

Written statement of a non-key decision
Cabinet

Title	Q3 2025/26 Budget Report
Decision maker	Cabinet 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	26 March 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To report the forecast position for 2025/26 at Quarter 3 (December 2025), including explanation and analysis of the drivers for the material budget variances, and to outline current and planned recovery activity to reduce the forecast overspend. To provide assurance that progress has been made towards delivery of the agreed revenue budget and service delivery targets, and that the reasons for major variances are understood and are being addressed to the cabinet's satisfaction. The forecast 2025/26 outturn shows a net overspend of £6.3 million at Quarter 3. Management recovery action and planned contributions to reserves are expected reduce the forecast overspend to £4.4 million.
Decision	That: Cabinet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reviews the financial forecast for 2025/26, as set out in the appendices A-D, and identifies any additional actions to be considered to achieve future improvements; and b) Notes the proposed early repayment of reserve contribution by the Children & Young People Directorate; and c) Notes the management action identified to reduce the forecast outturn position for 2025/26; and d) Agrees the continuation of management actions to reduce the forecast overspend as identified in this report.
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=50054371

Options considered	Cabinet may choose to review financial performance more or less frequently; or request alternative actions to address any identified areas of variance from budget, including referral to the relevant scrutiny committee.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	1 April 2026

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Leader of the Council (Councillor Jonathan Lester)</p>	<p>Date 26 March 2026</p>
--	---------------------------

- 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.