

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

| | |
|--|---|
| Title | Local authority school buildings maintenance works 2023 - 2026 and accessibility improvement works 2023-2024 |
| Decision maker | Cabinet 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 | 23 February 2023 |
| 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 approve the proposed expenditure of capital grants for school buildings maintenance works and accessibility improvement works. |
| Decision | That: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Service Director Education, Skills and Learning be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the programme of works, and any urgent contingency schemes required, within the approved budget of £3.75m for maintenance, subject to addition to the capital programme by the S151 officer; b) The Service Director Education, Skills and Learning be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the additional programme of works, within the additional approved budget of £2.7m for maintenance; c) The Service Director Education, Skills and Learning be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the accessibility improvement works, within the approved budget of £1m for accessibility; |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>d) The Service Director Education, Skills and Learning be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to vary the programme of works should the amount of funding received from the Department for Education differ from that used to determine the initial programme of works; and</p> <p>e) The Corporate Director, Childrens and Young People be authorised to take all operational decisions relating to the award of contracts for the above programmes of work.</p> |
| Reason for the decision | <p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50043711</p> |
| Options considered | <p>1. The maintenance grant supporting building works in schools could be profiled differently. The schemes will be determined based on the most recent condition reports produced for each school. The profile will be produced by the consultants undertaking the update of the condition reports and will be considered extensively by the schools capital investment strategy team, the council's property services section and the capital strategy consultative group (involving headteachers). The proposed works will address the known priorities.</p> <p>2. No funding is spent on accessibility improvement works in schools, and children are required to attend different schools. There is a statutory process which requires the council to arrange the admission of a disabled child or a child with an education health and care plan to the parent / carer's preferred school, unless it can be shown that to do so would prejudice other children or it would be unreasonable to do so. The excessive financial cost of making adaptations could be considered unreasonable.</p> |
| Declarations of interest (see below) | |
| Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply) | 3 March 2023 |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member children and families (Councillor Diana Toynbee)</p> | <p>Date 23 February 2023</p> |
|---|------------------------------|

- 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.