

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY DECISION
CABINET MEMBER INFRASTRUCTURE**

ITEM:	PLANNING FEE INCREASE
Date of Decision:	15 May 2017
Exempt:	No
Confidential	No
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To consider a proposal by the government regarding changes to the planning fees.
Decision:	THAT: (a) subject to the government implementing the option to adopt a national increase in specified planning fees, the increase will be applied in Herefordshire resulting in fees as specified at appendix 1 with effect from 1 July 2017 (or other date as specified by legislation).
Reasons for the Decision:	The planning service in its entirety is not cost neutral, so this will assist in the council's aim to move towards full cost recovery, whilst also supporting the Government's aims outlined in the housing white paper to enable local authority planning services to support economic and housing growth.
Options Considered:	To decline the option to increase planning fees is not recommended because the current levels of fees do not cover the cost of the entire planning service, these fees being last increased in July 2014. It is the council's charging policy to move towards full cost recovery and a fully resourced planning service is required if Herefordshire Council is to be consistent with its policy to support the growth of the local economy. The 2017/18 budget has been set based upon Herefordshire Council accepting the nationally set fee increase. This would also better reflect a full cost recovery model for the service, which has not been the position in previous years. If the increase were rejected, compensatory income / savings (circa £300k) would need to be identified elsewhere within the service or the council.
Conflict of Interest <input type="checkbox"/> (See below)	
Date the decision is due to take effect:	19 May 2017

COUNCILLOR PHILLIP PRICE : Date: 15 May 2017
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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 by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.