

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	To approve the expenditure of up to £20k and appointment of contractor for playing field drainage works at Colwall CE Primary School from healthy schools capital funding
Date of decision:	8 October 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Children and Families
Authority for delegated decision:	The authority for the specified officer to take the decision is set out in the Herefordshire Council's Constitution – Children & Families Scheme of Delegation – paragraph 60: To ensure the school estate is not subject to decay which could put the health and safety of children at risk under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 Section 22, as amended by Education Act 2002 and Education and Inspections Act 2006.
Ward:	Hope End
Consultation:	<p>Consultation has already been done in respect of the overall programme with the Capital Strategy Consultative Group, comprising a number of headteachers and council officers, who agreed the programme as a constructive way forward for the use of the grant.</p> <p>The head teacher and governors of the school have all been involved in, and consulted upon, the plans.</p>
Decision made:	<p>Agreement to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To approve playing field drainage works at Colwall CE Primary School, to be undertaken via Balfour Beatty Living Places, at an initial cost of £15,247 plus associated contingency, statutory and professional fees. A total cost up to the value of £20,000. Fund the £20k from the existing healthy schools capital budget.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Colwall CE Primary School relocated onto a new site in the village of Colwall in 2017 with the school being occupied from the start of 2018. The site had previously been agricultural land, variously used for grazing and arable crops. The playing field at the school was expected to be suitable for general outdoor play and learning activities. The field appeared to be in good condition six months after occupation, however this position has since changed.</p> <p>The condition of the field and grounds at Colwall Primary School has been a matter of concern to the school, its community, and the council for some time.</p> <p>During the build, concern was raised over the lack of drainage to the playing field. This concern has materialized since the school has been in use with ponding of water on the playing field making</p>

	<p>certain areas unusable and impacting the activities that can be undertaken on the field.</p> <p>Approval has already been granted for remedial works to bring the playing field back into a suitable condition, however the drainage works need to be undertaken prior to the remediation works to prevent further damage to the playing field.</p> <p>Five schools have been identified as recipients of the healthy schools capital funding. As part of the consultation it was agreed that the funding would, as far as possible, be equitably split between the five schools. The allocation lies within the split of funding agreed.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The allocation can be covered within the agreed split of funding for the school from within the healthy schools capital budget.</p> <p>There is a risk that once on site, further work is identified if the proposed intervention is insufficient or ineffective. A contingency has been allowed to cover unforeseen items. Should this contingency be insufficient then a further officer decision will be required.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended as the playing field is in poor condition, poses a potential health and safety risk to the occupants of the school and does not enable children to reach their full play potential.</p> <p>Undertake a different set of works at this or another school. The works put forward have been consulted upon and agreed as the most appropriate and necessary to meet the conditions of the grant.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed

Chris Baird
Director for children and families

Date: 8 October 2020