

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing

Title	Purchase of flats for temporary accommodation
Decision maker	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 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	15 May 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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	Purchase of 4 flats in Hereford city for use as temporary accommodation.
Decision	That: a) The Council purchases four, one bed flats in Hereford City up to a maximum budget of £550K, subject to the s151 Officer being satisfied the appropriate heads of terms have been agreed, due diligence has been completed, and the purchase provides value for money. b) An allowance of up to £5000 per unit is agreed for costs related to the purchase and preparation of the flats. These costs include, but are not limited to, legal fees, surveys and a fire risk assessment. c) That all operational decisions in relation to delivery of recommendation (a) and (b) are delegated to the Corporate Director Community Wellbeing in consultation with Property Services.

Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50054802
Options considered	1. Not to purchase the flats for use as temporary accommodation. This is not recommended as the council has a statutory duty to prevent homelessness and where homelessness does occur, to provide accommodation for people and families in housing need. Using council owned and managed units of accommodation is much more cost effective than using costly Bed and Breakfast (B&B)/ chain hotel accommodation.
Declarations of interest (see below)	None
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	21 May 2026

Councillor:	Date 15 May 2026
Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing (Councillor Carole Gandy)	

- 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.