

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN



This document, known as the Forward Plan, sets out the decisions which are expected to be taken during the period covered by the Plan by either Cabinet as a whole, or by individual Cabinet Members. The Plan is updated regularly and is available on the Herefordshire Council website (www.herefordshire.gov.uk) and from Council Offices. This edition supersedes all previous editions.

The council must give at least 28 days' notice of key decisions to be taken. A key decision is one which results in the council incurring expenditure or making savings of £500,000 or more, and/or is likely to be significant in terms of the strategic nature of the decision or its impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the council to a significant number of people living or working in the locality affected.

Current cabinet members are listed below. For more information and links papers for Cabinet meetings please visit <https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251>

Councillor Jonathan Lester	Corporate Strategy and Budget (Leader of the Council)
Councillor Elissa Swinglehurst	Culture and Environment (Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Carole Gandy	Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Ivan Powell	Children and Young People
Councillor Harry Bramer	Community Services and Assets
Councillor Graham Biggs	Economy and Growth
Councillor Pete Stoddart	Finance and Corporate Services
Councillor Barry Durkin	Roads and Regulatory Services
Councillor Philip Price	Transport and Infrastructure
Councillor Dan Hurcomb	Local Engagement & Community Resilience

Documents submitted in relation to each decision will be a formal report, which may include one or more appendices. Reports will usually be made available on the council website at least 5 clear working days before the date of the decision. Occasionally it will be necessary to exempt part or all of a decision report from publication due to the nature of the decision, for example if it relates to the commercial or business affairs of the council. Other documents may be submitted in advance of the decision being taken and will also be published on the website unless exempt.

To request a copy of a decision report or related documents please contact governancesupportteam@herefordshire.gov.uk or telephone 01432 261699.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead officer and lead cabinet member	Directorate	Notice of decision first published / ID	Issue Type and exemptions
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FORWARD PLAN FOR 27 March 2026 ONWARDS

The following information is provided for each entry in the Forward Plan:

Heading	Contains
Report title and purpose	A summary of the proposal
Decision Maker and Due date	Who will take the decision and the date the decision is expected to be made
Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	The cabinet member with responsibility for this decision and the officers producing the decision report.
Directorate	The directorate of the council responsible for the decision.
Date uploaded onto plan	The date the decision was first uploaded and the notice period started for key decisions.
Decision type, exemptions and urgency	Whether the decision is a Key or Non-Key decision, if the report is expected to be fully open, partly exempt or fully exempt and if urgency procedures are being followed.

Decisions to be taken by Cabinet at a formal meeting are listed first, ordered by date, and include both Key and Non-Key decisions. Decisions to be taken by individual Cabinet Members are then listed, grouped by portfolio area and sorted by date. These include Key and Non-Key decisions.

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
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Cabinet decisions by date (Key and Non-key listed)

