

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme 2020</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	28 May 2020
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for Economy and Place
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	Directorate scheme of delegation: updated 30/03/20 Directorate: Economy and Place, section 77. This is an exercise of the delivery of a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Consultation:</b>	Chief Finance Officer, Solicitor to the Council and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure & Transport
<b>Decision made:</b>	<b>To sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to administer the Property Flood Resilience Recovery Support Scheme 2020 (PFRRSS) on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)</b>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>Storm Dennis hit Herefordshire during the weekend of 15 and 16 February 2020, resulting in significant damage and flooding, from both runoff and river overspill with many of the rivers reaching their highest levels in 200 years.</p> <p>A major incident was declared on 16 February meaning there was a danger to life as water levels peaked at record levels during the storm and remained high for an extended period after the storm. In total, 741 premises, comprising 527 residential properties and 214 businesses, were affected.</p> <p>Where properties were flooded internally or their residence was considered unliveable for any period of time due to flooding, residents were eligible to receive government grants to the value of £500 (from the Community Recovery Grant).</p> <p>Furthermore, small / medium sized enterprises that were directly impacted or suffered losses of as a result of the flooding that could not be recovered from insurance were eligible to receive government grants to the value of up to £2,500 (from the Business Recovery Grant).</p> <p>Authorities that reported a minimum of 25 properties being flooded internally are eligible for and invited to sign up for the PFRRSS. This scheme is managed by Defra and makes further grants of £5,000 available to property owners whose properties flooded internally in February 2020. The purpose of the grant is not to cover the cost of repairs but to implement measures which will improve resilience against further flooding.</p> <p>Herefordshire Council will invite and determine grants on behalf of Defra in accordance with published guidance issued April 2020.</p> <p>The scheme will run until end August 2021</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	Financial: The Scheme will be administered and delivered using a grant paid by Defra pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Defra will fund these grants and will transfer funding quarterly in arrears based on eligible applicants. The council will administer and deliver the Scheme by verifying, processing and, where appropriate, paying Claims for Eligible Expenditure

	<p>The council must bear its own costs and expenses incurred in complying with the obligations under the MOU. Although not liable for any payments made in error the council must use reasonable endeavours to process eligible expenditure and involve internal audit in that assurance process</p> <p>Legal: The Memorandum of Understanding is not legally binding but authorities are expected to comply with its terms. The PFRRSS scheme does not guarantee that properties which have been awarded the grant and implemented measures will not flood again. Herefordshire Council does not bear any liability in this event. This will be made clear in the application process and the written agreement between the council and the property owner</p> <p>Community: The PFRRSS supports the strategic objectives which are described in our County Plan (2020-24). This sets out how we will ensure we make the best use of resources and deliver services that make a difference to people in Herefordshire. Specifically, this work contributes towards the 'Protect and enhance our environment and keep Herefordshire a great place to live' ambition</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to sign up for the PFRRSS.</p> <p>This is not recommended as we would miss an opportunity to support property owners both practically and financially</p>
<p><b>Financial Implication</b></p>	<p>Whilst there are no costs associated with signing up for the PFRRSS at this stage, the authority will set out how it will administer the scheme in due course in scheme guidance for applicants</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed

Date: 28 May 2020

Name: Richard Ball  
 Director for Economy & Place