

**Written statement of a non-key decision**  
**Cabinet member economy and communication**

Title	Funding contribution towards the Midlands Engine
Decision maker	Cabinet member economy and communication Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</a>
Date of decision	17 May 2018
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	<p>To seek approval to pay the council's annual membership contributions to the Midlands Engine (ME) 2018/19 and 2019/20.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council has been actively engaged with regional bodies established under national policy including Midlands Engine, and Midlands Connect. A recent corporate peer challenge recommended that, given the importance of economic growth to the county's future ambitions, the council should seek to expand its influence, and continue to develop strong relationships at a national, regional and sub-regional level.</p> <p>The council's involvement in the ME has already proved fruitful for the county, helping to secure substantial funding to support our transport and growth ambitions for the county and thereby increase Herefordshire's contribution to the wider regional economy. In light of the continued government focus on the ME model it is recommended that the council continue its participation.</p>
Decision	<p><b>That:</b></p> <p><b>(a) the programme director housing and growth be authorised to pay a membership fee to the Midlands Engine amounting to £40k for the periods 2017/2018 and 2018/19.</b></p> <p><b>(b) that Midlands Engine be added to the councils strategic partnership register.</b></p>
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50025809">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50025809</a>
Options considered	1. Not to contribute to the ME. This is not recommended as it could have a negative impact on Herefordshire's ability to access government funding via the ME and negatively impact the ability of the council to influence regional growth

	plans. 2. The council could opt to withdraw from the Midlands Engine, but such a move would be contrary to the Peer Challenge recommendations and could reduce Herefordshire's voice/influence within the West Midlands.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	23 May 2018

Councillor: .....	Date 17 May 2018
Cabinet member economy and communication (Councillor DG Harlow)	

- 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.