

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Extension to Create Dedicated Nursery Provision at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Ross-on-Wye
Date of decision:	20 January 2021
Decision maker:	Director for Children and Families
Authority for delegated decision:	The authority for the specified officer to take this decision is set out in the cabinet member report approved 17 December 2018 https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5545
Ward:	Ross East
Consultation:	The head and nursery school leadership team have all been involved in, and consulted upon, the plans.
Decision made:	To fund up to £244,400 for an extension to create dedicated Nursery provision at St Joseph's RC Primary School, Ross-on-Wye. Funding to be provided from early years Section 106 receipts from various housing developments, 2 year Old capital funding, with the remaining funding covered by the school (including diocesan and charity contributions).
Reasons for decision:	The nursery at St Joseph's has seen a 325% increase in service hours and 300% growth since 2011. It has been occupying the hall during the day resulting in a lack of indoor PE space for the school. The new provision will provide 2-4 year old places with eligibility for funded places for 2 and 3 year olds which would be beneficial for families moving into the new housing developments in the area. The Ryefield Centre and Chase Hotel, which offered much needed community spaces in the area, have also closed recently. The plan for the school, after completing the nursery and freeing up the hall space, is to open the hall to individuals and groups, during non-term time, creating a 'hall for all' and providing an additional community space.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	S106 contributions have been secured towards Ross early years. A 2 Year Old Capital grant allocation from the government was provided to the council to create additional nursery places. The S106 contribution and the remaining 2 Year Old capital grant allocation along with the schools own funding will be made available to deliver the necessary works required to create the extension. Costs for the works have been calculated as:

	Build	£212,400
	Fixtures & Fittings including sensory room	£12,000
	Landscaping & Outdoor Space	£20,000
	Total:	£244,400
	The work will be funded from:	
	S106	£3,070
	2 Year Old Capital Grant	£26,919
	Diocesan contribution	£90,000
	Clive & Sylvia Richards charity donation	£40,000
	Garfield Western Fund	£20,000
	School fundraising	£64,411
	Total:	£244,400
	If the proposed works are not undertaken there is a risk that children will not have access to the full developmental aspects of early years' provision or the full curriculum and that avoidable accidents involving children, parents or staff could occur if the hall continues to be used as a dual use space.	
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	Do nothing. This was not considered to be an option as the facilities available for children in this area needed to be improved and expanded especially given the increased number of children being admitted. An alternative layout could have been identified however it was considered that the option proposed gave the most flexible combined learning and play environment whilst maintaining the safeguarding of children at the school.	
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None	

Signed

Chris Baird
Director for children and families

Date: 20 January 2021