

Written statement of a non-key decision
Cabinet member contracts and assets

Title	Response to the LGA Peer Review of Museums, Libraries and Archives
Decision maker	<p>Cabinet member contracts and assets</p> <p>Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</p>
Date of decision	26 October 2017
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	<p>The report outlines progress in the service areas of museums, libraries and archives in light of the recommendations of the LGA (local government association) peer review; and associated decisions in relation to the services under review.</p> <p>The report covers key activity relating the delivery of the LGA recommendations specifically in terms of producing plans outlining the service and process for exploring outsourcing the services. The report also seeks agreement of two key expenditure items relating to the services – namely requirements to repair the roof in Hereford to prevent weather damage and one off investment in the homeland project as initiative of national importance.</p>
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>(a) the operational plans for services covering museums, libraries and archives in appendix two are approved;</p> <p>(b) proceed with soft market test for museums, libraries and archives;</p> <p>(c) work for Hereford Library roof and maintenance work be undertaken at a cost of no more than £200k capital expenditure;</p> <p>(d) investment of £40k for the Weeping Window project commemorating the end of World War 1 for one-off expenditure of £40k inclusive of £6.4k from the residual Library and Museum Support Fund; and</p> <p>(e) the reassignment of the capital spend be approved as follows:</p>

		Original costs '000	Revised costs '000
	Payment kiosk	11	0
	Works at Ross, Leominster and Belmont	55	97
	Dedicated PC in Leominster and Ross for payments	14	6
	Additional self-service machines at Ross, Hereford, Leominster [Ledbury not included]	28	16
	Upgrade of IT and equipment for staff to work flexibly	25	14
	Totals	133	133
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50023222</p>		
Options considered	<p>Alternative options</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The alternative option is to reject the recommendations of the LGA peer review, specifically in terms of outsourcing service and production of plans. However, they support the transformation of the service in exploring the alternative governance and management arrangement that could potentially benefit the service and help deliver the medium term financial strategy. 2. The repair to the roof at Hereford Library is needed to prevent continued erosion and prevent leakages. There is the option of delaying the work, which is possible as the roof is structurally sound, but could result in cost of emergency repair if water leaks into the building; also the Woolhope Club are keen to relocate back to the Library and Museum and that is not recommended without repairs to the roof. The other alternative option regarding the Library is to spend considerably more to open-up the roof and skylight. This is aesthetic work and it is proposed to be part of a funding programme. 3. Cease capital expenditure on the libraries. The capital programme has already agreed expenditure (link) on libraries to mitigate on savings to the service in generating more income from hire of spaces and for more customers to use self-service. 		
Declarations of interest (see below)			
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	2 November 2017		

Councillor:

Date 26 October 2017

Cabinet member contracts and assets (Councillor
H Bramer)

- 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.