

Written statement of a non-key decision
Cabinet member finance and corporate services

Title	Introducing a Herefordshire Councillor ward fund grants scheme.
Decision maker	Cabinet member finance and corporate services 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	31 March 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve a new Herefordshire Councillor ward fund grant scheme which provides each individual ward member with their own personal budget (of £1000) to spend in their own ward area. The scheme will open on 20th April 2026 and will run until 31 March 2027.
Decision	That the Cabinet Member: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approves the commencement of the new Herefordshire Councillor ward grant scheme which provides each individual ward member with their own personal budget (of £1000), and b) Provides delegation to all members to commit spend of up to £1000 to allocate to community groups and projects within their Ward area in alignment to the priorities of the Council Plan and in accordance with the grant scheme (set out at Appendix a).
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?Id=50054626
Options considered	1. To not take forward this new initiative. This is not recommended. The Corporate Services budget, which was agreed by full Council, included an allocation of £1,000 per Ward Member to allocate to community groups and projects within their Ward area in 2026/27 to align to the priorities of

	<p>the Council Plan.</p> <p>The purpose of the Herefordshire Council Ward Member Grant Fund is to enable all ward members to allocate funds to facilitate small scale projects and activities in their respective wards. This is designed to facilitate closer involvement in local initiatives being led by their communities. A key principle behind this initiative is to encourage more localised participation in delivering the council's strategic priorities.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	8 April 2026

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member finance and corporate services (Councillor Pete Stoddart)</p>	<p>Date 31 March 2026</p>
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- 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.