

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	JOINT CUSTOMER SERVICES HUB - BUDGET UPDATE
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	27 July 2017
Report exemption class	N/A
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)	Yes
Purpose	To approve an increase in capital expenditure to deliver a joint customer services hub at Blueschool House.
Decision	THAT: (a) £50k be allocated from the ICT revenue reserve to provide sufficient ICT equipment at Blueschool House; (b) £200k be allocated from the earmarked economy, communities and corporate revenue reserve to support the increased costs; (c) having regard to the continued revenue benefits identified in the revised business case, a further £720k be approved to deliver a joint customer services hub at Blueschool House, bringing the total estimated cost to £1.92m; (d) the audit and governance committee be asked to identify and recommend improvement actions to strengthen property capital project management and control.
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=50022578
Options considered	<p>Not to approve the increased capital budget. This is not recommended as significant work has already been undertaken, further work would in any event be required to reinstate the building to a useable standard, and expenditure to date would become abortive. This would result in unbudgeted revenue budget pressures from the abortive costs and the non-delivery of the revenue saving project. It would also have operational implications for both the council and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) who will be co-locating to the refurbished Blueschool House.</p> <p>Additionally there may be further costs incurred as a result of early termination of a contract.</p> <p>Not to invest in appropriate ICT at Blueschool House. This is not recommended as existing ICT infrastructure is limited in terms of efficiency and flexibility. The ICT investment will facilitate improved working practices including agile working.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	<p>3 August 2017</p> <p>This decision is to be taken under the general exception provisions as set out in paragraphs 4.2.49-51 of the constitution of Herefordshire Council. It will be subject to call in</p>

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Leader of the Council (Councillor AW Johnson)</p>	<p>Date 27 July 2017</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 by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.