

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member children and young people

Title	High needs budget 2026/27
Decision maker	Cabinet member children and young people Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	30 March 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	<p>To propose the High Needs Budget for 2026/27 to the Cabinet Member Children and Young People.</p> <p>Dedicated Schools Grant funding for the High Needs Block (HNB) in 2026/27 is £25.14 million. At this stage, the funding for HNB is provisional and is subject to final adjustments based on actual termly take up. The funding values and formula calculations are in accordance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) as set by the Government.</p>

Decision	That: Herefordshire's High Needs Budget of £50.9 million for 2026/27 for approval by the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People as set out in the report, noting the funding gap in 2026/27 of £25.7 million.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50054351
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Herefordshire Council has fully implemented the National Funding Formula (NFF) methodology, so alternative options are limited. Given the growing national issue of High Needs Block (HNB) deficits, the NFF allows for the top slice of the funding blocks to redirect to the HNB. The High Needs Block budget proposed for 2026/27 includes a transfer from the Early Years Block for the SEN inclusion fund of £0.1 million and £0.3 million from the Central Block. 2. In considering the proposals set out in the report, the Council has consulted with Budget Working Group (BWG), which includes representatives from schools and the Schools Forum.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	7 April 2026

Councillor:	Date 30 March 2026
Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)	

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;
- and
- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.