Hereford Western Bypass Phase One – Decision Criteria To seek approval from Cabinet on the set of criteria which will be used to assess the Full Business Case for Phase One and set out the requirements which need to be in place to assist Cabinet in considering their decision to release funding, appoint the preferred contractor and begin construction later this year.	Cabinet 23 April 2026	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	NEW ITEM	KEY Open
Carbon Management Plan 2026/27-2030/31 To adopt the new carbon management plan for the period 2026/27 to 2030/31	Cabinet 21 May 2026	Cabinet member culture and Environment Gareth Ellis, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer, Daniel Lenain, Principal Sustainability and Climate Change Officer Gareth.Ellis@herefordshire.gov.uk, daniel.lenain@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383646	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Establishment of a Council-wide Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Commissioning Framework To approve the establishment of a Council wide Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Commissioning Framework.	Cabinet 21 May 2026	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing John Burgess, Senior Commissioning Officer John.Burgess3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Update on the Phase 2 Phosphate Mitigation Schemes To provide Cabinet with an update regarding the Phosphate Mitigation Wetland schemes	Cabinet 21 May 2026	Cabinet member culture and Environment Roger Allonby, Service Director Economy and Growth, Gemma Dando, Chief Operating Officer, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Susan White, Programme Manager Roger.Allonby@herefordshire.gov.uk, gemma.dando@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Susan.White2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260330, , Tel: 01432 260070	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Cabinet Member Decisions (Key and Non Key decisions)					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Portfolio: adults, health and wellbeing					
Appointment of an external transformation partner for Community Wellbeing Directorate To approve going out to tender to procure an external specialist partner to work with the Community Wellbeing directorate to identify, design and implement transformation activity that delivers sustainable, recurrent savings over the Medium Term Financial Strategy period.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 30 March 2026	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Hilary Hall, Corporate Director Community Wellbeing Hilary.Hall@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	Non Key Open
Herefordshire Homeless Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026 - 2031 This is a five year statutory strategy to replace the 2020-2025 strategy. It sets out our approach to the prevention of homelessness and rough sleeping in the county.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 30 March 2026	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Robert Barnett, Housing Strategy Officer robert.barnett@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Crisis and Resilience Fund 2026-29 To seek cabinet approval for Herefordshire Council to take receipt of the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) grant as a programme funded by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) between 2026-2029. The CRF replaces the Household Support Fund (HSF) and the Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) and will enable Herefordshire to work collaboratively with partners and communities at county and local levels to build long-term resilience, cohesion, and reduce the need for crisis support.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing 10 April 2026	Cabinet member finance and corporate services Nikki Stroud, Talk Community Children and Families Lead nikki.stroud@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open
To extend the council's current commissioned home care framework To approve an extension to the council's current commissioned home care framework for up to six months from 31 October 2026 to 30 April 2027.	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Before 26 June 2026	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing Helen Davies, Commissioning Manager helen.davies3@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Herefordshire Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy The purpose of the report is to approve the 2026-2036 Herefordshire Adult Social Care Prevention Strategy	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing July 2026	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing David Collyer, Acting Consultant in Public Health: General Practitioner david.collyer2@herefordshire.gov.uk	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: children and young people					
High needs budget 2026/27 To propose the High Needs Budget for 2026/27 to the Cabinet Member Children and Young People. Dedicated Schools Grant funding for the High Needs Block (HNB) in 2026/27 is £25.14 million. At this stage, the funding for HNB is provisional and is subject to final adjustments based on actual termly take up. The funding values and formula calculations are in accordance with the National Funding Formula (NFF) as set by the Government.	Cabinet member children and young people 30 March 2026	Cabinet member children and young people Stacey Carter, Head of Strategic Finance (Deputy S151) stacey.carter@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383095	Corporate Support Centre	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Allocation of Basic Need Capital Grant for the Expansion of John Masefield High School and Weobley High School To seek approval for the allocation of Basic Need Capital Grant funding to support the expansion of John Masefield High School and Weobley High School in order to meet future demand for additional secondary school places.	Cabinet member community services and assets 14 April 2026	Cabinet member children and young people Quentin Mee, Head of Educational Development Quentin.Mee@herefordshire.gov.uk	Children and Young People	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: community services and assets					
