

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member environment, economy and skills

Title	To accept and approve the gateway delivery of the Kickstart scheme, providing work experience placements to 16 to 24 year olds.
Decision maker	Cabinet member environment, economy and skills 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	4 February 2021
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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>To gain approval to accept grant funding offered by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).</p> <p>The council has successfully applied to DWP to be a gateway organisation for the delivery of the Kickstart scheme across Herefordshire. As part of the Covid 19 recovery programme, the Kickstart scheme funds 6 monthly work experience placements for 16 to 24 year olds receiving universal credit.</p> <p>An urgent decision is required to accept and implement this</p>

	scheme to meet the DWP deadline to accept the grant by 4 February 2021 as part of the Covid 19 response.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>a) The council accepts the grant funding offered by the Department of Work and Pensions of up to £986,124 for the implementation of the Kickstart Scheme.</p> <p>b) The cabinet member for Environment, Economy and Skills approves the approach to delivering the Kickstart scheme, with the council operating as a gateway.</p> <p>c) The Chief Finance Officer be authorised to sign on behalf of the council the funding offer letter (appendix A) from the Department for Work and Pensions, and following consultation with the cabinet member for Environment, Economy and Skills, any subsequent variations such as any increase to the number of approved placements.</p> <p>d) To delegate to the Director for Economy and Place, following consultation with the cabinet member for Environment, Economy and Skills and the S151 Officer, the ability to make any operational decisions required to ensure the successful delivery of the scheme.</p>
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50036645
Options considered	1. Do nothing – the council could decide not to accept the funding to deliver the Kickstart scheme. However, this would mean the large number of 16 to 24 year olds on universal credit in the county (circa 850 as of December 2020) would be unable to access this support.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	This decision is to be taken under the special urgency provisions as set out in paragraphs 4.2.52-54 of the constitution of Herefordshire Council. It will not be subject to call in.

Councillor:	Date 4 February 2021
Cabinet member environment, economy and skills (Councillor Ellie Chowns)	

- 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.