

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member infrastructure

Title	Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme
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	30 November 2018
Report exemption class	Open
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)	No
Purpose	<p>Subject to approval of a funding application that has been made to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), to approve the establishment of a Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme, and seek agreement to Herefordshire Council acting as accountable body for the scheme.</p> <p>The proposed capital grant scheme to support the deployment of renewable energy technologies across the Marches is a joint application with Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils. The project duration will be 2.5 years and if the funding application is successful is expected to start in January 2019.</p> <p>The application has been submitted to MHCLG for £1.197m of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) money which would be used to establish a grant scheme designed to support the deployment of 2.12 MW of renewable energy across the Marches. Successful grant scheme applicants would receive a grant of 50% of the total installation cost of the renewable energy technology from the European Regional Development fund, defrayed through</p>

	ourselves and MHCLG.
Decision	<p>That subject to MHCLG approval of the funding:</p> <p>(a) Herefordshire Council act as accountable body for the Marches Renewable Energy Grant Scheme;</p> <p>(b) The scheme be approved as per the application form at appendix 1;</p> <p>(c) The Director for Economy and Place be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the scheme including determination of grant applications in accordance with scheme criteria;</p> <p>(d) The Chief Finance Officer be requested to add the approved funding into the council's capital programme.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50026062</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Not to accept the grant funding. This is not recommended because would result in a continued reduction in renewable energy deployment as the financial mechanisms (eg Feed in Tariffs) continue to decrease and disappear. This will result in a risk of not achieving the council's strategic objectives within the Core Strategy, Carbon Management plan, Marches LEPs Energy Strategy and Strategic Economic Plan. 2. For another council to act as accountable body. This option is not recommended because Herefordshire Council has a track record of successfully running Marches wide ERDF projects including the Marches Building Investment Grant, Marches & Gloucestershire Business Broadband Grant Scheme and Sustainable Energy in Public Buildings.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	6 December 2018

Councillor: Cabinet member infrastructure (Councillor PD Price)	Date 30 November 2018
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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.