

### Record of officer decision

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| <b>Decision title:</b>   | Immediate temporary closure of Merry go Round Nursery, Greencroft, Hereford  |
| <b>Date of decision:</b>   | 12/12/2025   |
| <b>Decision maker:</b>   | Commercial and Investments Manager   |
| <b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>                                     | Corporate Services' scheme of delegation dated May 2024 (line 28) gives the Commercial and Investments Manager the authority to take the decision  |
| <b>Ward:</b>   | Red Hill – Cllr Dan Powell   |
| <b>Consultation:</b>   | The Corporate Director for children and young people along with the children and young people's directorate leadership team have been consulted.   |
| <b>Decision made:</b>  | To close the Merry go Round Day Nursery at Geen Croft in Hereford because of Health and Safety concerns, with immediate effect.  |
| <b>Reasons for decision:</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following a detailed inspection of the internal ceiling and external roofing structure, significant safety-critical defects have been identified. There is active water ingress, visible saturation, and deformation of internal ceiling surfaces, indicating prolonged moisture penetration and loss of structural integrity. Externally, the roof exhibits extensive ponding, membrane failure, and complete ruptures, exposing a rotten roof deck. Evidence confirms that the deck has lost its rigidity and is no longer capable of supporting load or facilitating safe repair works.</li> <li>• The roof's condition now poses a structural risk. The deterioration is consistent with deck failure, and any further water ingress will accelerate the risk of collapse, posing an unacceptable hazard to building occupants, including children and staff. In its current state, the roof cannot be repaired safely without a complete engineering assessment and controlled strip-out procedures.</li> <li>• On this basis, the decision has been taken to close the affected area on safety grounds pending urgent review by a Structural Engineer. This is necessary to prevent potential harm and to ensure that subsequent remedial works can be carried out safely and in compliance with statutory duties.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The structural condition presents an immediate health and safety risk, and allowing continued occupation could expose the Council to legal liability. Although the premises are leased to a private nursery, responsibility for repairs will follow the lease obligations, with the Council having already planned to undertake full replacement of this mobile unit in the new Financial Year. This may create operational and financial impacts for the tenant, and temporary closure may affect families relying on the nursery, so clear communication and</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>support will be essential to minimise disruption and ensure no groups are disproportionately affected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As the site is part of a larger educational establishment, any replacement of the unit will need to be undertaken out of normal school hours and it is envisaged this work will need to be undertaken over a period of successive weekends.</li> <li>• Due to the impact this decision is going to have on staff, the users of the facility and their families, the planned replacement of the mobile building will be accelerated. It is hoped a new unit will be sited and be operational in time for the February half-term</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council is actively reviewing opportunities to accommodate the nursery within other Council-owned assets during the period of closure and until the new unit is sited and commissioned for use. At present, a number of options are being assessed to determine suitability, capacity, and any adaptations required to support temporary relocation. Further options will continue to be explored should Greencroft prove unsuitable.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>               | <p>None</p>  |

Signed..... Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Print Name:

Job Title: Commercial and Investments Manager