

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member infrastructure

Title	Polytunnels Planning Advice
Decision maker	Cabinet member infrastructure 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	29 June 2018
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.
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	This report seeks to approve the application of the development guidance principles contained in the Polytunnels Planning Guide 2018, which brings up to date the previous Polytunnels Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) 2008. This will provide planning guidance to prospective planning applicants, officers and members of the council and other interested parties on the erection of polytunnel structures.
Decision	That: The Polytunnels Planning Guide 2018 at appendix 1 is approved for development management and public use to supplement national and local planning policies; and will constitute a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.
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=50023660

Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to use the Polytunnels Guide for planning advice to supplement non-specific national and Core Strategy policies and any polytunnel related policies of adopted Neighbourhood Plans. Since there is no polytunnel-specific planning policy guidance at national or local level, this document is considered to be important in setting out the key considerations used in determining planning applications for this type of development. Soft fruit production in Herefordshire is significant, therefore additional planning guidance is considered to be useful to both the public and officers of the council alike. 2. To prepare a new supplementary planning document in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. The advantage of this would be to ensure that there is a formal SPD carrying significant weight as a material consideration in planning applications. The disadvantage would be the significant resource pressure that producing such a document would incur at a time when the Council's priorities are to produce Development Plan Documents.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	5 July 2018

Councillor:	Date 29 June 2018
Cabinet member infrastructure (Councillor PD Price)	

- 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.