

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to approve the expenditure of up to £512,774 for the capital works at Aylestone School, Herefordshire.
Date of decision:	24/06/2024
Decision maker:	Service Director, Education, Skills and Learning, Children and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The authority for the specified officer to take this decision as set out in the cabinet report, Local Authority School Buildings Maintenance Works, approved February 2023.</p> <p>The Corporate Director, Children and Young People be authorised to take all operational decisions relating to the award of contracts for the above programmes of work.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9341</p>
Ward:	Aylestone Hill
Consultation:	New Cabinet Members, Cllr Powell (Children and Young People) and Cllr Bramer (Community Services and Assets) have been informed on the capital programme and the February 2023 Cabinet Report has been shared.
Decision made:	<p>The current schools capital maintenance programme to include the emergency works of concrete panel works at the C Block at Aylestone School in the current programme as urgent works.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council to award a contract to supplier S C Joseph Ltd who was appointed by the school and already started works on site for the capital works required at the C Block at Aylestone School Herefordshire.</p> <p>Approve the expenditure of up to £455,799.13 for the works, which includes a contingency of up to £21,701.33</p> <p>Approve the expenditure of up to £56,975 for internal and external professional fees.</p> <p>Responsibility for monitoring the programme to be carried out by the Capital Senior Project Manager within the spend budget.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>The emergency concrete panel works were already commissioned by the school and the works already started on site. As the scope developed throughout the initial works, it is necessary to include the associated urgent asbestos and window works.</p> <p>These works have been deemed as capital works and are included in the Schools Capital Maintenance Programme to address the emergency works identified by the school.</p> <p>S C Joseph Ltd were appointed by the school to address the urgent issue and further procurement would delay the completion of the works phase</p>

	<p>leaving a health & safety issue on site.</p> <p>It would not be practical to have two separate contractors working in tandem on the same project of works, and so a subsequent phase would have been deferred until completion of the original works and prolonging the closure of the school block. Economies of scale would have been achieved.</p> <p>To deliver beneficial improvements in the condition of the Council’s Educational building stock, improving the educational experience for pupils within the buildings. To reduce ongoing building maintenance costs by addressing known defects with high maintenance cost potential and preventing further deterioration.</p> <p>To ensure all Council buildings are fit for purpose and maintained to the standards as set out in the condition survey to address suitability, sustainability and affordability.</p>
<p>Equality Considerations</p>	<p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows: A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.</p> <p>The proposed capital maintenance schemes have given due consideration to equality issues particularly in relation to disability.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>By not carrying out these capital works the C Block will remain closed, impacting the operations of the school and the school is at risk of further maintenance requirements, potentially costing the Council further money.</p> <p>There is a risk that once on site, further works are identified once these capital works start that was not previously apparent.</p> <p>A contingency has been allowed to cover unforeseen elements once these capital works commence. Should this contingency be insufficient then a further officer decision will be required.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended as the risk of the capital works not being completed means that the health and safety risk associated with the continued existence of the building remains and the building will remain closed and out of use by the school.</p>

	<p>To procure separately. This is not recommended as this would delay the completion of works, with the Health & Safety issue remaining and further impacting the operations of the school. S C Joseph Ltd were already appointed by the school to commence the urgent works required. Once the works were deemed as capital works Herefordshire Council included the works in the current Herefordshire Council schools capital maintenance programme to be addressed urgently.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None.</p>

Signed..... Date: 24/06/2024
Hilary Hall