

### Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to approve the capital remedial works at Aylestone School, Herefordshire.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	3/11/25
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director, Education, Skills and Learning, Children and Young People
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<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><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9341">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9341</a></p> <p>-Sub Delegation to Service Director to take all operational decisions relating to the award of contracts for the 2023-2026 School Capital Maintenance programme.</p> <p><a href="https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9474">https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9474</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Aylestone Hill
<b>Consultation:</b>	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.
<b>Decision made:</b>	<p>The current school's capital maintenance programme to include the emergency remedial works of wall cracking and water ingress at Broadlands House, Aylestone School in the current programme as urgent works.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council to award a contract to supplier S C Joseph Ltd for the remedial works required.</p> <p>Approve the expenditure of up to £165,000 for the works which includes a contingency of £15,000 and professional fees.</p> <p>External professional fees include the services of a structural engineer and conservation consultant.</p> <p>Broadlands House is listed, and it has been confirmed that listed building consent for works is required.</p> <p>Responsibility for monitoring the programme to be carried out by the Capital Project Manager within the spend budget.</p>

<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The school reported the health &amp; safety concern of the condition of the building.</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 was appointed by the school to address the urgent issue, as initiating a further procurement process would have delayed the completion of the works phase, thereby posing a health and safety risk on site and increasing the likelihood of further deterioration to the building's condition.</p> <p>S C Joseph are already managing some health &amp; safety precautions on site for this building.</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>
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	<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"> <li>(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</li> <li>(b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</li> <li>(c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>By not carrying out these capital works the condition of building will get worse and the building 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>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<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, causing further damage.</p> <p>To procure separately. This is not recommended as this would delay the completion of works, with the Health &amp; Safety issue remaining and further impacting the operations of the school. S C Joseph Ltd were already appointed by the school to commence the investigations, provide advice and plan the urgent remedial 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>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None.

Signed L.Farr Date: 03/11/2025