

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to approve the expenditure of up to £55,000 to increase nursery spaces by 20 and lower age range for admission in Lord Scudamore.
Date of decision:	10/12/2026
Decision maker:	Service Director - Education, Skills and Learning, Children and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>The authority for the specified officer to take this decision is set out in the Scheme of Delegation. The grant funding also aligns to the County Plan objective to Support all children to have the best start in life.</p> <p>Children and Families Scheme of Delegation.pdf Appendix+A+Draft+Herefordshire+Council+Plan+2024-2028.pdf</p>
Ward:	Greyfriars
Consultation:	<p>School completed parent consultations as well as local business consultations with private nurseries.</p> <p>The Head of Educational Development and the Service Director for Education, Skills and Learning have also been consulted on the grant funding.</p>
Decision made:	<p>To spend up to £55,000.00 of Department for Education (DfE) Childcare Expansion Capital Grant funding to deliver building modifications to expand early years provision and be inclusive to 2-year-olds.</p> <p>Works include new toilets, new openings created and removed, and foul drainage and hot and cold water supplies revised.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>Sufficiency data indicated a need for nursery spaces in the Greyfriars ward.</p> <p>The delivery of the works will be at no cost to Herefordshire Council and will be fully funded by the DfE Childcare Expansion Capital Grant. The purpose of the grant is to support the provision of new early years entitlement and wraparound places.</p>
Equality Considerations:	<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"> (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. <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.</p> <p>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>

Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>There is a risk that costs may increase once work begins. Any increase in costs, however, would be paid for by the school.</p> <p>Not delivering the works will result in the continuation of deficit nursery spaces within the Greyfriars ward.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended. The Early Years Expansion grant was offered to all settings within wards that were identified as having deficit spaces.</p> <p>The Grant funding available enables the school to fund all works outlined above.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	<p>None.</p>

Signed

Date: