

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member community services and assets

Title	Allocation of Basic Need Capital Grant for the Expansion of John Masefield High School and Weobley High School
Decision maker	Cabinet member community services and assets Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	26 June 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To seek approval to allocate and spend Department for Education (DfE) Basic Need Capital Grant funding to support the expansion of John Masefield High School and the relocation of modular accommodation to Weobley High School.
Decision	That the Cabinet Member: a) Approves, the delivery of the John Masefield High School expansion and the Weobley High School modular accommodation project within a total budget of £5.390M; b) Delegates authority to the Service Director for Education, Skills and Learning to make all operational decisions required to deliver the works within the overall approved budget, and; c) Delegates authority to the Service Director for Education, Skills and Learning to procure and award all necessary contracts required to deliver the programme of works.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50054403

Options considered	1. Do nothing - This option is not recommended. The council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient school places. John Masfield High School has been admitting above its published admission number (PAN) at the request of the council for a number of years due to increasing demand in the Ledbury area arising from demographic growth and significant housing development. Failure to expand the school would increase pressure on local secondary school places and reduce the council's ability to meet parental preference and avoid additional transport costs. 2. Retain the existing end-of-life mobile accommodation at Weobley High School. This option is not recommended as the existing accommodation is at the end of its operational life and does not represent a sustainable long-term solution for the school. The proposal to relocate the modular village from Peterchurch Primary School provides improved teaching accommodation, additional classroom and toilet facilities, and represents better value for money through the reuse of an existing council-owned asset. 3. Reuse the modular village for an alternative purpose or dispose of the asset. Alternative reuse opportunities for the modular village were explored, including potential nursery provision. However, planning constraints associated with the suggested location meant that this option was not considered deliverable. Disposal of the modular village was also considered but is not recommended. The modular accommodation was originally purchased with the intention of reuse following completion of the Peterchurch Primary School rebuild project, and disposal would likely realise limited residual value compared to the educational and financial benefits achieved through reuse at Weobley High School.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	2 July 2026

Councillor: Cabinet member community services and assets (Councillor Harry Bramer)	Date 26 June 2026
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- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.