

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Purchase of additional playing field land at Fairfield High School
Date of decision:	14 February 2022
Decision maker:	Corporate Director Children and Young People
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:	Golden Valley North
Consultation:	The head teacher and governors have all been involved in, and consulted upon, the plans.
Decision made:	To fund up to £79,348, for the purchase of additional playing field land at Fairfield High School. Funding to be provided from secondary Section 106 receipts from Land East of Newport Street, Cusop, Hay-on-Wye, with the remaining funding covered by the School.
Reasons for decision:	Fairfield high School is a popular school with restricted area available to them for outdoor sporting activities. The school currently have a small playing field at the top of the site that falls short of the recommended area for the size of the school. They have been utilizing an off-site playing field to 'top-up' the playing field area available. This off-site space is not ideal as it takes up valuable PE time travelling to and from the site, is prone to flooding in the winter months so it cannot be fully utilized all year round and is below the recommended size for secondary aged pupil sporting fixtures. The school have purchased an additional piece of land adjacent to the school site which is large enough to be used as a full size pitch. The school will be arranging for a change of use, fencing, drainage and levelling to bring it up to playing field standard.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	S106 contributions have been secured towards Fairfield high School. This contribution along with schools own funding will be made available to deliver the necessary works required for the school. Costs for the works have been calculated as £79,348. The work will be funded from:

	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S106:</td> <td>£17,315</td> </tr> <tr> <td>School funds:</td> <td>£62,033</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>£79,348</td> </tr> </table> <p>If the proposed works are not undertaken pupils will continue to have inadequate access to outdoor sporting space particularly in inclement weather which would not support their mental wellbeing and that avoidable accidents involving pupils, parents or staff could occur.</p>	S106:	£17,315	School funds:	£62,033	Total:	£79,348
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Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing. This was not considered to be an option as the facilities available for pupils in this area needed to be improved and expanded especially given the increased number of children being admitted.</p> <p>An alternative parcel of land could have been purchased however, there were no other land options surrounding the school.</p>						
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None						

Signed:
Corporate Director Children and Young People

Date: 14 February 2022