

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to reimburse the expenditure of up to £313,708.54 for the SEN works at Brockhampton School from the Schools Accessibility Programme budget.
Date of decision:	13.11.25
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 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>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9341</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>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=9474</p>
Ward:	Bromyard
Consultation:	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.
Decision made:	<p>The grant is in respect of works at Brockhampton Primary School, Bringsty, Bromyard, Herefordshire, part of a multi-academy trust called The Black Pear Trust.</p> <p>Grant is up to the sum of £313,708.54. (This figure includes a small contingency which is only to be used on the council's element of the project if required).</p> <p>The overall project is for Extension to School and Replacement of Modular Classroom Block. The council's grant is to deliver part of the overall project as an extension comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A physio room and hygiene room with associated erection of retaining walls, ramps, landscaping, drainage, handrails • The council's share of fees and survey costs. • Allow to supply and fit agreed equipment. <p>All other costs for the overall project are the responsibility of the trust. The Principal Designer and Contract Administrator will be PR Associates Ltd. The Principal Contractor will be Neal R Shipley Ltd.</p> <p>Works are due to commence 5th January 2026.</p> <p>The Corporate Director, Children and Young People approve the delegated</p>

	authority to the Service Director to take all operational decisions relating to the award of contracts for the Schools Accessibility Programme.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The Special Educational Needs element of the works has been added to the Council's Schools' Accessibility Programme. The impact of the proposed works would mean that there would be more suitable placements for pupils with special needs within the local community, which in the long term would have a cost saving to the Council, if pupils with special needs can have their needs met within in their local schools as opposed to placing pupils in schools outside the area.</p> <p>The Principal Contractor are the successful bidder following a successful tender via the Trust's procurement portal.</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>By not carrying out the works children at the school would have unsuitable facilities or no facilities to meet their needs.</p> <p>A contingency has been allowed to cover unforeseen elements once the works commence.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended as the risk of the adaptation and improvement works not being completed means that the council would fail in its statutory duty to place children with special educational needs and / or disabilities in schools.</p> <p>Children required to attend different schools. This is not recommended. There is a statutory process which requires the council to arrange the admission of a child with a disability or an education health and care plan to the parent / carers preferred school, unless it can be shown that to do so would prejudice other children or it would be unreasonable to do so.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None.