Property Services Estates Capital Building Improvement Programme 202629 To approve expenditure within the capital building improvement programme 2026-2029	Cabinet member community services and assets 9 April 2026	Cabinet member community services and assets Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Michael Griffin, Head of Major Projects katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Michael.Griffin2@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: economy and growth					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Strategic Housing: Three-year Capital Programme 2026/27 To approve the capital budget allocated to Strategic Housing through the Council's capital programme to meet the immediate housing need of vulnerable groups and provide grant assistance to property owners to bring empty properties back into use.	Cabinet member economy and growth 17 April 2026	Cabinet member economy and growth Hannah McSherry, Housing Strategy Officer Hannah.McSherry2@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 383061	Community Wellbeing	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: environment					
Allocating the Climate and Nature Reserve Phase 2 To Allocate the balance of the Climate and Nature Reserve for the delivery of projects which will positively impact the climate and natural environment of Herefordshire to the benefit of all who reside in the county.	Cabinet member culture and Environment 30 April 2026	Cabinet member culture and Environment Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Adoption of Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy To formally adopt the Herefordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and accept associated government grant for delivery.	Cabinet member culture and Environment 10 June 2026	Cabinet member culture and Environment Mandy Neill, Senior Landscape Officer, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager mandy.neill@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Solar Car Ports at Plough Lane To approve the scoping and construction of solar car ports at Plough Lane	Cabinet member culture and Environment 1 July 2026	Cabinet member culture and Environment Katie Ainsworth, Senior Project Manager, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager, Rosanna Willmott, Sustainability and Climate Change Officer katie.ainsworth2@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk, rosanna.willmott@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192, Tel: 01432 261749	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: finance and corporate services					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Introducing a Herefordshire Councillor ward fund grants scheme. To approve a new Herefordshire Councillor ward fund grant scheme which provides each individual ward member with their own personal budget (of £1000) to spend in their own ward area. The scheme will open on 20th April 2026 and will run until 31 March 2027.	Cabinet member finance and corporate services 31 March 2026	Cabinet member finance and corporate services John Coleman, Democratic Services Manager John.Coleman@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260382	Corporate Support Centre	NEW ITEM	Non Key Open
Portfolio: local engagement and community resilience					
The New Public Realm Service – Depot Facilities This report seeks approval to procure and undertake any necessary works to depot and other facilities as required to deliver the New Public Realm Service from 1 June 2026.	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience 3 April 2026	Cabinet member local engagement and community resilience Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: roads and regulatory services					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Highway Maintenance Plan To update the Highway Maintenance Plan, which sets out the reasonable system of inspection and repair that will be deployed by the Council to ensure that it meets its duty to maintain all publicly maintainable highways.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services 10 April 2026	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Ed Bradford, Head of Highways and Traffic Edward.Bradford@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260786	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
National Parking Platform (NPP) To agree to join the NPP to provide multiple options of cashless parking providers for all council pay and display car parks and on-street.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Before 30 April 2026	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Michael Barnes, Parking Services Manager michael.barnes@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
Justice for Tenants (JFT) – Renters’ Rights Act 2025: Housing Enforcement, Civil Penalties and HMO Licensing This report seeks approval from the Cabinet Member for Roads and Regulatory Services to adopt a revised private rented sector enforcement framework in preparation for the commencement of the Renters’ Rights Act 2025. The report proposes the adoption of a Justice for Tenants (JFT) Housing Enforcement Policy, a standalone JFT Civil Penalty Policy and matrix, and updated standard HMO licence conditions, together with approval to enter into a JFT support contract (subject to legal review and agreement) to support implementation. The purpose of the report is to ensure the Council is legally compliant, operationally ready and able to deliver consistent, transparent and defensible enforcement of housing standards and landlord legislation from 1 May 2026.	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Before 1 May 2026	Cabinet member roads and regulatory services Charles Yarnold, Head of Regulation and Technical Services Charles.Yarnold@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260765	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Portfolio: transport and infrastructure					

Report title and purpose	Decision Maker and Due date	Lead cabinet member and officer contact(s)	Directorate	Date uploaded onto plan	Decision Type, exemptions and urgency
School Transport Operating Model (formerly known as Pilot Programme for School Transport Operating Model) To agree to commence a programme for a School Transport Operating Model that will provide evidence to inform the delivery of a clear, consistent, and efficient framework for delivering the council's statutory home-to-school transport service.	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 31 March 2026	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Gemma Dando, Chief Operating Officer, Danielle Pyemont, Senior Project Manager gemma.dando@herefordshire.gov.uk, danielle.pyemont@herefordshire.gov.uk	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	KEY Open
Capability and Ambition Fund 2025/26 allocation The purpose of the report is to confirm what Herefordshire Council will deliver with the Capability and Ambition Fund grant	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure 17 April 2026	Cabinet member transport and infrastructure Ffion Horton, Transport Planning Services Manager, Scott Tompkins, Delivery Director - Infrastructure, Richard Vaughan, Sustainability and Climate Change Manager ffion.horton@herefordshire.gov.uk, scott.tompkins@herefordshire.gov.uk, Richard.Vaughan@herefordshire.gov.uk Tel: 01432 260192	Economy and Environment	20 March 2026	Non Key Open