

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member environment and economy

Title	Acceptance and implementation of Solar PV for schools project
Decision maker	Cabinet member environment and economy 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	26 August 2021
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>This report seeks approval for the Council to undertake an invest to save programme to install solar photovoltaic panels (PV) on maintained schools in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The proposal is to develop power purchase agreements (PPA) with schools so that there is no upfront cost for schools for the solar PV systems. Here schools would share the financial benefit through discounted costs for the renewable energy and the income from the sale of the energy would be used to repay the capital investment and further reduce the council's energy bill.</p> <p>This project will contribute towards the council's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030/31, will help to improve local energy security and will generate financial savings for both schools and the council.</p>
Decision	That: a) The council invests £1,130,000 in solar PV across the

	<p>27 identified schools as detailed in appendix 1; and</p> <p>b) The Assistant Director for Regulatory, Environment and Waste Services in consultation with the S151 officer be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the project.</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/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50036775</p>
Options considered	<p>1. Not to invest in Solar PV across the schools estate.</p> <p>This is not recommended as the council will not be able to support schools to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprint, this will negatively impact the council's ability to deliver the County Plan objective to become carbon neutral and will not result in significant financial savings to the council.</p>
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	2 September 2021

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member environment and economy (Councillor Ellie Chowns)</p>	<p>Date 26 August 2021</p>
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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.