consultative group (involving headteachers). The proposed works are addressing the known priorities. 2. Basic need could be allocated to schools. The priorities are being formulated on the best information and advice available and consulted upon. Basic need allocation should be directed to projects that are clearly adding pupil places. 3. No funding is spent on accessibility improvement works in schools and children are required to attend different schools. There is a statutory process which requires the council to arrange the admission of a child with a disability or an education health and care plan to the parent / carers preferred school, unless it can be shown that to do so would prejudice other children or it would be unreasonable to do so. The excessive financial cost of making adaptations could be considered unreasonable.

Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	9 April 2020

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Leader of the Council (Councillor David Hitchiner)</p>	<p>Date 3 April 2020</p>
--	--------------------------

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;
- and
- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.