

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	To approve expenditure of up to £120K on heat decarbonisation plans for all of the maintained schools estate as well as a number of design specifications for investment.
Date of decision:	
Decision maker:	Corporate Director, Children and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Full council approved this budget on 11 February 2022 within its budget setting report for 2022/23.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/g8086/Public%20reports%20pack%20Friday%2011-Feb-2022%2010.00%20Council.pdf?T=10</p> <p>The authority for the specified officer to take this decision as set out in the Chief Executives scheme of delegation.</p>
Ward:	All
Consultation:	<p>The funding to develop a decarbonisation plan for the schools estate was approved as a part of the 22/23 budget. Full Council approved the decision on 11 February 2022.</p> <p>Consultation events were conducted regarding the overall 22/23 budget setting proposals.</p> <p>Local budget consultation zoom events were held in September 2021, 14 consultation events were held with Parish Councils and other key stakeholders. An online public consultation was open between 27 August and 4 October 2021. Recommendations and responses from the consultation with scrutiny committees approved by Cabinet 31 January.</p>
Decision made:	To approve the expenditure of up to £120K from reserves as agreed in the 2022/23 budget on heat decarbonisation plans for all maintained schools as well as a number of design specifications for investment.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Council declared a climate emergency on 8 March 2019.</p> <p>Following this, in September 2019, the council committed to take a major step to minimise their impact on the environment, agreeing to accelerate a reduction of emissions and aspire to become carbon neutral by 2030/31.</p> <p>Schools play an important part in this journey to become carbon neutral as they are the biggest contributor to the council's carbon footprint.</p> <p>The authority to spend this budget will allow for all maintained schools to have a heat decarbonisation plan (HDP) carried out.</p> <p>The purpose of a HDP is to assess how each school can replace fossil fuel reliant systems with low carbon alternatives (e.g. Heat Pumps) and complementary retrofit solutions such as insulation.</p> <p>In addition to carrying out HDP's, the budget will also allow for a number of these HDPs to be worked up to a designed specification and fully costed so as to be in a position to apply for grants, such as Salix and or make a capital bid to full council.</p>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	The required funding is held in reserve and was signed off for this intended use by Full Council as part of the budget setting for 2022/23. Legal services will be consulted alongside the Commercial Services team as a part of the procurement exercise.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	None - this is the beginning of the decarbonisation journey. Heat Decarbonation plans (HDP) are essential to inform the next steps of any capital programme recommendations
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: