
Decision maker:	Officer: Interim director for children's wellbeing
Decision date:	27 June 2017
Title of report:	Emergency work at Riverside Primary School, Hereford
Report by:	Head of education development

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not a key decision.

Wards affected

Hinton and Hunderton

Purpose

To approve capital expenditure to rectify guttering that presents a health and safety risk at Riverside Primary School in Hereford.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **necessary works to make the guttering safe at Riverside Primary School be undertaken by the council's building contractor Integral at a maximum cost of £100k**

Alternative options

1. If the work is not undertaken the guttering will continue to present a serious health and safety risk to children, staff and visitors to the school.

Reasons for recommendations

2. Riverside is a relatively new building with extensive custom designed metal guttering fixed with a combination of rivets and screws. In recent months it has become apparent that the guttering is becoming loose as the fixings are failing. If the fixing becomes completely detached, there is a risk that a section of guttering could fall and seriously injure somebody.

Key considerations

3. Riverside Primary School is a council maintained school built in 2007. The guttering is custom made and there is an estimated 1500m of gutting around the school.
4. Problems with the guttering were reported by the school in 2016. Work was commissioned to rectify the problem, but on starting the work the proposed solution was found to be ineffective. Further review, including advice from the original designers and installers, has led to a revised solution that has been confirmed as suitable by an independent structural engineer.
5. Any immediate risk of the guttering falling and injuring somebody is being kept under review. A suitable risk mitigation plan, endorsed by the council's health and safety officer, is in place but this is only a short term arrangement. Recent inclement weather suggests further safety measures need to be put in place and the implementation of a more permanent solution as soon as possible.
6. The work will disrupt the school and a balance of immediate work that can be done while the school is in operation and work to be undertaken once the summer holidays begin is being agreed with the school.

Community impact

7. The school is an important focal point for the community and it should be seen as safe. The works will support the corporate plan objective of keeping children and young people safe and giving them a great start in life by addressing identified health and safety risks. The works will support the delivery of the council's schools capital investment strategy to provide high quality learning environments.

Equality duty

8. As a capital project this has no direct impact on the council's duty but it will pay due regard to our public sector equality duty and we will pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; we will also advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Financial implications

9. Initial quotes for the work, commissioned through Integral, suggest the cost will be approximately £86,000, but a further contingency should be allowed for. The funding will be provided from the carried forward capital maintenance grant that was underspent in 2016/17, and will not impact on the maintenance grant for 2017/18.

Legal implications

10. As a maintained school the council is the owner and is responsible for the maintenance of the site to ensure they are fit for purpose and comply with legislative requirements.

Risk management

11. A piece of guttering could fall and injure somebody. There is a short term management plan in place to manage this.
12. The proposed solution could fail. Independent advice has been sought to gain assurance that this is a suitable long term solution.

Consultees

13. Riverside Primary School staff have been consulted on the risk management and replacement approaches.
14. The ward councillor has been made aware of the works and is supportive.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None identified